

Organization: Bitterroot Water Partnership						
Project Name: Water in the Bitterroot: What We Talk about When We Talk about Water						
Staff & Board						
Comments	Criteria #1 - Eligibility & Compliance	Criteria #2 - Significance	Criteria #3 - Strategic Alignment	Criteria #4 - Quality	Criteria #5 - Feasibility	Overall Assessment & Follow-up Questions
Megan	This is the first funding request from Bitterroot Water Partnership. They contacted HM in the fall of 2022 as they began thinking about this project and submitted an LOI in 2024. Although they submitted the required letters of commitment from their scholars, they did not include letters of support from the community or other collaborators. This is not required but drops the completeness score from 5 to 4.	The organization's long history of serving the Bitterroot establishes credibility for assessing the community's need for new opportunities to discuss the social, cultural, and economic importance of water. The project involves several collaborators to support outreach, program design/development, and program implementation. It is helpful to know that they have additional funding support for this project. The project crosses lines between agricultural and environmental humanities, both of which are increasingly relevant and popular in Montana. The project has the potential to draw interest from the more rural areas of the Bitterroot and project leadership will need to promote the exhibit extensively to those communities to ensure rural engagement.	This project is three-fold. It will utilize historical reflection/memory to encourage community dialogue, while simultaneously archiving current culture in the Bitterroot around water rights, agricultural use, and conservation. The third component involves collective learning through interaction with the exhibit, concurrent lectures, and writing prompts. The planned focus groups and the student-led story development will help bring diverse perspectives together and the organization's long-standing history serving community members of various backgrounds instills confidence that varied viewpoints will be represented throughout the exhibit. However, they do not specify which of their scholars/subject experts represent the agricultural community in the Bitterroot. The humanities content and scholarship would be stronger if they had been more explicit about which perspectives would be included and who would represent those viewpoints.	The project timeline is specific to activities planned after July 1 as that is the earliest date they would be able to use any funds awarded by HM. The outreach plan seems reasonable, and the evaluation plan is appropriate. It is nice to see planned efforts for semi-structured focus groups as a way to measure changes in learning among exhibit participants. As a pilot, this program has the potential to inform future community engagement activities.	They have a strong project team comprised of professionals with environmental humanities backgrounds and experience working with members of the Bitterroot community. Exciting to see the collaboration with MAPS as a way to both develop the exhibit and engage youth in the project. Also enlisting contracted services for developing discussion questions is notable. The budget and budget narrative align, and all expenses are allowable and appropriate. No major concerns at this time.	The most interesting aspect of this project is the engagement of youth through MAPS to develop the story, conduct interviews with community members, and submit portraits and photo essays for use in the exhibit. The youth component seems more prominent in this project than they described in the application. This is a unique interdisciplinary humanities project worthy of funding consideration.
Jill	This project is eligible, compliant with NEH and HM guidelines and complete.	Water conservation is a hot topic for Montanans. There is much need to have meaningful, inclusive conversations about shared and diverse values, histories and culture, especially with the influx of new residents to the Bitterroot Valley. The Bitterroot Water Partnership has a long history in their community and a good outreach plan to reach their audiences. They have a plan to include diverse voices, including ranchers, conservationists, recreationists, and other residents in the conversation.	Water in the Bitterroot aligns well with the mission of HM to promote well vetted community conversations, and to reach both rural and youth audiences which are strategic priority areas for us. I appreciate their focus on the various cultural perspectives on water and their intention for their audience to learn more and leave with their own perspectives.	The workplan is clear and has specific activities and realistic timeline. Outreach and promotion plans are included, as well as an innovative evaluation plan.	They have a strong team of professionals and scholars to lead this project. I expect that they will easily be able to carry out their proposed activities.	These are exactly the kinds of community-based conversations that HM should consider funding to bring diverse perspectives together in order to address our most urgent concerns. Water continues to be a topic that impacts everyone in a variety of ways, so finding common ground and understanding different points of view is of utmost importance.
Ray Ekness		Good partnerships with a wide variety of community organizations. Non-profit working with MAPS Media students. They don't spell out what the multimedia part of this project will be—it is talked about in the letter of support.	They don't spell out if there is any Native American involvement. If they are looking back at historic appreciate of water, it might be a good idea for them to add that aspect.	Very tight timeline for them to present this in July. Being shown for one month at an arts gallery and on display from July 8-August 8. Evaluation plan says "semi-structured, informal." Not well thought out.	Tight timeline and tight budget	I'm still a bit confused as to what they will produce and hope to accomplish with this project. I think it's an interesting idea but is a quick one-and-done project. I have reservations.
Carla Homstad		The proposal makes a good case for furthering an understanding of how cultural landscapes (including water) influence our sense of belonging. I value how this project aims to bring people together over the issue of water in the Bitterroot Valley.	Involving students from MAPS Media will help reach one of Humanities Montana's target audiences. The humanities content can get a little diffused in conversations about ecology and conservation but this proposal does a good job of highlighting how it will explore humanities topics such as the relationship between culture and landscape over time—especially in a changing Montana.	Plans for evaluation seem a little undercooked.		Montana is changing and the place of water in the Bitterroot Valley needs cultural exploration—just what this project aims to achieve.
Jennifer Corning			The presentations and exhibit are creative and interesting. Would like more specifics on "2-4 special gatherings."	The project work plan is light. on details: outcomes, evaluation, and timeline.		I would support this project.
Lathie Poole Beth Sullivan		I appreciated the involvement of youth in the project				I'm somewhat suspicious of this project. Much disinformation is afoot on water and aquifers and this may be advancing those old notions. Selling our water downstream by power companies is probably the greater threat and holds the solution to the lack rather than trying to limit home use, number of bedrooms and pets and such nonsense.
W. Clark Whitehorn						Water issues are fundamental concerns for all Montanans, and the more we can get grantees to talk about water issues, the better off we'll be in terms of education and understanding (if not necessarily practice).
Karen Reiff			Water is an important topic in Montana. I appreciate their incorporation of diverse voices on the topic.	They don't really explain how they intend to measure outcomes.		I think this is an important topic. Their work plan and outreach seem a little light.
