Major Grant
Guidelines

The Maine Humanities Council Major 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. **Please see the Major Grant FAQs for more information regarding humanities content**.

Funds

- Grants from $1,001 to $7,500 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:

- Humanities content
  - center your project on engaging an audience through and with the humanities.
  - seek and use guidance from someone with deep expertise in the project topic.
- Project Goals and Impact
  - state clear, well-defined goals
  - plan how you will get feedback from participants on how well the goals were met and what impact the project had
- Project Design
  - 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.
- Outreach and Engagement
  - plan to involve the community in the project's development.
  - find a creative approach to public engagement, using a variety of outreach strategies and involving community partners.
- Budget
  - 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. 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 are due on 31 January 2021.
- 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

- The application period will open on November 8, 2021.
- Application deadline is January 31, 2021.
- You will complete the application in two parts:
    - You will create a budget using this form
    - Complete your application and upload your documents online

Info Session

Information session will be held online throughout the application period.
Learn more and register online

Please email your questions to anyone on our Grants Team:
Lizz Sinclair
Kyle Volland
Samaa Abdurraqib