



Mini Grants Guidelines

The Maine Humanities Council Mini Grants program distributes funding to non-profit organizations in Maine for humanities programs and projects that have broad public outreach. We are excited to support programs and projects with rich, well-developed humanities content, strong participation from a scholar or topic expert, and robust support from partners in the community. **Please see the FAQs for more information regarding humanities content.**

Funds

- Grants of up to \$2,000 for humanities programs and projects undertaken by non-profit organizations across Maine.
- Funding match or cost-share is required.
- Funds cannot be used to cover general operating expenses.
- Funds cannot be used for projects that promote a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view or discriminate against persons or groups.

Priorities

- Intended to support non-profit organizations to provide rich humanities programs with broad public outreach that support and involve their communities.
- Organizations serving and/or led by members of communities traditionally under-resourced in the humanities are encouraged to apply.
 - These groups include people of color, people who identify as LGBTQ+, people who live in rural areas, people with disabilities, people who identify as immigrants or refugees, and people whose first (or only) language is not English. (Please note that this is not an exhaustive list.)
- It is the aim of the Maine Humanities Council to maximize the impact of available funding.

Project Criteria

MHC evaluates proposals on their strength and clarity in the following areas:

- **The project has well-developed, Maine-based humanities content, including:**
 - Guidance from someone with deep expertise in the project topic;
 - A strong connection to Maine;
 - Humanities programming with a public facing component
- **The project meets MHC's priorities:**
 - The organization is rurally located and/or serving rural populations
 - People from traditionally & historically underrepresented groups serve as decision-makers in the organization
 - The organization serves people from traditionally & historically underrepresented groups
- **The project has broad impact:**
 - Broad public outreach
 - Involves the community in the project's process
 - Offers a creative approach to public engagement, using a variety of strategies and involving community partners
 - Deepens knowledge and appreciation of the vital connections between democracy, humanities, journalism, and informed community members

Eligibility

- 501(c)(3) organizations registered in Maine. Organizations without 501(c)(3) status are able to apply through a fiscal sponsor.
- Maine tribal organizations.
- Maine public libraries.
- Government agencies; universities, colleges, academic departments; public, private, or parochial schools; churches.
- **Not eligible:** individuals; for-profit organizations; political or advocacy organizations.

Application Review

- Applications will be reviewed by a panel made up of staff and Board members of the Maine Humanities Council.
- Applications will be evaluated based on the strength and clarity of the project's humanities content, goals and potential impact, design, outreach and engagement, budget, and alignment with MHC's criteria.
- Grant notifications will be made within 8 weeks of final submission.

To Apply

- You will complete the application in two parts:
 - You will create a budget [using this form](#).
 - [Complete your application and upload your documents online](#).

Please email your questions to anyone on our Grants Team:

[Lizz Sinclair](#)

[Kyle Volland](#)

[Samaa Abdurraqib](#)