Tim Wilson		Water in general will be Montana's biggest challenge going forward. Anything that promotes dialogue is a good idea.				Maybe more of a practical issue than a true Humanities issue but the issue is real and important.

Organization: Holter Museum of Art						
Project Name: Secrets of the Vault						
Staff & Board						
Comments	Criteria #1 - Eligibility & Compliance	Criteria #2 - Significance	Criteria #3 - Strategic Alignment	Criteria #4 - Quality	Criteria #5 - Feasibility	Overall Assessment & Follow-up Questions
Megan	The Holter has not received funding from HM in several years. They received grants in 2010 and 2011 and were denied funding in 2016, 2020, and 2021. After review, the decline rationale for the later projects was mostly because the projects did not adhere to the arts vs. humanities distinction. This project is eligible as a humanities project because they are offering public art history lectures. I rated eligibility as 5 because although they received funding in the past, they have not received funding from HM for over 10 years. I rated completeness as 4 because although they included email confirmations from their beverage provider for the lectures, they did not include letters of support from any other (more appropriate) community partners.	The request from patrons of the museum to regain access to the Holter's permanent collection, specifically Montana Modernist pieces, and participate in educational opportunities provides some evidence of the project's relevance to the community. I appreciate that they will be streaming and recording the lectures to make them more accessible to the general public and collaborating with libraries and museums to promote viewership in rural communities. Collaboration with experts and lecturers is key to the success of this project.	The project aligns with HM's mission to increase public access to humanities content by reintroducing Montanans to a collection of original artwork with ties to Montana through adult art history lectures. The scholars and lecturers are noteworthy and will provide expert interpretation and historical analysis of each piece. The listed scholars are very active in humanities-focused work across Montana. I am also impressed that they are working to make these lectures free to members and non-members if they can secure enough funding. The project does not appear to focus service to any of HM's priority communities but may reach people outside of Helena if they successfully partner with libraries and museums to organize watch parties.	The goals and work plan are well-written and the project activities including outreach and evaluation are reasonable. They may need to start outreach before July to successfully promote events in July, but this application is specific to the July 1 project start date. If the lecture series is well-received and attended, the Holter might be able to continue offering these adult education opportunities in the future.	Staff leading this project have the needed qualifications and skills to conduct key project activities. The applicant who is also the ED is very dedicated to the success of this project and will no doubt work to carry out project activities. A few expenses would need to be moved from other cash to in-kind or revised if funding is approved, but the total requested from HM would remain the same. There are no major concerns with the budgeted expenses or calculations for each.	This is the only project in this application pool focused on art history and interpretation. It will create a new opportunity for Montanans to engage with a permanent collection and interact with excellent humanities scholars. The only downside is the program's potentially limited reach. However, I am optimistic that they have the project leadership and plan in place for successful outreach and collaborations needed to reach audiences outside of Helena.
Jill	This project is eligible, compliant with NEH and HM guidelines and complete.	Montana's art history is a humanities topic that deserved consideration. The "windows and mirrors" concept has the potential to bridge divides and bring together the arts with local historians. I appreciate that the project has statewide reach through streaming and social media well.	The "Secrets of the Vault" program aligns well with the mission of HM through storytelling and Montana history. The scholars and their topics are a good fit for the program and includes multicultural perspectives. Their collaboration with libraries and historical societies and museums enhances the humanities outreach.	The project workplan is thoughtful and realistic. I like the idea of having "watch parties" in rural communities to expand their reach. Their outreach and evaluation plans seems reasonable as well.	The Holter has a strong commitment as well as expertise to achieve their outcomes. They are responding to a community request to increase access to their historical permanent art collection. Additionally, they have other sponsors lined up in support.	This art history project is well within the lane of humanities and is worthy of HM's support.
Ray Ekness		Sounds like a perfect partnership of local/regional art historians to tell the story of objects from their permanent collection. Will become a permanent feature of the museum.	It seems like a good program for the members and friends of the museum. It doesn't really reach out to other audiences or communities. It also doesn't reach out to priority audiences. But it's a solid proposal.	They have a solid timeline and marketing plan. It seems well-planned with a good group of presenters. Hope they have success getting folks to come during the nicest summer months. I guess the cash bar will help.	Do we really let folks use the rental costs of their space for match? Seems strange to me. Budget seems OK.	Solid proposal. Good speakers. Good use of permanent collection. Could become a model for other museums.
Carla Homstad			The proposal indicates ways in which it hopes to reach marginalized sectors of Montana's population but it doesn't really identify how the project itself addresses the realities of those sectors.		Note the need for an update to the amount (zero) listed under project cost-share--other cash income. There's a question about including food and beverages sales as other cash income. I additionally have questions about the amount of staff salary and fringe benefits included in the budget.	The idea of art as window and mirror is quite valuable and I think this will be a successful series and one we should support. However, we need to get answers related to the proposed budget (staff salaries and fringe benefits amounts as well as cost-share questions). We need answers related to the proposed budget (staff salaries and fringe benefits amounts as well as cost-share questions).
Jennifer Corning						Innovative and interesting project that addresses HM's mission and relevance to Montanans. Support for honoraria, marketing, outreach, and promotion is recommended to the amount of \$8000.
Lathie Poole						This impresses me as a noble endeavor to explore and preserve the legacy of artwork in the Holter Museum before records or memories fade and are lost. Using the museum as a venue makes the works and displays easily available to many people. I like this project.
Karen Reiff		This project will open access to Holter's permanent collection to the public. They have secured well qualified lecturers. They will provide streaming and will work with libraries across MT to engage a larger audience.	This project aligns with HM's mission to reach others through MT history and storytelling. They are making the lectures free to the public and also providing streaming and access to the lectures to outside communities, as well.	They have a specific and realistic work plan. They have a marketing plan. The evaluation plan is also realistic.	The budget seems reasonable. Project management is well thought out.	They have good project leadership and a good plan in place. Their mission aligns with HM.
