



**HumanitiesDC**

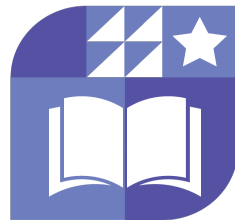
**HISTORY**  
**LITERATURE**  
**LANGUAGES**  
**ETHICS**  
**PHILOSOPHY**  
**ARTS APPRECIATION**

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER FELLOWSHIP  
2024 INFORMATIONAL SESSION

# Independent Practitioner Fellowship

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## 2024 INFORMATIONAL SESSION



**HumanitiesDC  
Fellowships**



# Outline

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- Introductions
- About HumanitiesDC
- Defining the Humanities
- The Fellowship
- Eligibility
- Project Examples
- The Fellowship Experience
- The Application
- Your Project Ideas
- The Review and Award Process
- Resources

Q&A throughout

# Introductions

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## Lois Nembhard

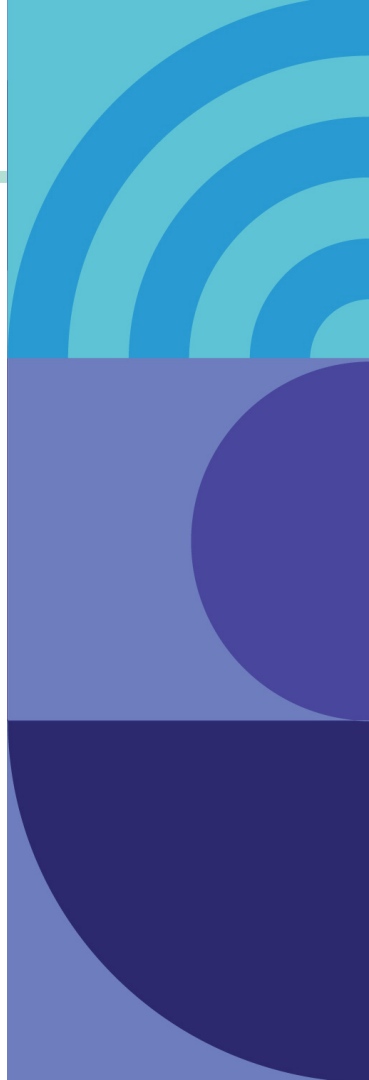
- Director of Grantmaking and Programs

## Maglyn Bertrand

- Public Programs Coordinator

## Attendees

- Name
- 1 to 2-sentence introduction, including prior HumanitiesDC experience  
(out loud or via chat)



# About HumanitiesDC

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One of 56 state councils supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities to ensure the humanities are available to all.

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.**
  - Community members – not staff – read and assess applications.
  - 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.
- **Engaging all residents through public programming.**

# HumanitiesDC Public Programming

- **DC Oral History Collaborative** - *A partnership with the DC Public Library that helps residents use oral history to document, preserve, and celebrate the history of all DC communities.*
- **Culture Series** – *Monthly gatherings in collaboration with local humanists to share their area of scholarship/expertise with the public.*
- **Porchtales Podcast** - *Deep dives into aspects of DC's culture, history, and people (next season: Afro-Latinx experience).*
- **District Fellowship** – *An opportunity to work at HumanitiesDC and gain nonprofit and humanities experience.*
- **Independent Practitioner Fellowship**
- **Community Journalism Program** - *Journalism 101 workshop series with instruction and coaching by working journalists.*
- **Partnerships**
  - **DC History Center/Annual DC History Conference (April 4-6, 2024)**
  - **DC/DOX, international documentary film festival (June 13-16, 2024)**



# Defining the Humanities

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The term 'humanities' includes, but is not limited to, the **study and interpretation** of the following:

- language, both modern and classical; linguistics;
- literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy;
- archaeology; comparative religion; ethics;
- the history, criticism and theory of the arts;
- those aspects of the social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and
- the study and application of the humanities to the human environment **with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history** and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.

