



**HumanitiesDC**

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

YOUTH IN THE HUMANITIES GRANT WORKSHOP – MARCH 2024

# Outline

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- Intro to HumanitiesDC
- Youth in the Humanities Grant Program:
  - Purpose
  - Details and requirements
- Brief introductions to you and your projects
- Components of a successful application & common issues
- Reviewing the application
- Q&A

# Who We Are



**Leah Gage**  
Community Grants Manager

- Oversees HumanitiesDC's grants portfolios;
- Main point of contact for Youth in the Humanities

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**Hillary Steen**  
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- Oversees HumanitiesDC's grants portfolios
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**Lois Nembhard**  
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- Oversees HumanitiesDC's Community Grants and Public Programs

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# HumanitiesDC

## What we do

We are the nation's capital. We are also a vibrant city full of curious people with big questions, bright ideas, and unique experiences to share. HumanitiesDC creates spaces for the DC public to explore DC's deep and evolving history, to navigate DC's complexities, and preserve its authenticity. We do this through:

Public programs partner w/ storytellers and experts →

Community grants to support local experts, community members, educators and fund their work in DC. \$1M in 2024 across 6 grant programs, 62 grants

Fellowships

DC Oral History Collaborative

Culture Series

Porchtales Podcast

Community Journalism



CAPACITY BUILDING



COMMUNITY CULTURE & HERITAGE PROJECTS



DC ORAL HISTORY COLLABORATIVE



DC ORAL HISTORY BEYOND THE ARCHIVE



VISIONS – PROJECTS + EVENTS



YOUTH IN THE HUMANITIES

# What are the Humanities?

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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.

The humanities are a compass for interpreting what humans make and exploring what makes us human.

Humanities disciplines provide a framework for navigating complex questions and preserving authenticity and culture.

NEH Definition: *“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 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.”*

# Youth in the Humanities Grant Program

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- Provides general operating support to non-profit organizations who serve youth and young people ages 11 to 24
- Supports organizations that use humanities as a tool to help young people explore issues they identify as important
- Encourages DC youth to utilize applied humanities in their lives and work
- Funding is unrestricted and intended to support an organization's general operations

# Grant Details & Eligibility

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- Up to \$25,000
- Grant period: July 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025
- Open to DC-based non-profit organizations with a proven track record of working in the humanities and serves youth (between ages 11 and 24) as primary target audience
- Supports general operations
- Not open to individuals or fiscal sponsors
  
- Approximately 5 awards available in 2024. In 2023, 19% of eligible applications received funding.

# Are we a humanities organization?

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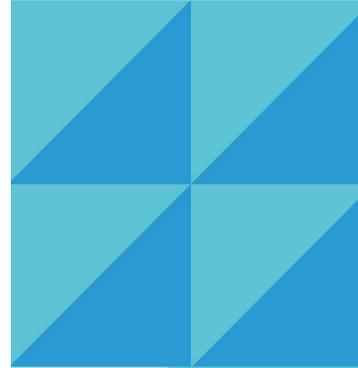
- How does the organization use the humanities to help young people explore and navigate their place in the community?
- How do your organization's primary activities help to build connections, answer questions, and tell stories about Washington, DC and its residents?
- Does the work you do help to ask or answer big questions that help young people understand their world and expand critical thinking skills?
- Does the work you do make connections or build empathy across communities?
- Does the work you do help young people explore careers in the humanities, or apply humanities concepts in their day-to-day life?
- Does the work you do help to document young peoples' contributions to a humanities discipline?



# Applicant Requirements

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- Proof of non-profit status and valid EIN
- Registered in Washington, DC with a physical DC address
- UEI number registered with SAM.gov
- Must be in good standing with HumanitiesDC
- May only apply to one opportunity this cycle (applicants may receive Cycle I funding)
- Cannot have a current CAH General Operating Support grant



# Grantee Requirements

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- Grantees submit 2 reports:
  - Interim report due November 15, 2024
  - Final report due May 30, 2025
- Final report includes documentation of all grant expenditures and project evaluation

# Allowable/Unallowable Expenses

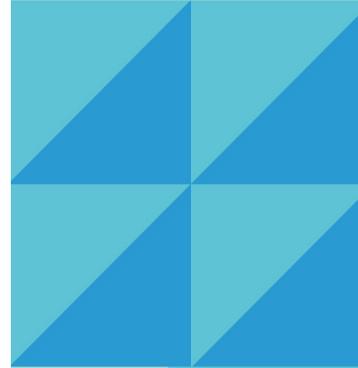
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## The grant can fund...

- Salaries
- Consulting fees
- Rent
- Utilities
- Information technology
- Administrative fees
- Other general operating expenses

## The grant cannot fund...

- Food, refreshments, hospitality or parties
- Tuition and scholarships
- Debt reduction
- Re-granting
- Funding to foreign or domestic government agencies



# 2023 Youth in the Humanities Grantees



# Opportunity for intros and Q & A

# Weighted Review Criteria

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## ***Organization Profile (50% of total score)***

- The applicant organization has an explicit mission and track record in the humanities in DC.
- The applicant's core audience is DC youth and young people ages 11 to 24. The applicant demonstrates an understanding of those youth and engage them in the humanities as a tool to explore issues that they identify as important to themselves and their communities.
- The applicant's programming is responsive to the needs and desires of its core audience. They describe how they define and measure success and demonstrate that their programming has been successful.

# Weighted Review Criteria (cont'd)

## ***Community Outreach, Access, and Inclusion (50%)***

- The applicant clearly defines and demonstrates an understanding of the community they serve.
- The applicant has programming and services that are inclusive and accessible. This includes, but isn't limited to, financial, geographic, demographic, cultural, and physical inclusion and accessibility.
- The applicant's leadership and staff that represent its core audience and the community it serves, or the applicant describes a reasonable plan for doing so.
- The applicant describes effective methods to reach and engage its target community.

# Application questions to review

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[Link to Foundant Instructions for creating an account](#)

- Humanities discipline
- **Mission and Programming:** a detailed response that includes:
  - organization's mission
  - core audience
  - current and planned programs and initiatives
  - how the organization makes decisions about programming
  - how the organization defines and measures success
- **Financial Statement:** org's most recent audited financial statement (or annual financial statement if audit is not conducted)

# Application questions to review

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[Link to Foundant Instructions for creating an account](#)

- **Community Outreach, Access, & Inclusion:** detailed response that covers:
  - the community you serve and how you ensure that you are reaching them
  - How your org is inclusive of and accessible to the community you serve
  - How your leadership and staff reflect this community
- **Budget Narrative:** a description of how the funds will support your organization, though projects need not be identified

# Components of Successful Applications

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- **Humanities focus is clear and well-explained:** Organization identifies a humanities discipline that is central to the mission; the organization has a proven track-record of work in the humanities in DC
- **Reaching young people:** Organization's primary target audience are people aged 11 to 24; demonstrated an understanding and track record of experience working with youth and young adults
- Detailed and clear responses that address each aspect of the question



# Common Application Issues

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- Applicant does not provide sufficient detail in written responses
- Applicant does not read the RFP or application questions ahead of time
- Applicant waits until last minute to submit in Foundant

# Opportunity for Q & A



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