Major & Mini Grant Guidelines

The Maine Humanities Council Grant program distributes funding to Maine-based 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.

Funds
- Grants are for humanities programs and projects undertaken by non-profit organizations across Maine. Individuals with humanities projects may apply with a fiscal sponsor.
- 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 rich humanities programs with broad public outreach that support and involve their communities in Maine.
- 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 whose first (or only) language is not English. (Please note that this is not an exhaustive list.)
- Maine Humanities Council aims to maximize the impact of available funding.

Project Criteria

MHC is looking for projects that:
- Engage Maine audiences through and with the humanities.
- Have guidance from someone with deep expertise in the project's subject.
- Involve the community in every step of the project's process.

The strongest proposals:
- Clearly state what form the project will take (panel discussion, exhibition, etc.)
- Demonstrate clear opportunities for the audience to engage with the humanities and with each other.

- 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 projects total costs, accounts for the required cash and/or in-kind match, and explains how all figures were reached.

Eligibility

Organizations with 501c3 status, government organizations (such as federally recognized tribal governments or organizations or state/local/city governments), churches, or education organizations (such as schools or school districts, or public or private institutions of higher education) are eligible to apply without fiscal sponsorship.

If your organization is **NOT** a 501c, or equivalent (see above) you will need a **FISCAL SPONSOR** for your project. The National Council of Nonprofits has a helpful resource sheet on fiscal sponsorship.

Not eligible: individuals without a fiscal sponsor; for-profit organizations; political or advocacy organizations.

Please note: if your organization has received a MHC project grant (Major, Mini, or Arts & Humanities Grants), you are not eligible to apply again in either the same or the following calendar year. For example, an organization awarded a grant (at any point) in 2025 would not be eligible to apply for ANY MHC project grants until January 2027.

Application Review
- Major Grant proposals are reviewed by a panel made up of MHC Board members and community reviewers. Mini Grant proposals are reviewed by a panel of MHC Board and staff members.
- Applications will be evaluated based on the strength and clarity of the project's humanities content; the project's design and budget; community involvement; goals and impact; and alignment with MHC's priorities.
- Grant notifications will be made within 8 weeks of the submission deadline.

Questions?
- Please see our website for our FAQ document, deadlines, application and application previews and information session registration.
- Email questions to anyone on our Grants Team – we are here to help!

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Please be sure to include your phone number in case we need to call you, and allow us one business day to respond.