*--National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, 1965, as amended*

# Why the Humanities

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- 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. Human stories allow us to navigate the complexities of our past, present, and future.
- They help us understand
  - Our story's past: history, anthropology, archaeology;
  - Our story's expressions: literature, linguistics, languages, art history/theory/criticism;
  - Our story's values: ethics, philosophy, comparative religion, law.



# Questions?

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# The Independent Practitioner Fellowship

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\$10,000 award to eight DC-based public humanities practitioners whose voices and perspectives strengthen the humanities landscape in Washington, DC.

- Last year we received 36 applications for 8 positions.
- By supporting public humanities practitioners, HumanitiesDC aims to
  - help strengthen Washington DC's humanities community;
  - contribute to DC being inviting and supportive of its humanities practitioners; and
  - provide resources to individuals who otherwise might not engage in the humanities as a career or passion.
- Particularly interested in supporting practitioners in project ideation and research.
- Plan to select a Literature Fellow who will assist HumanitiesDC in developing its approach to supporting the literary community in DC.



# Eligibility

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- Be a District of Columbia resident with a permanent District of Columbia address, as listed on government-issued identification or tax returns.
  - Post office boxes and UPS addresses may not be used as permanent addresses.
- Be a public humanities practitioner, defined as someone engaged in bringing the ideas of the humanities to life for general audiences.
- Be at least 18 years old.
- Be able to obtain a Certificate of Clean Hands (CCH) from the District of Columbia Office of Tax and Revenue.
  - Information on CCH can be found here:  
<https://otr.cfo.dc.gov/page/certificate-clean-hands>



# Eligibility (cont.)

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- Be in good standing with HumanitiesDC.
  - Applicants with outstanding or delinquent reports or final products from previous HumanitiesDC grants must submit them completed and without deficiencies at least 30 days before the deadline for which they wish to apply.
- Not be an individual grantee of HumanitiesDC during the period of the Fellowship.
- Not have received Federal funds for the same or overlapping project period and purpose as this request.
- Not have an exclusion record on [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov)



# 2023 Project Examples

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- Compiling the histories and poems of DC's LGBTQ+ poets from the City's founding in the 1800s to the present day for an anthology.
- Creating "How We Be Free: A Black Fugitive Study Kit" to show how enslaved people resisted and cared for one another during slavery.
- Collecting oral histories to document the stories of Potter's House employees and volunteers while analyzing the impact of coffee-house community activism in the city.
- Documenting roller skating history in Washington, DC through first-person accounts and the collection of memorabilia.



# The Fellowship Experience

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April 15, 2024 - Start of Fellowship