Tim Wilson		I'm sure the lectures will be of benefit to those interested in modern art.	My largest concern with this project that resulted in some of the lower ratings were that it seems like it targets a very limited audience. My mental image of this lecture series is that these lectures will be modern art experts discussing modern art pieces with modern art lovers. Followed by craft beer and kombucha where the same thing will occur.			The benefits of offering some support is that this lecture series will be informative to those interested in modern art.

Organization: University of Montana - Dee Garceau						
Project Name: The 1918 Influenza: Film and Conversation						
Staff & Board						
Comments	Criteria #1 - Eligibility & Compliance	Criteria #2 - Significance	Criteria #3 - Strategic Alignment	Criteria #4 - Quality	Criteria #5 - Feasibility	Overall Assessment & Follow-up Questions
Megan	The applicant received funding from HM in 2022 for production of this film. She is returning to HM seeking support for distribution of the film across the state. The project did not appear to be a good fit for a stage 3 film + video grant. The film was broadcast on PBS in March 2024 and the applicant is compliant with all required reporting for the film + video grant. Because the applicant has received funding in the past for this project and did not include letters of support from community partners (not required) the rating for both eligibility and completeness is 4.	As mentioned in the application, the film provides historical context for analyzing public health issues for diverse communities during the 1918 pandemic and is relevant to Montanans reflecting on the impacts of Covid. The planned locations for the film screening and panel discussions align with the stories presented in the film and will reach audiences across the state.	The film offers previously untold stories from Montanans about the history of the 1918 pandemic. The film and the panel discussions will bring these histories to life in featured communities, giving participants opportunity to reflect on the potential relevance of their shared experiences today.	They did a good job of outlining their work plan including key outreach and evaluation activities. Hopefully the panelists will circulate promotional materials among their circles to increase interest in participation. The timeline seems appropriate based on the amount of planning already completed.	Project leadership and scholar contributions will no doubt ensure successful completion of this project. The applicant went through UMT's Office of Sponsored programs to submit this proposal and will have support managing the budget and reporting requirements. The applicant has struggled with budgets in the past, but with OSP's support I have confidence that she will be successful. The budget is appropriate, and all expenses are allowable. No major questions or concerns about feasibility at this time.	The benefit of funding this project is that a film sponsored by HM will be promoted across the state and provide opportunities for communities represented in the film to engage with their own histories. It would be interesting to know how the film was received (watched, rated, etc.) during the PBS broadcast. I'm curious to more about the level of interest in the topic.
Jill	This project is eligible, compliant with NEH and HM guidelines and complete.	The history of the Influenza pandemic in Montana offers a perspective that may help us better understand the recent Covid pandemic in near and different ways. The themes of loss and resilience are universal.	The film was previously supported by HM and aligns well with our mission. Their storytelling includes multicultural perspectives. They have included strong scholars in their project as well.	Their work plan is reasonable and realistic. Outreach plans are more than adequate. I didn't notice a formal evaluation plan in the proposal, although the Q&A after each event may offer some opportunities for feedback.	The project director and team are committed and have the capacity to achieve their outcomes. I am confident that they will manage all of the aspects of this project.	This proposal offers and opportunity for HM to continue to support community conversations about a relevant film that has been previously supported through one of our film-making grants.
Ray Ekness		I like the partnerships they have setup. I like the communities they will be visiting and the speakers they have set up. I also like that they will be in smaller towns in Montana as well.	Good group of speakers.	Good plan. Good timeline. Seem to have everything in place.	Budget seems realistic.	I like that HM will be a part of a program going to smaller towns across Montana. Even though this film aired on Montana PBS, I had no involvement with the approval or scheduling of the film on our station. This project is incredibly timely in the wake of COVID and will tell important stories of dealing with historical loss and trauma. The explanation of the humanities content and the questions that will be explored during the film screening and conversations is compelling. The project timeline, goals, and outreach have all been thoughtfully delineated.
Carla Hornstad						The application is complete and clear. The stated audience, goals, presentations are appropriate. The communities represented in the film will be fortunate to have this follow-up and discussion. Total support for this application.
Jennifer Corning						OK my great grandma probably died from the 1918 influenza event but despite that, I don't see the benefit in watching a gruesome film about it and connecting it to the covid pandemic which in my view (and many other's) was man made for the purpose of thinning humanity with their deadly vaccine. There. Sorry (no I'm not). L
Lathie Poole		great coverage for the project with collaborating communities across the state				
Beth Sullivan						
W. Clark Whitehorn						I'm a little confused by this line in the implementation discussion: "The project has three phases: Produce an historical documentary about the 1918 influenza. In collaboration with indigenous elders, oral historians, and scholars, the film was produced in 2022-23. It is now ready for viewing and discussion!" I'm absolutely certain the film has already been produced, disseminated, and viewed. I saw it on PBS a few months ago, so what we're being asked to fund is a film tour (like a book signing), right? I support this sort of traveling humanities tour, but I think the applicant should be clear that the film has already been shown to the public.
Karen Reiff						This project fits within the mission of HM, and I support it.
Tim Wilson						Studying and learning from History is always important...and especially this topic in light of Covid.

