



**HumanitiesDC**

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

# Who We Are



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# Who You Are

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**Let us know who you are and what brought you here today!**

**Feel free to share out using the microphone or the chat.**

# 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. They are a compass for interpreting what humans make and exploring what makes us human.

They help us understand...

- ❖ Our past, through history, anthropology, & archaeology
- ❖ Our story's public expressions, through literature, language, and art history/theory/criticism
- ❖ Our story's meaning, through ethics, philosophy, comparative religion, and the law

Link to the [National Endowment for the Humanities Definition](#)

# What We Do

At HumanitiesDC, we connect curious people with bold questions to the powerful stories of our vibrant city. Through our grantmaking and public programs we help build a community where all can engage in intellectual exchange, reflect on our connected stories and celebrate our various cultures.



- Curated Public Programs – Community Journalism, Culture Series, DC Oral History Collaborative (DCOHC), Fellowships
- Community Grants - \$1M to 60+ grantees across 8 wards



# 2025

HUMANITIESDC.ORG

# GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!



HumanitiesDC

## Cycle I: Due February 18, 2025, at 5:59 pm

Visions -  
Projects +  
Events

Community  
Culture &  
Heritage

Oral History  
Interviewing -  
DCOHC

Beyond the  
Archives -  
DCOHC

## Cycle II: Opens March 4, due May 1, 2025, at 5:59 pm

General  
Operating  
Support

Continuing Oral  
History Projects -  
DCOHC



# DC Oral History Collaborative Grants

The DC Oral History Collaborative (DCOHC) is a partnership between HumanitiesDC and the DC Public Library. It was created in 2017 as a city-wide initiative aimed at documenting and preserving the history of Washington's residents and communities through oral history via grantmaking, training, and public projects. HumanitiesDC DCOHC grantees are considered members of the Collaborative!

## 3 DCOHC grant opportunities:

- Oral History Interviewing (Cycle I)
- Beyond the Archives (Cycle I)
- Continuing Oral History Projects (Cycle II)

# Oral History Interviewing – DCOHC (Cycle I)

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- Eligibility: DC-based individuals, community groups, nonprofit organizations
- Maximum Award: \$8,000 (plus an additional \$5,000 may be requested for translation of transcripts)
- Project Period: May 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026
- Projects that explore DC life, history, and culture through interviews with the people who have lived it
- Grantees must attend a three-session, in-person oral history training workshop on May 6, 8, and 12 and will work with staff and consultants throughout the course of their projects
- Final deliverables required: media files, transcripts, indexes, release forms, and metadata for each interview. These are ultimately housed in the People’s Archive at the DC Public Library.
- Application due February 18, 2025

[Link to RFP](#)





# Oral History Interviewing Project Examples

**Bank on Her: Exploring the Effects of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act** - Leslie Aroon Walsh is capturing the experiences of adult women who lived in the 1970s and exploring how their lives were changed due to the passing of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.



**Mount Pleasant: The Rise and Fall of Cultural Community Centers** - Shilpi Malinowski interviewed residents to tell the stories of Mount Pleasant and their relationships to community institutions such as La Casa and the Community of Christ, the Latin American Youth Center, La Clínica del Pueblo, Marx Café, Bancroft Elementary School, and Bell Multicultural High School.

# Continuing Oral History Projects – DCOHC (Cycle II)

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- Eligibility: DC-based individuals, community groups, nonprofit organizations that completed an already-funded oral history project with HumanitiesDC
- Maximum Award: \$8,000 (plus an additional \$5,000 may be requested for translation of transcripts)
- Project Period: July 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026
- Projects that explore DC life, history, and culture through interviews with the people who have lived it
- Grantees will work with staff and consultants throughout the course of their projects
- Final deliverables required: media files, transcripts, indexes, release forms, and metadata for each interview. These are ultimately housed in the People's Archive at the DC Public Library.
- Application will open March 4, due May 1, 2025

# Continuing Oral History Projects

## Project Example



**Creating Space and Opportunities: DC Black Owned/Managed Art Galleries and Spaces** is a project with Claude L. Elliott, building on oral history interviews that he first collected in 2021, focusing on the challenges faced by Black artists forging careers between the 1970s and 1990s and the vitality of Black art spaces as an important sector of DC's cultural and entrepreneurial landscape.

