



Discussion Project Guidelines

Through the Discussion Project, the Maine Humanities Council offers comprehensive support to individuals and organizations all over Maine who want to convene members of their community for rich discussions, grounded in texts, of things that matter to them.

Whether the people in a group are linked by their work, their place, or their lived experience, every project is intended to foster real communication and connection among participants through listening and being listened to. Every project's discussions are grounded in the group's shared experience of a compelling text or set of texts. And every project is created with the aim of being both valuable and as easy as possible for a particular community to join – so every project is unique.

Our dream is that anyone and everyone in Maine who wants to should have the opportunity to join in a rich, meaningful discussion with others about things that really matter to them. In an effort to get closer to making this dream a reality, we are especially keen to support projects proposed by people and organizations serving those who are most deeply isolated from each other and the wider community, and those whose work has public impact.

Program

- Work closely with MHC staff to bring your discussion project to life in the way that best meets your community's needs.
- Fall 2021 Discussion Project meetings can be held online or in person. All in-person meetings must be held in accordance with the Maine CDC's COVID-19 guidelines current at the time of the meeting.
- Participate in an online group orientation/skill-share with others working to create vibrant text-based discussions in their communities.
- MHC provides a facilitator, provides or covers costs for materials, and offers other support as needed.

Priorities

- People and organizations serving those who are most deeply isolated from each other and the wider community.
- People and organizations whose work has public impact.
- Organizations serving and 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.)

Eligibility

- Individuals and organizations in Maine who want to convene members of their community for rich discussion, grounded in texts, of things that matter to them.

Application Review

- Applications will be reviewed by a panel of MHC staff.
- Award notifications decisions begin **July 19, 2021**

To Apply

- Apply online: mainehumanities.formstack.com/forms/discussion_project_application
 - You will apply through a simple application that will take about 30 minutes to complete.
 - Applications open **June 8, 2021**
 - Applications close **July 8, 2021**

Information Sessions

- We hold online info sessions every application round– so you can meet us, learn a little more about what we do, ask questions, and meet some of the other amazing people developing discussions and projects around Maine.
- Register online: mainehumanities.org/discussion-project-info-sessions/

Questions?

- Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions at all! Email jan@mainehumanities.org with questions or to set up a time to talk.