Organization: Montana History Foundation						
Project Name: The Montana Antiques Appraisal Fair						
Staff & Board						
Comments	Criteria #1 - Eligibility & Compliance	Criteria #2 - Significance	Criteria #3 - Strategic Alignment	Criteria #4 - Quality	Criteria #5 - Feasibility	Overall Assessment & Follow-up Questions
Megan	They completed a consultation prior to applying. Although the event is a ticketed event, they explained that all proceeds from ticket sales are used to "offset the costs of the program" but if considered for funding we would need to clarify what they mean when they say funds will also support "sustainable growth" for the program. The Foundation has been, and continues to be an excellent partner for HM. They reach a similar constituent base. All reports from previous awards have been submitted and they remain in good standing with HM. Because they have previously received funding from HM in the past and they omitted letters of support for community partners (not required) they were given a rating of 4 for both eligibility and compliance.	The Foundation has a good sense of how relevant appraising Montana artifacts is to Montanans. They have had success in the past and can attest to the event's popularity. There is potential for the event to reveal artifacts that help tell new stories about Montana's past and provides an opportunity for "history buffs" to gather and learn from one another. Their collaborations with the Northwest History Museum and area experts are critical to the success of the project and demonstrates a general commitment from the community.	The project provides a unique type of "hands on history" opportunity. This approach to increasing interest in learning about Montana's history is innovative and engaging. The "object experts" will serve as the humanities scholars to provide historical context for notable artifacts and share their knowledge and expertise with participants. If successful, the event would at minimum, reach 200 people and might increase with participation from general spectators.	The project goals and work plan are clearly defined. They hope to increase awareness of their programs and grants as well as draw new visitors to the museum. The outcomes are attainable and measurable, and the timeline is appropriate. They have a strong outreach and marketing plan that involves both print and online media promotion and collaboration with community partners.	With this being the 6th year of the project, the Foundation is clearly dedicated to the success of the project and the project leadership is well-suited to carry out the key project activities. The budget includes allowable expenses and required cost share. There are no major concerns with the budget and feasibility of the project.	The project will help community members explore local and regional history and the approach to learning through examining artifacts is innovative. The Foundation has been a great partner and I have confidence that the event would be successful. This appears to be an annual event and they might look to HM for repeat funding.
Jill	This project is eligible, compliant with NEH and HM guidelines and complete.	The Foundation for Montana History has identified a consistent audience for their Antiques Appraisal Fair. The historical interpretation of objects offers a fun learning opportunity for attendees. They have scholars who are poised to offer their expertise and a beneficial partnership with the Northwest History Museum in Kalispell for this year's event.	The Appraisal Fair engages the public with a humanities focused history lesson through hands on, experiential learning opportunities. While it is a ticketed event, they are mindful of accessibility through their low ticket price of \$10 - \$30.	The work plan and outreach efforts are achievable and realistic. This has been a successful event for The Foundation in years past.	The Foundation has a strong track record of success. They have an experienced team that has the expertise to complete the event. I have no concerns about their ability to complete the project.	This event provides a hands-on experience of history through the appraisal of antiques which is meaningful to many Montanans as demonstrated by its previous success.
Ray Ekness		Good collaborative project. Sixth year-bringing it to Kalispell this year. Good names from appraisal world. Seems like a solid proposal.  The proposal doesn't really address a clearly identified community need but it does tap into a community enthusiasm for learning more about their beloved historical objects and family treasures (ala the Antiques Roadshow). Collaborating with, and hoping to expand the audience of, the Northwest History Museum is a strong indicator of a productive partnership.	There could be items of interest to our priority audience but there's no guarantee.  The project's engagement with marginalized sectors will depend upon who shows up with what kinds of historical objects. How well the project will reach other Montana communities is difficult to assess--presumably it will reach those communities around Kalispell.	They have presented a solid timeline. I think their overall marketing budget is low for what they say they want to do.  The lasting benefit of this project will probably affect mostly those who participate but will not extend very far beyond that group.	Group has a track record of presenting the event. The HM money will make it more affordable to folks coming to the event.  This fair has successfully been conducted a number of other times--seems like the Foundation and these appraisers have a good track record.	It seems like a good project. They have a track record of producing the event. They have a good partnership for a new Montana town. Seems like a solid proposal to me.  The fair will be engaging and informative to those who attend. The goal of increasing the audience for the Northwest History Museum is a laudable and achievable one.
Carla Homstad Jennifer Corning						Full support for this unique humanities project.
Lathie Poole						What fun! I love antiques yet appreciation of them is fading among the younger generation. This will rejuvenate awareness and everyone can participate on the treasure hunt.
Beth Sullivan				while evaluation mechanisms seem good, it's not clear how the event is documented for historical purposes	I don't get the ticket price information - how is the full price set? - how is the discount determined? this seems arbitrary on a first read although I expect there is much expertise in setting up this aspect of the event	
Karen Reiff		This project provides Montanans an opportunity to share antiques and artifacts and learn more about them. Their partnership with the Northwest History Museum will be beneficial. They have retained experts	This project engages the public with a 'hands on' history lesson. They have partnered with experts. The ticketing may limit the reach to the public.	The work plan and timeline seem reasonable and realistic. They are working with community partners and have a good marketing plan.	This is the sixth year for this project and they seem to have realistic and feasible plan.	This project creates an opportunity for Montanans to have a hands-on history experience. The only downside is that it may not reach as many people due to the ticketing.
Tim Wilson		This project has the potential to offer some very interesting and pertinent history via learning the backstory of antiques and heirlooms...as long as it focuses more on the "history of the what" and less on the "how much".				I find this to be a very innovative way to learn history from antiques and heirlooms. Hopefully the focus is less on just doing free appraisals for people.

Organization: Montana Free Press						
Project Name: Free Press Fest						
Staff & Board						
Comments	Criteria #1 - Eligibility & Compliance	Criteria #2 - Significance	Criteria #3 - Strategic Alignment	Criteria #4 - Quality	Criteria #5 - Feasibility	Overall Assessment & Follow-up Questions
Megan	Although MT Free Press has applied for funding in the past, they have not been awarded funds from HM. I consulted with MTFP staff beforehand. Both listed scholars are currently on our speaker's bureau and this project would be separate from their current speaker programs. They were given a 4 for completeness because they did not include letters of support from community partners (not required).	MTFP has organizational knowledge and experience to adequately assess the level of interest in this type of event. The goal of fostering civil discourse informed debate is a need we are seeing frequently across the state through other HM programs, grants, and community relationships.	They are specifically seeking funds to support high-school student participation from across the state. This aligns with HM's work to increase access to humanities programming for youth and rural communities. It would be helpful to know which panels will be offered free of charge and open to the public. Also, they seem to repeat their list of project goals in several sections but do not include details about the panelists who will represent diverse perspectives and academic research. Both Adams and Dennison are notable humanities scholars, and they are both MTFP employees and they are only two scholars listed for the project. It would also be helpful to know more about other collaborations in addition to UM.	The project timeline seems feasible for the proposed grant term. They have a comprehensive outreach plan that utilizes their resources as a media outlet, which will be very effective in promoting the event. I'm unsure how they estimated an audience of 500 for a first-time event. The work plan suggests that they have an idea of their participating scholars and HM should request additional information before review scores are finalized. The evaluation plan is sufficient for the first festival.	The project team is well-qualified, and I believe MTFP has experience facilitating events. In the project description they state funds from this project will go directly towards helping youth from rural communities attend the event, but the budget only includes honoraria and travel reimbursements for Adams and Dennison.	The festival seems like a great event that aligns well with HM's mission and could provide an opportunity for HM to support opportunities for civil dialogue. The amount requested is just over \$2,000 and if they are only interested in funds to support honoraria and travel for Adams and Dennison they could apply for a mini-grant instead of a community project grant.
