

2026 General Operating Support Grant

Humanities DC

Review Process

HumanitiesDC engages external grant reviewers to decide how our funding is allocated. 100% of HumanitiesDC's grant reviewers are community-based humanities experts who apply to join our process each year. Reviewers thoroughly evaluate up to 15 proposals over 2-3 weeks and participate in approximately 5 hours of meetings. Reviewers receive a \$125 honorarium for each cycle they complete. (You can learn more about our review process [here](#).)

Eligible applicants will be notified of funding decisions approximately 10 weeks after the application deadline.

Review criteria and weighting information is included above each relevant section of the application below.

Reviewers do not see responses to "Previous HumanitiesDC Grant Experience" or responses in the ADA Compliance section.

Grant Request Details

Project Title*

Character Limit: 100

Amount Requested*

Up to \$25,000.00

Character Limit: 20

How did you learn about this grant opportunity?*

Choices

- HumanitiesDC newsletter/email
- Friends/colleagues or word of mouth
- HumanitiesDC social media
- HumanitiesDC website
- Other organization's newsletter/email
- Eventbrite
- Other (please specify)

If you selected "Other," please specify below

Character Limit: 100

Applicant Location*

Please indicate the Washington, DC Ward in which you are based. Eligibility is restricted to applicants with a Washington, DC address.

Choices

Ward 1
Ward 2
Ward 3
Ward 4
Ward 5
Ward 6
Ward 7
Ward 8

"Foreign" Entity Registration (if applicable)

If your organization is a "foreign" entity (incorporated in another state outside of DC), upload the DC registration here. If your organization is incorporated in DC, you do not have to upload anything here.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Annual Budget*

Please enter your organization's budget for the previous fiscal year.

Character Limit: 20

Financial Statement*

Please provide the organization's most recent audited financial statement. If the organization does not conduct an annual audit, please provide the organization's most recent annual financial statement.

File Size Limit: 10 MB

Previous HumanitiesDC Grant Experience (optional)

If this organization has previously received funding from HumanitiesDC, share information about the previously funded project(s), including how HumanitiesDC grant funds were utilized. This information is not shared with reviewers and will have no impact on the application score.

Character Limit: 3000

Humanities Mission & Programming

Humanities Mission & Programming – 30%

- The organization's mission has an explicit humanities focus, and the majority of the organization's programming is dedicated to the humanities.
- The applicant demonstrates that programs are successful or impactful; success or impact is clearly defined, and the applicant describes how success is measured.

Organization Mission Statement

Provide the organization's mission statement as it appears in publicly available documents or online sources.

Character Limit: 5000

Organization website (optional)

Provide a link to your organization's online presence. You will have opportunity to provide additional links below.

Character Limit: 2000

Humanities Discipline*

Which of the following humanities discipline(s) does your organization primarily employ to further its mission?

Choices

Anthropology
Archaeology
Art History/Criticism/Appreciation
Comparative Religion
Ethics
History
Jurisprudence
Language
Linguistics
Literature
Philosophy
Preservation

Organization History & Programming

Describe up to five of your organization's most successful or impactful programs in recent years.

Character Limit: 10000

Link to optional work samples

If you choose to include links to video, please specify in the text box below key moments for the reviewers to focus on. Clips should be no more than 10 minutes long.

Character Limit: 2000

Optional Work Samples

You may provide additional links or upload documents or work samples to support your response above.

Character Limit: 10000 | File Size Limit: 25 MB

Measuring Success*

Provide a description of how the organization defines successful programming and how success is measured.

Character Limit: 10000

Public Engagement

Public Engagement - 15%

- The organization demonstrates a clear and effective plan for defining, reaching, and engaging with its target audience.
- Programming is or will be inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible (defined broadly to include financial, geographic, demographic, cultural and developmental accessibility).

Target Audience Demographic Information

Your responses to the following demographic questions will help HumanitiesDC understand who we are reaching through our grantmaking.

Ward(s) Served*

Please indicate which Washington, DC Wards will primarily benefit from your proposal. You can select more than one Ward.

Choices

Ward 1
Ward 2
Ward 3
Ward 4
Ward 5
Ward 6
Ward 7
Ward 8

Race and Ethnicity of Target Audience*

Please select all that apply.

Choices

General Population
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous

Asian or Asian American
Black, African, or African American
Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Latin American
Middle Eastern or North African
Multiracial or Multi-ethnic
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
White or European descent
Prefer not to answer
Race or ethnicity not included above

If you selected "Race or ethnicity not included above" in the "Race and Ethnicity" question above, please specify here.

Character Limit: 100

Age*

What is the age range of your target audience? (Select all that apply)

Choices

General Population

0-17

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65+

Outreach Strategy*

Describe the methods your organization uses to reach and expand your audience. Provide an explanation for how the organization determines whether outreach is effective.