Orientation meeting

Monthly gatherings – professional development, peer support

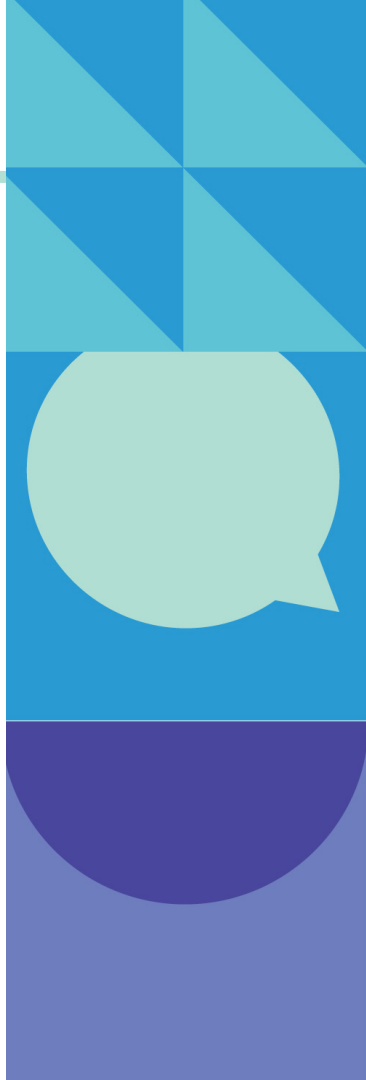
Interim progress report

Monthly payments

December 14, 2024 - End of Fellowship

Final progress report

Public event to showcase work



# Questions?

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# The Application

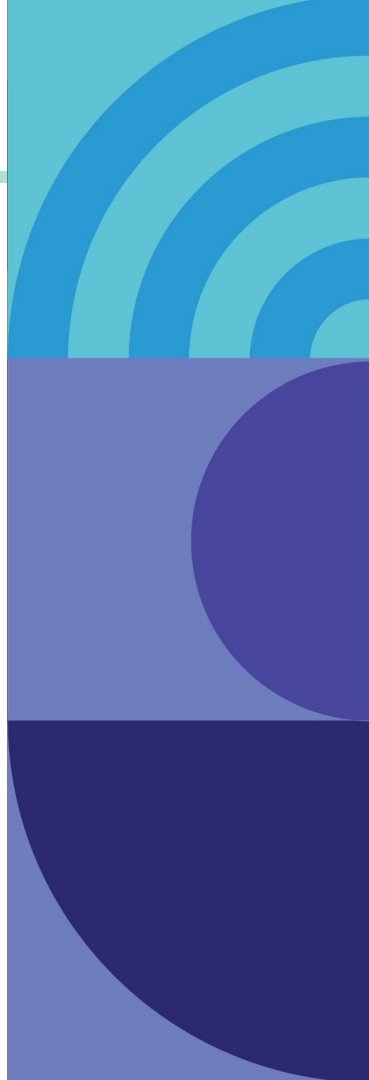
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## Project Proposal (5,000 characters max)

- Describe your public humanities project or work
- Detail your project's goals, methods, significance or relevancy, and connection to DC.
- Include information about any preliminary work that you have completed and your vision and plan for how the project will ultimately reach and engage DC's residents.
- + *If applying to be the Literature Fellow: Why would you like this role? What do you hope to contribute?*

## Project Timeline (7,000 characters max) A timeline that outlines your plans for the Fellowship period

- Include dates, locations, and milestones.





# The Application (cont.)

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## Budget and Budget Narrative

### Fellowship Experience (600 characters max)

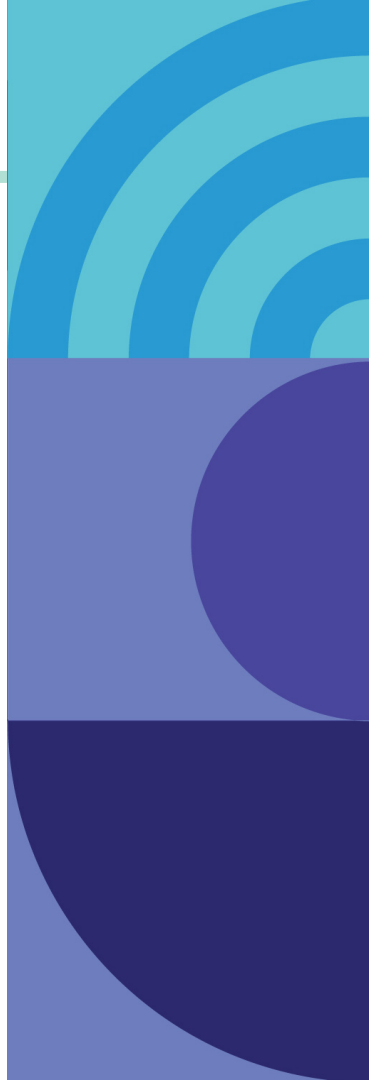
- Explain why you are interested in being a part of a cohort of Fellows
- Describe the experiences you would like to have

### Resume or CV (3 pages maximum)

### Two Letters of Support

- Should highlight your abilities, experiences, and connections that demonstrate your suitability and capability to carry out your project

### Optional Work Sample (from the past five years)



# Allowable Costs

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These funds are intended to support the practitioner during the Fellowship, so salary for the practitioner is expected to be the primary or sole expense.