Jill	This project is eligible, compliant with NEH and HM guidelines and complete.	Supporting journalism, Montana culture and civic engagement to a diverse audience is a worthy goal. I appreciate that their inaugural event is in partnership with UM's School of Journalism so that they may have a no-cost venue. Their plan to move the event to other locations across the state in future years is also appreciated.	This project is humanities-focused and aligns with the mission and vision of HM. By offering their event on-campus they will reach young adults and Indigenous students which aligns with our strategic goals. They also plan to include high school students.	The project work plan is good but isn't specific about their scholars outside of Adams and Dennison. Although, Dennison's letter isn't as firm about his attendance as I would like to see. It would also be good to know more about other panelists and authors who participate. Other aspects of the work plan are well thought out as far as timeline, outreach and evaluation.	Montana Free Press is a well-established non-profit organization. They have a decent sized team of journalists. However, I am uncertain of their experience with planning events. I am encouraged that they are partnering with the UM School of Journalism.	Civics education and engagement, especially with young people, is good to support. However, their budget is just over \$2,000 and their expenses are all travel related for Adams and Dennison. It may make more sense to ask them to apply for a mini-grant instead.
Ray Ekness		Good goals but I don't see the partnership with UM other than location. More defined panels would be nice to know about. It's very "pie in the sky" right now.	I don't know if it fits the audience since they haven't decided on the panels yet. John Adams and Mike Dennison are the only people named for the panels. Hope to have 500 people.	Promotion and audience survey in their plans. Good outreach plan	We don't know the entire budget since they've only identified the match money plus a partnership for \$4000 with Destination Missoula.	I like the idea of this project but it's just too amorphous at this point. On the other hand, it's not a whole lot of money. If the panels and speakers were more defined, I could be more on board for HM to be a partner with them.
Carla Hornstad			One of the issues with this proposal is its lack of specificity. We don't really know what topics will be covered or who all the speakers will be. It's thus very difficult to assess its humanities content (other than the role of journalism in a democratic society) or how well it will reach Montana audiences.		There are a few issues with the budget: switch expenses for John Adams to staff; add additional cost share because of the \$4,000 award from Destination Montana. These issues are easily addressed.	In theory, this modest proposal is worthy of our support but without knowing more about the topics to be covered and what speakers will be involved, it's very difficult to wholeheartedly fund it. What topics will be covered throughout the event? Who will be the speakers and what are their qualifications?
Jennifer Corning		In terms of significance, community dialogue is important. However, the topics and outcomes are unclear so it's hard to determine the significance of this endeavor.	Seeking input from students across the state is notable. It is unclear what the topics will be and that includes humanities content. Panelists have not been identified so it is unclear if multiple perspectives will be represented.	Outreach and marketing are well planned and comprehensive (billboards!). The evaluation by surveys is okay. The goals are good: strengthen networks, connections, increase knowledge about (unknown) topics, and enhanced engagement by (unknown) participants.	The budget and cost share is fine, but would like more specificity related to admission fees and who gets in free.	Concerned about the lack of detail in topics, panelists, audience. Recommend waiting for more details.
Lathie Poole						I wish I trusted the media but I don't. I see nothing but censorship of conservative voices and labeling those opinions as "hate speech" when it's just speech that "they" hate. They speak of non-partisan journalism and informed debate but with the proposed leaders and their backgrounds with liberal politicians I have little hope of anything emerging from this festival other than the further destruction of our republic and the people who built it.
Beth Sullivan		Even though this is a low-dollar request, it's not sure to me what the festival is supposed to be? Is it speakers and events 'curated' by the MFP? Is it focused on journalism? Is there a theme that unifies the presentations and events? I like the idea of a 'free press fest' - but I didn't get a sense of the 'press' in the description of the events				
W. Clark Whitehorn						I support the funding of any event that promotes civic engagement and intellectual engagement for everyone. My hope is that they mean inclusive across all political and cultural identities.
Karen Reiff						It's difficult to evaluate this project without more information on speakers, etc.
Tim Wilson		Seems like good intentions but rather vague.				Rather vague list of intended speakers and presentation content. ->Tickets of \$50-75 seems rather steep. Maybe if they address speakers and topics concerns, we could grant more than \$2174.

