



## Grant Guidelines

The Maine Humanities Council Grant program distributes funding to non-profit organizations in Maine for larger humanities programs and projects – things like exhibits, films, conferences, initiatives – 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.

### Funds

- Grants are 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 is looking for projects that:
  - Engage audiences through and with the humanities.
  - Have guidance from someone with deep expertise in the project topic.
  - Involve the community in every step of the project's process.
  - Offer a creative approach to public engagement, using a variety of strategies and involving community partners.
  - Have clear, well-defined goals and plans for getting feedback from participants on how well the goals were met.
- The strongest proposals:
  - Clearly state what form the project will take (panel discussion, exhibition, etc.)
  - Provide a detailed timeline that lists the steps of the project, including everything from planning to implementation.
  - Present a well-thought-out budget that details how MHC funding will be used, includes the project's total costs, accounts for the required cash and/or in-kind match, and explains how all figures were reached.

## Eligibility

- 501(c)(3) organizations registered in Maine.
- 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; entities with significant public funding.

## 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, outreach plan, goals, implementation timeline, and budget.
- Grant notifications will be made within 8 weeks of final submission.

**Please see our website** for FAQs, specific deadlines, applications and to sign up for information sessions.

## Questions?

Email your questions to Lizz Sinclair at [grants@mainehumanities.org](mailto:grants@mainehumanities.org). Please be sure to include your phone number in case we need to call you, and allow us a day to respond.