Other allowable expenses include those that would support the Fellow's stated goals, such as:

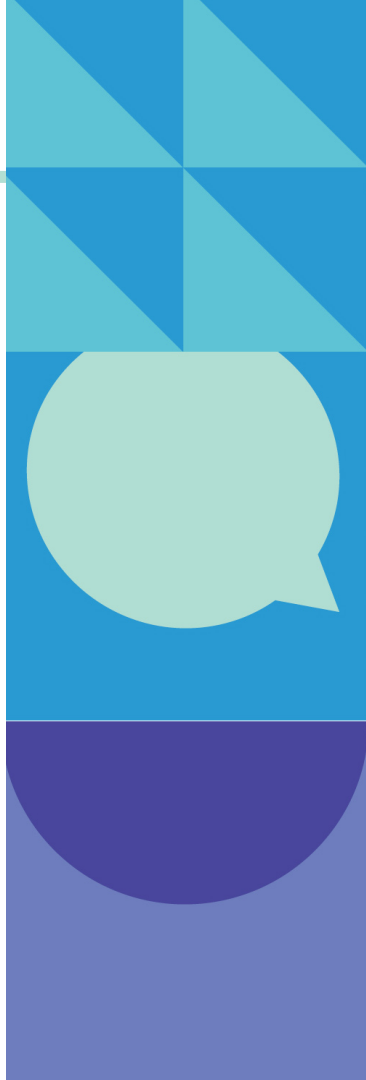
- Supplies
- Equipment
- Travel
- Facilities rental
- Honoraria

# Funding Restrictions

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Awards may not be used for:

- Promotion of a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view
- Advocacy of a particular program of social or political action
- Support of specific public policies or legislation
- Lobbying
- Projects that fall outside of the humanities and the humanistic social sciences, including:
  - the creation or performance of art;
  - creative writing, autobiographies, memoirs, and creative nonfiction;
  - quantitative social science research or policy studies



# Questions?

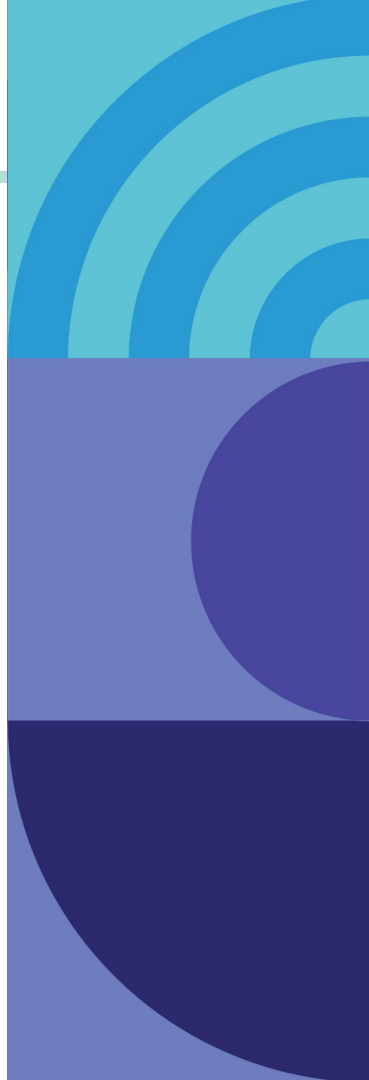
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# Your Project Ideas

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- Area of interest/research/practice
- Short-term goals



# Review & Award Process

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- **March 5, 2024 - Applications are due**  
*Applications accepted via our online grants management portal*
- Initial eligibility review; ineligible applicants notified
- Application review
- **March 25, 2024 (tentative) Applicants notified**
- Pre-award screening
- Execute agreements
- **April 15, 2024 - Fellowship begins**

# To Learn More

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## Applicant Resources

- [www.HumanitiesDC.org](http://www.HumanitiesDC.org) > Programs > HumanitiesDC Fellowships
  - Office Hours
  - RFP
  - Application Questions
  - Frequently Asked Questions
  - Link to Foundant, grants management portal
  - Foundant Instructions
  - List of Previous Fellows' Projects

## Community Showcase – February 22, 2024

- Features last year's Fellows
- [www.HumanitiesDC.org](http://www.HumanitiesDC.org) > Events



# Final Questions

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[programs@humanitiesdc.org](mailto:programs@humanitiesdc.org)

**HumanitiesDC**