Organization: North Missoula Community Development Corporation						
Project Name: Butterflies & Railroad Ties: Update & Printing						
Staff & Board						
Comments	Criteria #1 - Eligibility & Compliance	Criteria #2 - Significance	Criteria #3 - Strategic Alignment	Criteria #4 - Quality	Criteria #5 - Feasibility	Overall Assessment & Follow-up Questions
Megan	This is the first proposal submitted by NMDCD and they have met all eligibility requirements. The applicant consulted with us prior to submitting their application. The application is complete; however, they included the CEO Certification letter from NMDCD as their additional letter of support resulting in a 4 for completeness.	The few remaining copies of Butterflies and Railroad Ties are difficult to find and of those copies even fewer are in good condition. The publication includes historical images of the homestead and Missoula, and they hope to add information and photos needed to better interpret S&S-Olispé history. Updating and re-printing this book would benefit educational programs and interpretation of the historic site and could also contribute to Montana's larger collection of cultural records. Their collaboration with the S&S-Olispé Culture Committee, NMDCD, City of Missoula Parks & Recreation, and community members is notable.	This project will help preserve the history of homesteading in Montana while also sharing an honest and more accurate depiction of the land's 14,000-year history. Printing new copies and distributing to schools and libraries will increase public access to the publication's historical content. The planned revisions will offer new history about historic preservation and community collaboration involved in establishing the homestead as a historic site. It is exciting that will be able to work with the original author to continue research and inform revisions to the publication. They will reach youth through integration of the book's content into youth programming and educational collaborations with UM, MSU, and other research institutions.	The work plan is thoughtful, well-written, and achievable. It is nice to see that they will be working with their Steering Committee to plan and implement project activities. The evaluation is robust, and I am interested in learning more about findings gathered through engagemissoula.org and public comment on their strategic plan. Their plans to digitize the publication will ensure the images and information will be available after all copies of the book have been distributed.	The project leadership team is qualified to carry out planned project activities and the collaboration between the author, the homestead caretakers and steering committee, NMDCD, and other community partners will contribute to their success. Expenses included in the budget are allowable and appropriate for the scope of this project. There are no major concerns about the feasibility of this project.	Supporting this publication would help preserve some of Montana's homesteading past and include new insights into the history of the land and people in Missoula and the surrounding areas. Although the publication is specific to Missoula, as a historic site it will contribute to Montana's cultural archives and a much larger collection of historical research.
Jill	This project is eligible, compliant with NEH and HM guidelines and complete.	Updating the Butterflies & Railroad Ties resource book will contribute to Montana's historical narrative around agriculture and is inclusive of local Indigenous experiences. It has a significant reach through their collaborations with programs at both the University of Montana and Montana State University, as well as pre-K through high school aged students.	This is a project that is grounded in the humanities, both with historical perspectives as well as storytelling. It reaches youth and is inclusive of Indigenous history making it well aligned with HM's strategic plan.	They have developed a realistic and achievable work plan and timeline for this project. I appreciate that they are also developing an updated curriculum to correspond with the update of this book.	The Moon-Randolph Homestead is a well-established organization. The project director, Katie Nelson, has lived there for 7 years. This seems like an opportune time to update BFRRT.	This is a good project for HM to support.
Ray Ekness		Well defined updates to an existing publication. Did HM give money to the original publication? How much and when? I like that they want to get this book registered and into the Library of Congress and into schools around Montana.	They have a good plan on what they need to add to the edition. I love that they reached out to the native community.	They have a good plan on what they need to add to the edition.	Well defined budget and leadership. Very realistic. This is something I feel HM should be a part of.	Local history that preserves the story for a bigger audience. I like it.
Carla Hornstad Jennifer Corning			While this project may benefit primarily the Missoula community and surrounding areas, it seems like a rich exploration of the important theme in all of Montana history related to homestead settlement. Enhancing the understanding of Salish connections to the historic district and engaging young audiences both address key target groups.	The proposal thoughtfully delineates project goals, outcomes, timeline and evaluation procedures.		Historic preservation is a vital way to keep history alive. This project seems eminently worthwhile and taps into important historical themes in Montana history.
Lathie Poole						Support for this project is encouraged.
Beth Sullivan			I appreciated the specific revisions that are delineated for the revised edition			Nice homestead but can they raise the money for the handbook in Missoula?
Karen Reiff					Budget and management is well thought out and explained.	I am in favor of awarding this project.
Tim Wilson		Making sure a written history of an important era and locale in Montana is available is a worthy project.				Supporting this grant will be helpful to NMDCD to ensure a new edition can be printed.

Organization: University of Montana - Courtney Cowgill						
Project Name: UM Summer Journalism Camp						
Staff & Board						
Comments	Criteria #1 - Eligibility & Compliance	Criteria #2 - Significance	Criteria #3 - Strategic Alignment	Criteria #4 - Quality	Criteria #5 - Feasibility	Overall Assessment & Follow-up Questions
Megan	HM supported the first iteration of the Summer Journalism Camp through the Informed Citizen initiative hosted in 2022. The week-long camp was attended by 25 high school students from across Montana. From post-event survey data, 100% of campers reported increased "understanding of the role that journalism plays in fostering an informed citizenry." UM is currently in good standing with HM. Because UM had received funding in the past, they were given a 4 for eligibility, and a 4 for completeness because they did not include additional letters of support (not required).	Improving media literacy among teens is very relevant, timely, and aligned with HM's goals to serve MT youth. Project leadership in coordination with the J-School and other media professionals will provide youth with a unique and meaningful experience. The camp will also help student develop and apply new skills by showcasing their stories at the end of the program.	Although the reach of the program may be limited to less than 50 students, they have a history of bringing students from across MT to participate and have a focus on recruiting young women from rural and Indigenous communities. The project is steeped in both the humanities content and scholarship, with significant contributions from Indigenous journalists. It is exciting to see they will engage college students as mentors throughout the program. The \$250 registration fee and expenses for students traveling from other areas of the state also limits the program's reach but their scholarship fund may help alleviate some financial burden.	The goals, outcomes, and timeline are appropriate for this project. Based on prior success recruiting high school students, their outreach plan seems to be effective. The evaluation plan includes measures of success, which is great to see.	UM and the applicants are very committed to the success of this project. HM staff worked with UM staff to ensure the budget is compliant with all federal funding regulations. Projects facilitated by colleges and universities require HM to comply with each institution's guidelines and are more complicated than other budgets. This budget has been reviewed and both expenses and cost-share are appropriate.	This project will provide a unique experience for MT youth, and I am confident project leadership will facilitate a successful summer camp. Although the reach to request amount may seem disproportionate, participating high school and college students will acquire skills and benefit from exposure to professional journalist, new mediums, and have a college experience. There are no apparent challenges to supporting this project.
