

2025 Independent Practitioner Fellowship (IPF) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What if I am a current HumanitiesDC grantee (awarded in 2024), and my project won't be completed by the IPF due date? Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, if you are a current grantee whose final report or other products of your project are not yet due, that doesn't affect your eligibility for this grant. If you are unsure, please consult with your Community Grants Manager (grants@humanitiesdc.org) with a cc to programs@humanitiesdc.org. To be selected for the Fellowship, however, your grant needs to be successfully closed out.

What kinds of applicants does HumanitiesDC seek for the Independent Practitioner Fellowship?

We seek all eligible applicants for the HumanitiesDC Independent Practitioner Fellowship. Please review all our eligibility requirements listed in the Fellowship RFP before applying. We also seek applicants who are curious, creative, and self-motivated, and those who are eager to learn from and share knowledge with a cohort of Fellows.

My project is focused on DC and sites and people outside of DC. Am I eligible to apply for the HumanitiesDC Independent Practitioner Fellowship?

The Independent Practitioner Fellowship is intended for DC-based researchers working on public humanities projects about or relevant to DC. All applicants must articulate and demonstrate how their projects connect to DC history, cultures, neighborhoods, communities, organizations, etc. However, if an applicant can make a good case for a project that strengthens connections between DC and sites and people outside of the District, we welcome your application. If you have specific questions about your project's eligibility, we encourage you to schedule a meeting with HumanitiesDC staff during office hours.

Who should I ask to write my two letters of support? What should the writers of my letters of support discuss, and what is the recommended letter length?

The two writers of your letters of support should be people who know you and your past and current humanities work well. If you are proposing a community-centric project, then we highly recommend asking a community member to write at least one of your letters of support. The writers of your letters of support should provide specific, not general letters of support. They should share how they know you, for how long, and highlight some of your abilities, experiences, and connections that demonstrate your suitability and capability to carry out your proposed project. Each letter of support must include the name, affiliation, and signature of the writer. We do not have a paragraph or page limit for the letters of support. Whether the letters are short or long, all the information should be relevant and useful.

What are the allowable expenses for the application’s budget?

Your salary is expected to be your primary or sole budget expense. However, you can include other expenses that support your project’s goals, such as supplies, equipment, travel, and facilities rental. Please review our Fellowship RFP for a list of funding restrictions.

I plan to apply for the HumanitiesDC Independent Practitioner Fellowship and an individual HumanitiesDC grant. Is this permissible, and if I am awarded both, can I use all the funds for the same project?

No, this is not permissible. You cannot be an individual grantee of HumanitiesDC during the Fellowship period.

If I am not selected as a recipient of the HumanitiesDC Independent Practitioner Fellowship, can I request feedback on my application?

If requested, HumanitiesDC staff can provide select, anonymous reviewer comments. However, the summary of comments may not provide specific reasons for why your research project was not selected for funding.

THE FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE QUESTIONS

If I am selected as a recipient of the HumanitiesDC Independent Practitioner Fellowship, what are the meeting requirements for the Fellows?

All recipients of the HumanitiesDC Independent Practitioner Fellowship will regularly engage with the cohort of Fellows and HumanitiesDC staff. During the Fellowship period, HumanitiesDC staff will schedule monthly in-person gatherings, trainings, or field trips, and attendance will be expected. The dates of such events will be determined once the Fellowship recipients have been selected and the Fellows have had a chance to share their availability.

Other than the monthly meetings, what other experiences can I expect as a Fellow?

As this will be just the third year of the Fellowship, we are still developing and testing ideas, and to some extent, learning as we go. Examples of additional Fellowship activities include promotion of you and your project via social media and our newsletter; participation in events such as an Open House and our Community Showcase; and contributing to the planning of a HumanitiesDC program.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

How can I learn more about the projects that HumanitiesDC funded as part of the Independent Practitioner Fellowship?

You can find information about the projects of our inaugural cohort of Fellows in HumanitiesDC's [2023 Magazine and Annual Report \("To Be A Humanist"\)](#).