# Beyond the Archives - DCOHC (Cycle I)

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- Eligibility: DC-based individuals, community groups, nonprofit organizations
- Maximum Award: \$12,000
- Project Period: May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026
- Use archived oral histories to produce DC-focused public humanities projects; not collecting new oral histories
  - Examples include exhibitions, performances, listening stations, written research, film/video, course curricula using existing oral history collections
- Application due February 18, 2025

[Link to RFP](#)



# Beyond the Archives Project Examples



**Teaching the history of DC Chinatown for K-12 Learners** is a project with the 1882 Project Foundation. Based on oral history interviews capturing stories over 50 years, they will design and implement curricula for K-12 students in DC. The stories shared provide diverse perspectives of overlooked stories of those living in DC Chinatown.



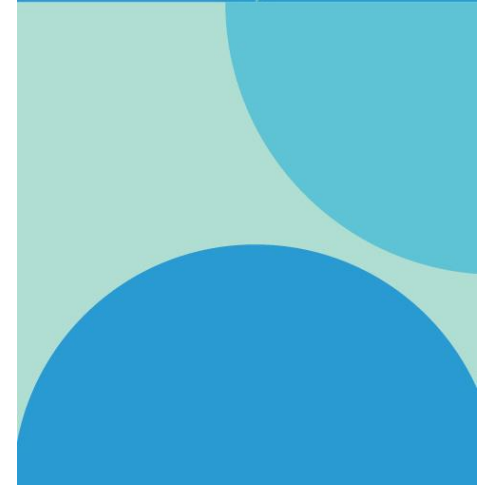
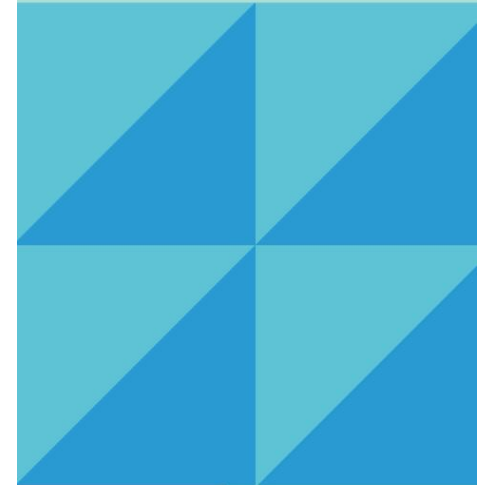
**The Faces of Aging – Hear Their Stories** is a project with Cleveland and Woodley Park Village. Using information gathered from 14 oral history histories, they will create 10 large visual displays (featuring narrators, photos, and webpages) and a public exhibit.

# Community Culture & Heritage (Cycle I)

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- Eligibility: DC-based individuals, community groups, nonprofit organizations
- Maximum Award: \$10,000
- Project Period: May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026
- Projects focus on grassroots interpretations of DC history and culture by funding local historians, culture-bearers, and individual humanists who wish to capture and preserve the culture and narratives of their local communities through public humanities projects
  - Ex: panel discussions, multimedia projects, educational materials, videos, lesson plans, tours
- Grantees take part in a public showcase in Spring 2026
- Application due February 18, 2025

[Link to RFP](#)

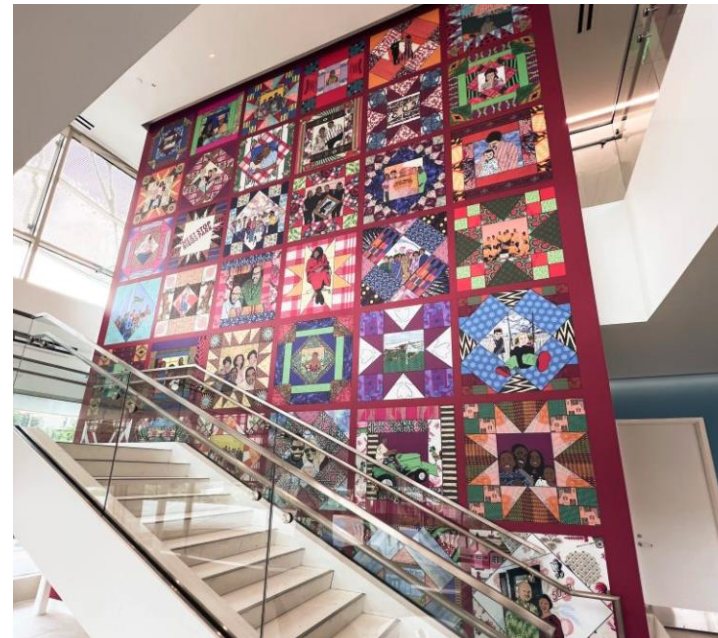


# 2024 Community Culture & Heritage Project Examples



**Caribbean American Museum Takeover** is a project with Mark Beckford. It is a vibrant celebration honoring the great contributions of D.C.'s 8,000-strong Caribbean American community. This immersive experience will illuminate the community's overlooked history and cultural vibrancy through an innovative exhibit, a panel discussion, and powerful performance art.

