



HumanitiesDC

HISTORY
LITERATURE
LANGUAGES
ETHICS
PHILOSOPHY
ARTS APPRECIATION

COMMUNITY CULTURE AND HERITAGE WORKSHOP – JANUARY 2024

Outline

- Intro to HumanitiesDC
- Community Culture & Heritage 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 Community Culture & Heritage Grants

lgage@humanitiesdc.org

202.770.3077 x 815



Hillary Steen

Community Grants Manager

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

hsteen@humanitiesdc.org

202.770.3077 x 812



Lois Nembhard

Director of Grantmaking + Programs

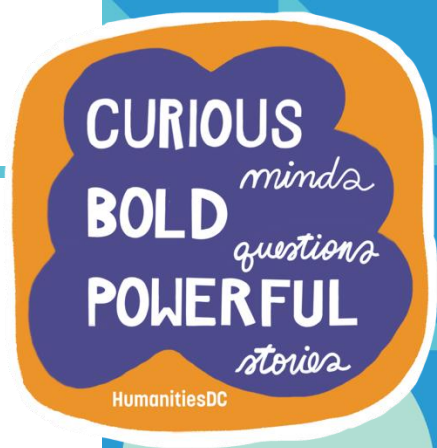
- Oversees HumanitiesDC's Community Grants and Public Programs

lnembhard@humanitiesdc.org

HumanitiesDC: What we do

We connect curious people with bold questions to the powerful stories of our vibrant city. Through 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



**Community
Grants**

~ \$1 million to 60+ grantees across 6 programs

**Cycle I Now Open,
due February 18 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**

General
Operating
Support

Continuing
Oral History
Projects

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.

Community Culture & Heritage Grant Program

- Expand support for the humanities beyond academia and formal scholarship
- Empower residents and community organizations to give public voice to stories that interest and represent them
- Document and preserve the history and culture of DC
- Highlight untold or forgotten aspects of DC's history and culture
- Possible projects include written publications, multimedia (video, audio), websites, lesson plans, installations and exhibits. A final product should be complete by end of the grant period.

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 illuminates 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 Lillian J. Huff Community Library "Heritage Wall" installation to serve as an "index" of the project.



Who you are

- 30 seconds – name and organization affiliation (if any)
- Share out using your microphone or in the chat
- Tell us a bit about your proposed project.

Key Grant Details

- Up to \$10,000
- Project period: May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026
- Eligibility requirements: open to DC-based individuals, community groups (with one individual as primary grantee and point of contact), and non-profit organizations
- Individuals may choose to apply with a fiscal sponsor, but fiscal sponsors are not required. Fiscal sponsors must meet same eligibility requirements.
- Approximately 13 awards available in 2025; in 2024, 24% of eligible applications received funding (2023 – 29%)

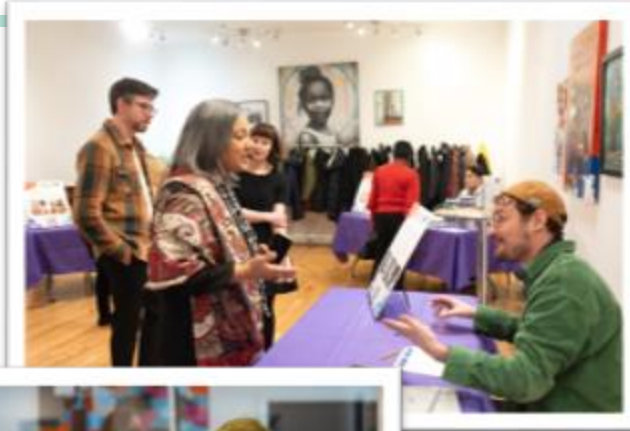
Grantee Requirements

Grantees submit 2 reports:

- Interim report call in October 2025
- Final report due May 30, 2026

Final report includes documentation of all grant expenditures and project evaluation

Participation in 2026
Community Showcase



Photos from 2024 Community Showcase

Allowable/Unallowable Expenses

100% of awarded grant funds must be applied to direct program costs

The grant can fund...