Jill	This project is eligible, compliant with NEH and HM guidelines and complete.	Humanities related activities and summer camps for youth are quite limited in Montana as much of the state and national focus is on STEM. This is a great opportunity to educate youth from around the state, including Indigenous youth, about storytelling and journalism. This also gives youth a chance to explore a public university.	Journalism Camp is well aligned with the mission, vision and current strategic goals of HM. Courtney Cowgill is currently a scholar with HM's Montana Conversations program. Her team is also grounded in humanities scholarship. I am glad to see that they are offering scholarships.	The work plan is well done. I appreciate that they will be involving undergraduate students to assist with the camp and mentor youth. They will offer a pre-post test as their evaluation tool. This plan seems realistic.	The Project team is passionate about their work and are experienced in conducting this type of camp. They have the expertise to manage and successfully complete the project.	Overall, this is a good project for HM to support. This is the second time that HM has supported this camp, so ongoing future support may be a question for the committee and board to consider.
Carla Homstad			This proposal makes a strong case for the relevant humanities content of this project and its outreach to rural and Indigenous students across Montana.		The bulk of the requested \$10,000 will be used to pay for wages and fringe benefits of the co-directors and the UM journalism student camp counselors. It isn't clear from the budget how other costs needed to run the camp will be covered.	The value of this proposal rests in its stated goals of increasing media literacy and opening doors to the study of journalism to rural and Indigenous high-school students across Montana. Is the budget complete?
Jennifer Corning						The application is complete and addresses priority audience, humanities scholarship, diverse communities, leadership, and an appropriate work plan. Full support is recommended.
Lathie Poole Beth Sullivan		great opportunity for young people in MT		is the camp viable without HM funding?		I'll support this activity mainly because it's for native kids who usually don't echo the voice of liberal media. &nbsp;Hopefully they will produce some free and independent thinkers who can look forward and find common sense solutions for themselves, their communities and the world.
W. Clark Whitehorn						Helping teenagers improve their writing and social media skills is imperative in the 21st century. I love that this proposal includes kids from all over the state and from diverse backgrounds
Tim Wilson		Lord knows we need better journalists in this country. The audio aspect, in addition to print, is an important evolving need and the presentations at the end should be constructive.				Improving media literacy and Journalism skills are important goals. Exposure to the college experience is a bonus.

Organization: Mahchiwminahnahtik Chippewa Cree Language Revitalization (MCCLR)						
Project Name: Cree Language Revitalization Initiative						
Staff & Board						
Comments	Criteria #1 - Eligibility & Compliance	Criteria #2 - Significance	Criteria #3 - Strategic Alignment	Criteria #4 - Quality	Criteria #5 - Feasibility	Overall Assessment & Follow-up Questions
Megan	The applicant contacted HM the week prior to the application deadline. The short notice created a few challenges with the project budget and letter of support, but we were able to communicate and resolve some of the issues. This is the first time MCCLR has requested funding from HM and other than the letter of support being directed to the San Manuel Cares organization and obviously revised for HM, the application is complete.	Indigenous language revitalization and preservation projects are critical and timely for both our indigenous communities and the history and culture of Montana. The organization has strong leadership representative of the Chippewa Cree Tribe and through their ongoing programs is uniquely positioned to assess the need for this program. Collaborations with Tribal schools will ensure curriculum will reach youth audiences. They have done a great job of involving the community in the development and design of the program.	Indigenous language preservation projects are of interest to NEH and align with HM's goals and strategic priorities. The project is Native led which is important for HM if we are working to support the humanities in service to Native American communities in Montana. This project is specific to increasing awareness and participation in MCCLR's language programming.	The key activities and timeline are directly related to their stated outcomes. Knowing they have established programs in place to offer communities will enable them to carry out project activities. The outreach and evaluation plans are detailed and involve high-level community engagement.	There is no question that the organization is dedicated to this project and project leadership are experts on the subject matter and the communities served. The budget and cost share are appropriate, and the expenses are allowable. The justification for a few of the totals is a little confusing, but I worked with the applicant to update the budget and feel that the amounts listed in the table are reasonable for each line item.	This project is similar to the Crow Language Revitalization project HM funded between 2020 and 2022 and would expand HM's support of language revitalization to another Tribe. The fact that this project is led by a Chippewa Cree tribal organization and will support cultural programming for Chippewa Cree members will further HM's intentions to increase Native American access to our grant funds and programs.
Jill	The project is eligible, compliant with NEH and HM guidelines and complete.	The Cree Language Revitalization Initiative is a worthy project that has incredible significance with cultural preservation of Montana's Indigenous languages of Chippewa and Cree.	Indigenous language preservation is well aligned with HM's mission, vision and current strategic goals. HM has funded similar projects in the past, and this project continues the legacy of HM's support of preserving Indigenous culture.	The work plan is well thought out. Their timeline is realistic and achievable. The evaluation plan is robust.	MCCLR has a strong project team and commitment to achieving their goals and outcomes. I am confident that they have the expertise to manage this project.	This is a project worthy of HM's support.
Ray Ekness		They show a need to start this work right away. They seem to have a good group of people to develop the coursework. I like their ideas for community conversations but it would be nice to see more about the partnerships they will make to get everyone on board.	On Rocky Boys Reservation. I love that they are creating text books to continue the learning. It's a very broad proposal.	I think the timeline is very quick. I like that they will have a textbook to continue the work. I would be worried about getting word out to people to get them interested and involved.	Good leaders. The budget is very constrained. I love that folks are giving a lot of their time for the project. But I don't see a lot of money for promotion and especially for publishing the text book part of the project.	I support this effort but am worried about a tight timeline and limited budget.
Carla Homstad		Language revitalization seems to me to be one of the most direct ways Humanities Montana can fulfill our mission and connect with Indigenous communities. This proposal is well constructed and seems highly worthy of our support.	What isn't completely clear to me is the inclusion of a medical professional as one of the humanities experts-- although there is a good case to be made for involving someone who understands the relationship between language revitalization and community health.			This project is eminently worthy of our support. The proposal makes an ardent case for the role of language revitalization in supporting cultural identity and community well-being. I have one question: this project will focus on the Cree language (and not Chippewa) as I read the proposal. The proposal probably should have made clear why this is the case. This, in my view, is not an impediment to funding the project, however.
