



HumanitiesDC

HISTORY
LITERATURE
LANGUAGES
ETHICS
PHILOSOPHY
ARTS APPRECIATION

Visions Grants Workshop – January 12, 2024

Outline

- HumanitiesDC
- *Visions – Projects & Events*
- Introductions
- The Application
- Q&A

Who We Are



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- Oversees HumanitiesDC's grants portfolios
- Main point of contact for Visions grant-related questions

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- Oversees HumanitiesDC's Community Grants and Public Programs

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What We Do

- HumanitiesDC “helps all Washingtonians, and others connected to the District of Columbia, deepen their relationships with the city and each other through the sharing of unique and universal stories, the fostering of intellectual stimulation, and the promotion of cross-cultural understanding”
- To help fulfill this mission: “community-informed grantmaking to invest in local scholars, experts, and organizations, as well as engaging all residents through partnership-based public programming”
- In 2024 we expect to award \$1 million in grant funding across six grant programs, approximately 62 grants in total
- Cycle I: opened December 11, 2023, closes February 20, 2024
- Cycle II: opens March 4, 2024, closes May 1, 2024

What are the Humanities?

Human stories allow us to navigate the complexities of our past, present, and future. The humanities help us learn from history and literature, empathize through language and comparative religion, and challenge our assumptions with philosophy and ethics. They are a compass for interpreting what humans make and exploring what makes us human.

- They help us understand...
 - Our story's past: history, anthropology, archaeology;
 - Our story's expressions: literature, linguistics, languages, arts history/theory/criticism;
 - Our story's values: ethics, philosophy, comparative religion, law.

Cycle I: Visions - Projects & Events

- Eligibility: DC-based non-profit organizations. Individuals or informal groups must apply through a fiscal sponsor.
- Maximum Award: \$25,000
- Project Period: May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025
- For the creation or continuation of innovative interpretations of humanities scholarship for wide public audiences
 - Ex) documentary films, festivals or conferences, curricula, tours, exhibits
- Must include a community expert or scholar
- Will fund approximately 18 projects
- Application due February 20, 2024

[Link to RFP](#)

Fiscal Sponsorship

- Individuals or community groups without 501(c)3 non-profit status must apply through a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that serves as a fiscal sponsor.
- Fiscal sponsors assume all financial and legal obligations:
 - Application submission
 - Funding acceptance
 - Interim and final report submissions
- No more than 10% of the grant award may be used to pay a fiscal sponsor
- Applicants applying through fiscal sponsors must use the fiscal sponsor's organization account within Foundant, our grants portal
- Eligibility requirements noted in RFP still apply to the fiscal sponsors



2023 Visions Project Examples

Torrents: New Links to Black Futures was a multi-day festival presented by CulturalDC, gathering DC creative professionals, scholars, and collectors around the development of Black cross-diasporic futures through visual arts, technology, music, film, and performance

Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Jun 9–Dec 3, 2023



Capital Jewish Museum offered 3 events around their special exhibit **Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg**: a free community day for families, an after-hours event offering a closer look at the exhibition's themes, and an art-making activity designed to inspire action



Who You Are

- Name
- Organization Affiliation (if any)
- Tell us a little about the project you're considering
 - How is it connected to the humanities?

Required Reports

- Interim report due October 15, 2024: explanation of funds spent and a brief overview of progress to date
- Final report due May 30, 2025: explanation of funds spent, documentation of all expenditures, and a project evaluation

Allowable/Unallowable Costs

The grant program CAN fund:

- Wages/stipends/honoraria
- Project supplies and equipment
- Virtual presenting platforms
- Space rental
- Project transportation
- Project publicity and promotion
- Fiscal sponsor (up to 10% of award)

The grant program CANNOT fund:

- Any non-program-related costs
- General office supplies
- Rent, overhead/indirect, utilities, restoration
- Food and beverages/entertainment/social activities/fundraisers
- Tuition and scholarships
- Debt reduction
- Re-granting
- Funding to government agencies

Q&A Break

Successful Applications

- Strong connection to the humanities and DC residents
- Scholar seems qualified with a clear role
- Ideas and explanations for community partners, team members, and outreach
- Timeline seems reasonable
- Thoughtful ways to manage success
- Well-organized budget explanation
- DETAILED

Common Application Issues

- No explanation of importance of project to DC residents
- Activities seem unrelated to purpose of project
- Unclear descriptions of partnerships and team involvement and selection
- Scholar seems unqualified
- Budget is not justified in budget narrative
- Looks like application was written in a rush
- Timeline is too vague
- NOT DETAILED

Weighted Review Criteria

- Capacity and Personnel - 30%

The Project Director has the experience and expertise necessary to bring the project to completion. The Humanities Scholar or Community Expert has relevant qualifications for the proposed project. Their role is clearly defined and lends legitimacy or intellectual authority to the project. Other team members and collaborators are clearly identified and explained as necessary.

- Project description, feasibility, and timeline - 45%

The applicant has provided a clear and detailed description of the proposed project and its activities. Project has a clear connection to Washington, DC culture, history, or residents. The audience's experience of and participation in the project is explained. The timeline is within the grant period and feasible. Achievable goals or impacts are described, and the applicant has a clear plan for assessing the project success.

Weighted Review Criteria, Con't

- Community Collaboration - 15%

The proposal described an effective plan for reaching and engaging the project's target audience. The project will be inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible (defined broadly to include financial, geographic, demographic, cultural and developmental accessibility); consider any explanation provided for an exception to this expectation.

- Budget - 10%

The applicant clearly describes how funds will be used, and all expenses are directly tied to the proposed project activities. Budgeted expenses are allowable. (Unallowable expenses include food and beverages, tuition and scholarships, debt reduction, re-granting, and funding to foreign or domestic government agencies. If the applicant is using a fiscal sponsor: no more than 10% of the grant can go to the fiscal sponsor.)

Key Application Questions

[Foundant Instructions Here](#)

Applicant Information

- This grant opportunity is only for organizations
- Unique Entity Identifier required (see FAQ document for more info)
- Fiscal sponsors submit application on behalf of sponsored entity (and sign submitted application)

Capacity and Personnel

- Project director has experience/interest with project topic professionally or personally. They are the driver of the project activities and usually the point of contact.
- Don't necessarily need team members, but projects benefit from this (so project director doesn't do everything themselves, community buy-in, etc.)
- Humanities scholar is chosen thoughtfully. Explain how they are knowledgeable about the relevant field/subject matter and their role in the project.

Key Application Questions, Con't

Project Narrative

- Explain WHY your project focuses on the chosen humanities discipline(s)
- Details! This is where you explain what the project actually entails.
- You define what “success” means

Community Collaboration

- Name potential partners and methods of contacting them. What will they do for the project? Don't need a final list of partners in application, but at least thoughtful ideas.
- How will the public learn about the project?

Budget

- DETAILS for budget narrative. Explain each budget category by line item, provide equations as needed for more complicated calculations (like salaries)
- Don't need something in every budget category
- Can redirect funds as project progresses

Key Application Questions, Con't

Accessibility

- Required if organization has 15+ staff members AND/OR you're hosting a public event

Documentaries

- More detail about the film itself and how to access it

Q&A



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