**Fort Totten and Lamond-Riggs: A Historical Tapestry** is a project with Michelle L. Herman. This is a photographic publication that captures the Greater Fort Totten area history, culture, and heritage and accompanies the Lamond-Riggs Lilian J. Huff Community Library "Heritage Wall" installation to serve as an "index" of the project.



# Visions - Projects + Events (Cycle I)

- Eligibility: DC-based nonprofit organizations. Interested individuals or informal groups must apply through a fiscal sponsor.
- Maximum Award: \$25,000
- Project Period: May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026
- Projects connect the public with humanities research, knowledge and/or ideas. Although projects may be connected to national or global issues, the primary themes and audience are DC-based
  - Ex: documentary films, festivals or conferences, curricula, tours, exhibits
- Application due February 18, 2025

[Link to RFP](#)



# 2024 Visions - Projects + Events

## Project Examples

**Gay Pride in DC: 50 Years of Protests and Parties** is a project with Rainbow History Project. They will create an exhibit on the History of DC Pride to be displayed on Freedom Plaza during WorldPride, in addition to creating an accompanying online portal. The physical exhibition will be "evergreen" content that can be used around the city for years to come.



**2024 DC Day of Archaeology Festival** is a project with Archaeology in the Community. This project will support initiatives during the first ever DC Archaeology Month, with events throughout the city throughout the month in partnership with other local institutions.

# General Operating Support (Cycle II)



- New grant opportunity! (replaces *Capacity Building* and *Youth in the Humanities*)
- Eligibility: nonprofit organizations with a humanities-focused mission and track record, with annual budgets of less than \$2 million. Fiscal sponsors not allowed.
- Maximum Award: \$25,000
- Project Period: July 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026
- Grant aims to shore up the vibrant humanities landscape in DC by offering unrestricted funds to DC-based humanities nonprofits. Applicants need not propose distinct projects but instead may use the funds toward general operations.
- Application will open March 4, due May 1, 2025

# Supporting youth orgs and programs

- HumanitiesDC still funds youth organizations and programming!
- Programs designed to reach youth – such as curriculum development and other engagement are eligible for program grants
- Youth-focused humanities orgs with <\$2m are eligible for General Operating Support



# Humanities Scholar/Community Expert

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- Certain projects must include a humanities scholar or community expert who is knowledgeable about the proposed subject matter to inform the project design, implementation, and/or evaluation. In some cases, it may make sense for the Project Director to also serve as the Humanities Scholar, but this should be explained in the application.
- Scholars may have formal training and academic experience in the humanities and/or lived experience through their personal or community heritage as a culture bearer, public humanities practitioner, or community historian. They lend legitimacy or intellectual authority to the project
- Required for: *Beyond the Archives – DCOHC, Community Culture & Heritage, and Visions - Projects + Events*

# Fiscal Sponsorship

| Grant Program   | Fiscal Sponsorship Rules  |
|---|---|
| General Operating Support   | Fiscal sponsorship arrangements are <u>prohibited</u> for this grant. All applicants must be 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations.   |
| Community Heritage & Culture<br><br>DC Oral History Collaborative | Individuals requesting \$13,000 or less in grants funds are not required to apply through a fiscal sponsor.<br><br>Community groups without 501(c)3 non-profit status may apply through a 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving as a fiscal sponsor, provided that the fiscal sponsor organization meets all eligibility requirements in the RFP. |
| Visions - Projects<br>+ Events                                    | Individuals or community groups without 501(c)3 non-profit status must apply through a 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving as a fiscal sponsor, provided that the fiscal sponsor organization meets all eligibility requirements in the RFP.  |



