Community Engagement Grant – Request for Proposals

North Carolina Humanities has been a leading humanities funder in North Carolina since 1972. Our Community Engagement grant funding opportunity provides up to $3,500 to cultural organizations to support the implementation of public humanities projects. Projects are expected to connect the public to quality humanities scholarship through programs that respond to community interest, encourage dialogue, and stimulate audiences to think critically about a broad range of humanities topics.

Two Community Engagement grants cycles are offered this year with the following deadlines. To be eligible for consideration, the activities for which you are requesting funding must begin AT LEAST eight weeks AFTER the submission deadline.

- Application Opens: 11/30/20
- Application Cycle 1 Submission Deadline: Jan 21, 2021 at 11:59 PM
- Application Cycle 2 Submission Deadline: Sept 16, 2021 at 11:59 PM
- Award Notification: Decisions are typically announced a month after submission via electronic notification through your Applicant Dashboard in our online application management system.

NC Humanities expects all grant proposals to utilize a humanities discipline or practice to advance one or more of the following areas of our Mission and Vision:

- Deepen human connections by broadening perspectives
- Equip communities with empathy, understanding, and respect
- Inspire community and connect North Carolinians across difference

Eligible proposals which meet one or more of the following are given special consideration:

- Applicant organizations in rural communities
- Applicant organizations primarily serving traditionally under-resourced groups including communities of color or other marginalized groups (Seniors, ALAANA (those of African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, and/or Native American descent), People with Disabilities, New Americans (Immigrants, Refugees, First Generation Americans), Low-Income, and LGBTQIA).

ELIGIBILITY

Please see our Grant Guidelines for detailed instructions on NC Humanities’ expectations for proposals, FAQs, restrictions and policies governing NC Humanities grantmaking, review criteria and a full list of ineligible grant expenses.

Organization Eligibility

- Activities for which you are requesting funding must take place in North Carolina.
- Organization must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit humanities organization OR a tax-exempt government entity.
- Organization must have a DUNS number and be registered in the System for Award Management (www.sam.gov).
- Organization must not be presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from receiving federal grants.
Project Eligibility

- Projects must be deeply grounded in the humanities disciplines. NC Humanities is not able to support activities which fall outside the scope of the humanities.
  - Language (both modern and classical)
  - Literature
  - History
  - Jurisprudence (law)
  - Philosophy
  - Archeology
  - Comparative religion
  - Ethics
  - The history, criticism and theory of the arts
  - Social sciences which have humanistic content and/or employ humanistic methods

- Please see our Grant Guidelines for a sample list of project formats and a list of eligible/ineligible grant expenses.

- Grantees will be required to provide matching investment toward the project expenses. Generally, applicants will be required to match their grant 2:1 in a combination of cash and in-kind investment.

Restrictions

- Organizations that have an open NC Humanities grant are not eligible to apply for a new grant (with the exception of large organizations with multiple locations such as the library system, YMCA, or college/university).
- Organizations that have delinquent paperwork for a previously funded NC Humanities grant are not eligible to apply.
- Projects that are religious in nature or specifically serve only church membership or faculty/student body are not eligible.
- Projects that engage in the promotion of political parties, candidates, or policies (including lobbying activities) are not eligible.

Submission Instructions

1. Please review NC Humanities’ 2021 Grant Guidelines before applying.
2. Watch this video tutorial on setting up your account in our application portal.
3. Get started on your application in our online application system.
   A. If you are new to the online system, please create an account prior to applying. Once you have created your account and are logged in to your Applicant Dashboard, click “Apply” in the upper left-hand corner to view an alphabetical list of all open funding opportunities. Please bookmark the login page for ease of access.
   B. If you have previously created an account, please click here to login. Once on your Applicant Dashboard click “Apply” in the upper left-hand corner to view an alphabetical list of all open opportunities. Please bookmark the login page for ease of access.
4. Schedule a phone consultation with NC Humanities staff as you prepare your proposal. Click here to schedule.
5. Submit your grant proposal for a review cycle by the posted deadline. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Submission of an application does not guarantee approval. Please note: While our staff are always available for questions, a full review of an applicant’s draft proposal is only available upon request until 3 weeks PRIOR TO a submission deadline.

About North Carolina Humanities: North Carolina Humanities is a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Through public humanities programs and grant-making, NC Humanities serves to connect North Carolinians with cultural experiences that spur dialogue, deepen human connections, and inspire community. To learn more, visit www.nchumanities.org.

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