Character Limit: 10000

Inclusion and Accessibility*

Describe how your organization's programming and outreach is or will be inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible to the public. Examples may include free or discounted entry to events, use of locations accessible by public transportation, or employment of special accommodations for guests and participants. Successful applications will consider a broad definition of "accessibility", such as financial, geographic, demographic, cultural, and/or developmental access.

Character Limit: 10000

Significance to DC

Significance to DC – 20%

The organization's mission and programming are significant to the DC community, as demonstrated by the unique role of the organization's humanities programming in DC, whether the organization reaches underserved or underrepresented DC communities, or other relevant criteria as presented by the applicant.

Significance to DC*

Explain the significance of your organization's mission and programming to DC. In your response, consider what unique role your organization's programming plays in the humanities landscape of DC, whether you engage underserved or unrepresented DC communities, or other relevant aspects of your organization's work that are important to showcase.

Character Limit: 10000

Capacity and Personnel

Capacity and Personnel - 15%

- The organization's team and collaborators, whether staff or volunteer, are well-positioned to carry out the work of the organization.
- Leadership and staff represent its core audience and the community it serves, or, the applicant offers a reasonable explanation for why it does not and/or includes plans to increase representation.

Number of Full-time Employees*

Please enter the number of FTEs who work for your organization at least 20 weeks out of the year. Applicant organizations with 15 or more employees or proposing a public event must comply with specific guidelines set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Relevant questions will appear below, if applicable.

Character Limit: 5

Organization Leadership and Team*

Describe the organization's key leadership and team, their roles, and how their work carries forward the mission and programming of the organization.

Character Limit: 10000

Team Representation*

Explain how the leadership and team, whether staff or volunteer, represent the organization's core audience and the community it serves, or, offer a reasonable explanation for why it does not and/or includes plans to increase representation.

Character Limit: 10000 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Intended Use of Funds

Intended Use of Funds – 20%

- There is a demonstrated need and plan for the use of the funds.
- The applicant provides a compelling response for how grant funds will contribute to, support, or grow the organization and its work.

Intended Use of Funds*

Explain how your organization plans to use the funding provided by this grant throughout the grant period (July 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027). Describe the impact these funds would have on your organization, programming, and the communities you serve.

Character Limit: 10000

ADA Compliance

For more information, applicants may access the complete text of the ADA here: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/42/12101>. Note that neither HumanitiesDC or the District of Columbia government represent that this link leads to the latest version of the subject law.

Your responses below will be used to ensure compliance and will not reviewed or scored by the review panel.

Accessibility Plans*

Describe your organization's process of formulating accessibility plans (e.g., creating an accessibility advisory committee, board and staff disability-rights training, budgeting for reasonable accommodation requests, etc.)

Character Limit: 3600

Physical Accessibility*

Describe the current process/status of an organization's physical accessibility. If the location is not barrier-free, include a plan for project/program modification that ensures access in a barrier-free environment, when needed.

Character Limit: 3600

Presentation Accessibility*

Describe the organization's current progress/status of accessibility in presenting activities – communications access (e.g. TDD, large print, or brail materials; audio description or assistive listening devices, ASL interpreted programs, etc.) and marketing/advertising.

Character Limit: 3600

Appendix

Appendix

If you have additional documents which can support your proposal – such as staff resumes, letters of support, brochures, or photos – please upload those here. Any uploaded documents should be referenced in the relevant section of the proposal narrative.

You may type this information in, cut and paste it from another document, or upload a document file into the space below using your browser. If you have more than 5 files to upload (i.e. several resumes), please combine several documents into one file and upload that file as one document.

Character Limit: 4000 | File Size Limit: 10 MB

Appendix 2

You may upload documents (one per field) into the following spaces below.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Appendix 3

You may upload additional documents (one per field) into the following spaces below.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Appendix 4

You may upload additional documents (one per field) into the following spaces below.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Appendix 5

You may upload additional documents (one per field) into the following spaces below.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Legal Compliance, Certification, and Signature

Entering your information below indicates that the statements contained in this application are true and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. Your entered name also certifies that the Sponsoring Organization is in compliance with:

- Eligibility requirements outlined in the applicable Request for Proposals for this grant program
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;
- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972;
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;

- the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- the Age Discrimination Act of 1973;
- the Labor Standards under Sections 5(i) and 7(g) of the National Foundation of the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965;
- and the regulations issued pursuant thereto by the National Endowment for the Humanities (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Chapter XI).

The entered name also certifies the sponsoring organization or individual applicant is not debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs in violation of the regulations implementing Executive Order 12549 "Debarment and Suspension."

Please Note: By entering data into the next three (3) fields calling for insertion of your Name, Title, and Date, you are:

1. representing that you are an officer or other agent for the applicant Grantee duly authorized to enter into legally binding agreements on behalf of the Grantee
2. agreeing to submit this grant application in an electronic form on behalf of the Grantee which shall be bound by its contents as an electronic transaction
3. agreeing that your insertion of data into these following fields constitutes an electronic signature.

Authorized Signature*

Character Limit: 100

Title*

Character Limit: 100

Date*

Character Limit: 100