- Project supplies and equipment
- Virtual or in-person spaces for public events
- Honoraria, wages, and stipends
- Project transportation
- Project publicity and promotion

The grant cannot fund...

- Indirect costs such as rent or utilities
- General office supplies
- Food, refreshments, hospitality or parties
- Costs related to fundraising
- Re-granting
- Funding to government agencies
- Expenses unrelated to the execution of the project
- any non-program-related costs

Components of Successful Applications

- **Humanities focus:** Project utilizes humanities to publicly explore human stories, culture, and experiences.
- Scholar or community expert is **identified** and **expertise is relevant** to the project, their role is clear
- Project narrative is **detailed** – assume the reviewers know nothing about your project or topic area
- Timeline is realistic, within the grant period, and contains **specific dates and clear steps** toward completion
- Community partners are identified; applicant articulates **how community members will strengthen** the project.
- Outreach plans identify **targets**, plans to conduct public outreach or seek public input are clearly outlined.



Common Application Issues

- Key personnel not identified, including humanities scholar
- Not enough detail
- Timeline misses key steps, falls outside of grant period
- Community collaboration response lacks specifics
- Budget items are not justified clearly in the budget narrative

Application questions to review

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

- **Individual vs. Organizational applicant:** should match the registration; fiscal sponsors submit and sign the application; share your motivations in the individual statement of interest
- **Project Director:** will likely match the individual grantee info or be the primary point person in an organization to lead project activities. Should demonstrate relevant experience needed to direct the project.
- **Key personnel:** provide details that demonstrate team members have relevant experience to contribute to the project
- **Scholar:** must be identified in advance, and resume should show relevant expertise related to the project
- **Project narrative:** be as detailed in the Project Summary, Description of Activities, and Timeline as possible. Assume the reader knows nothing about you or your proposed topic areas. Explain why your project focuses on the chosen humanities disciplines

Application questions to review

- **Community collaboration:** be as specific as possible. Successful applications identify the community partners with whom they plan to engage and offer explanations of how this collaboration will strengthen their projects. Partnerships need not be underway, but the more details the better.
- **Significance to the DC community:** share why this project deserves funding and how it will impact the DC public
- **Budget & narrative:** specific and detailed, a clear budget will show the reviewers that you know what you need to complete this project; narrative should explain expenses in detail
- **Accessibility:** required for organizations of 15+ employees and/or public events

Weighted Review Criteria

Capacity and Key Personnel (30% of total score)

- The Project Director is capable of directing the project, demonstrated by experience and role definition
- The Humanities Scholar has relevant qualifications for the proposed project; role is clearly defined and lends legitimacy or authority
- Other team members and collaborators are clearly identified and explained as necessary.

Project description, feasibility, and timeline (30% of score)

- Clear and detailed description of the proposed project and its activities
- Timeline is within the grant period and is feasible.
- Thematic connection to Washington, DC and and the humanities
- Project is accessible to the public
- Achievable goals are described, and applicant ahs a clear plan for assessing project success

Weighted Review Criteria

Community Collaboration and Public Engagement (30% of total score)

- Demonstrated significance to DC community
- Collaboration and engagement with the public to strengthen the project
- Effective plan for reaching and engaging the project's target audience
- Inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible (defined broadly to include financial, geographic, demographic, cultural and developmental accessibility); explanations for exceptions to this expectation are provided.

Budget (10% of total score)

- The applicant clearly describes how funds will be used, and all expenses are directly tied to the proposed project activities.
- Budgeted expenses are allowable.

Opportunity for Q & A



HumanitiesDC

HUMANITIESDC

Leah Gage, Community Grants Manager

lgage@humanitiesdc.org

202.770.3077 x 815