# Quick Guide

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Apply as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All grants!</li></ul>   |
| Apply as an individual or informal group                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beyond the Archives      Community Culture &amp; Heritage</li><li>• Oral History Interviewing      Continuing Oral History Projects</li></ul> |
| Apply through a fiscal sponsor  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All grants except for General Operating Support</li></ul>   |
| Want to conduct oral history interviews                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oral History Interviewing</li><li>• Continuing Oral History Projects</li></ul>  |
| Small-scale public project (walking tour, panel discussion, etc.)         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Culture &amp; Heritage</li><li>• Beyond the Archives</li></ul>  |
| Large-scale public project (full-length documentary film, festival, etc.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visions – Projects + Events</li><li>• Beyond the Archives</li></ul>   |
| Project Scholar required  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beyond the Archives      Visions - Projects + Events</li><li>• Community Culture &amp; Heritage</li></ul>                                     |
| Don't live in DC? Nonprofit not registered in DC?                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All grants only available to DC residents/organizations</li></ul>   |
| Unsure?   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attend our grant-specific workshops and sign up for office hours!</li></ul>   |



# Reviewing the RFP

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- **Applicant Eligibility:** applying as an organization vs. an individual, consider whether you will need to apply using a fiscal sponsor, etc.
- **Funding Scope:** guidance and requirements for elements of a successful project
- **Weighted Review Criteria:** information about how reviewers will score each section of the application, and how much each section is worth
- **Eligibility Requirements:** specific criteria broken down according to individual and/or organizational requirements
- **Note on Submitting Multiple Applications:** You can apply for an *Oral History Interviewing* grant along with a *Community Culture and Heritage* grant, a *Visions – Projects + Events* grant, **or** a *Beyond the Archives* grant, however you may only receive one grant in Cycle I.

# Reviewing the RFP, cont.

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- **For Current or Former HumanitiesDC Grantees:** 2024 grantees may apply for 2025 funding but won't receive new funding until old project is closed out
- **Allowable Costs:** project expenses that can be covered by a HumanitiesDC grant
- **ADA Compliance and Accessibility:** relevant for certain-sized organizations and public events
- **How to Apply**
- **Post-Application:** review process, notification and payments, grant award terms, reporting and close-out



# Application Review Process

- All submitted applications reviewed by HumanitiesDC staff for eligibility
- Eligible applications reviewed by reviewers - community members with strong ties to humanities in DC
  - Reviewers score applications based on review criteria (available in RFP and application)
- HumanitiesDC's Board affirms review process was followed
- All eligible applicants are told about decision approximately eight weeks after application deadline
- Grantees receive funds approximately two weeks after notification
- Interested in reviewing applications? [Check out our website!](#) You may be both an applicant and a grant reviewer, but you would not review applications for the same grant program you apply to.

# Resources & Assistance

- Additional overview and grant-specific workshops listed below.
- Sign up for virtual office hours [here](#)
- FAQ document [here](#)
- Leah Gage – [lgage@humanitiesdc.org](mailto:lgage@humanitiesdc.org)
- Hillary Steen – [hsteen@humanitiesdc.org](mailto:hsteen@humanitiesdc.org)

## General Info Sessions

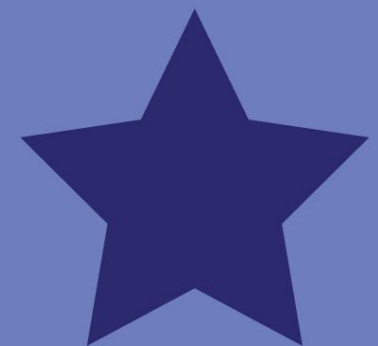
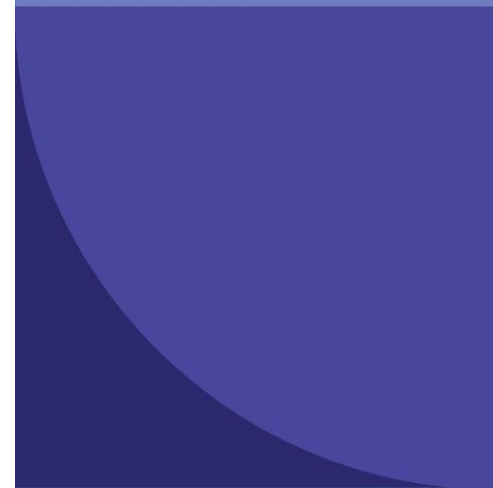
- [12/17](#), virtual with ASL interpretation, will be posted on website
- [12/18](#), virtual
- [1/5](#), at Anacostia Arts Center
- [1/13](#), at Woodridge Library
- [1/15](#), at MLK Library

## Grant-Specific Workshops (all virtual)

- [1/13](#), Community Culture & Heritage
- [1/14](#), Visions - Projects + Events
- [1/15](#), Oral History Interviewing
- [1/16](#), Beyond the Archives

Stay tuned for Cycle II workshops in the spring!

# Q&A





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