Jennifer Corning				Excellent application and worthy project. Fulfills all requirements. Total support.		This project is important for the community and our state.
Lathie Poole						This project has critical preservation of history and heritage. I strongly support this.
Beth Sullivan				not clear about the 'resources' to be developed - this seems vague - given the timeline for completion, I would think there should be goals about specific kinds of resources that will be delivered		
W. Clark Whitehorn						Excellent project that is central to HM's mission.
Karen Reiff			Indigenous language preservation aligns well with HM's mission.		The budget seems small for their stated goals.	I am in favor of supporting this project. Language preservation is important.
Tim Wilson		Projects like this are essential to help preserve language and culture. There are example after example of languages especially disappearing all around the globe.				Montana tribes are all facing loss of language (and more broadly their culture in general). Projects like this should help in preservation.



Organization: Accelerate MT						
Project Name: Screening of Snq̓ey̓m̓istn and Return to the Blanket with panel discussions with Tribal elders						
Staff & Board						
Comments	Criteria #1 - Eligibility & Compliance	Criteria #2 - Significance	Criteria #3 - Strategic Alignment	Criteria #4 - Quality	Criteria #5 - Feasibility	Overall Assessment & Follow-up Questions
Megan	The applicant called HM staff a few days before the application deadline. Although the organization is eligible, there are questions about the connection between the organization and project management that we were unable to address prior to their submission. If the proposal scores above 80% we may need to discuss project management prior to any funding recommendations. Although Accelerate MT has not requested funding from HM previously, the project director, Lynn-Wood Fields has applied for, and received funding for other projects in the past through other organizations.	Snq̓ey̓m̓istn was supported through a film + video grant in 2021 and the 7-minute film premiered at the 2022 Big Sky Documentary Film Festival. The applicant mentions that the short film was well-received by viewers. The 5-minute Return to the Blanket film also premiered at the 2023 BSDFF. The films raise awareness of topics important to Native communities and Native filmmakers. The project seeks to screen each film and host panel discussions in Whitefish, Browning, Bozeman, Billings, Flathead, and Missoula. Their intended audience includes potential students enrolled in Fields' Accelerate MT course, Tribal communities, and the general public. It seems like the project will reach community members but is targeted at recruiting students to the PA certification program.	The screenings and discussions will help community members gain access to current issues and events in Montana's tribal communities. Arlee and Grady will serve as the primary humanities scholars and serve as panelists for the events. Although the events will be open to the public, it may be a ticketed event and it is a little unclear how those funds will be used for the program. The project content is very much aligned with HM's mission and vision, but the project reach may be limited and specific to recruiting students to Accelerate MT.	The project work plan seems realistic and achievable. They do not appear to have additional panelists confirmed and it might make more sense to base the budget off of working with only Arlee and Grady. Working with AccelerateMT's Indigenous outreach coordinators will be helpful in recruiting Indigenous audience members. They have provided a basic evaluation plan for the project.	It is unclear how AccelerateMT will be involved outside of promoting the event through their networks. The AccelerateMT website lists staff and training programs but does not provide information about public programming outside of their courses. Also, all contacts listed for AccelerateMT are to their 'donate@' email address and it seems like this project is a tool meant to recruit students to the PA certification course. The honoraria and travel expenses for two scholars at 4-5 events is reasonable and appropriate. The venue and equipment rental fees seem high, and they do not provide details about any of the potential venues. The projected income from ticket sales is questionable if AccelerateMT plans to use the funds for scholarships. Grantees are not allowed to re-grant or award funds from an HM award, and this would also apply to any cost share. The budget table is incomplete, but they provide more information about potential in-kind donations in the narrative.	Screening these films and offering access to the filmmakers and contributors is a worthy project. Project leadership and proposed expenses are the biggest concerns/challenges of awarding funds to this project. The confusion may be a result of the rushed application and further consultation might help solve some of the issues.
Jill	A film panel discussion with scholars is an eligible humanities project. AccelerateMT is a non-profit organization and may receive NEH/HM funding. This is AccelerateMT's first grant application with HM. However, the application is full of ideas and intentions, but doesn't have the level of commitment or details that I would expect at this stage in the process. It is also unclear to me the role of AccelerateMT in this project. Therefore, I am giving it a 3 for completeness.	The applicant makes a strong case for the significance of the films to Montanans. Without a doubt, the topics of Indian Boarding Schools and foster care of Indigenous youth are worthy humanities topics.	Film panel discussions regarding multicultural stories and history are relevant and timely. The focus on Indigenous perspectives is a priority in HM's strategic plan. Better understanding Indigenous experiences is important and enriches the lives of Montanans.	The work plan isn't as specific as I'd like to see at this stage. I'd like to know more about the venues and panelists. I also have questions about the estimated in-kind match. It seems like this is still in the idea stage and needs some additional fleshing out to ensure that it will meet the requirements of NEH/HM.	AccelerateMT is a new organization to HM and it is unclear what their involvement is with Lynn-Wood on this project. In combination with the lack of details in the project work plan, I am left questioning the feasibility of this project.	Overall, the primary goals and project outcomes are worthy of HM's support. However, there remain some important questions to answer about the management and budget for this project before I'm comfortable moving forward with a formal award.
Ray Ekness		Not sure about the reason for this project to proceed and what it is trying to accomplish. They do have various communities in Montana covered and reach out to native audiences. But this also seems like a fundraising or promotion of her PA program.	It's a pretty simple idea to view the films and have discussion with tribal elders. Partnership with Accelerate Montana.	Not sure of promotion and outreach plans.	Budget match is the director's wages but not shown on budget report.	Not sure this project will reach out to a wide audience. I don't like the idea that it is so closely aligned with her PA coursework program.
Carla Hornstad			Without knowing more about the content of both films, it's difficult to assess their specific humanities content and how well the films may be able to reach their audiences.	The timeline isn't very well defined—the number and location of events has yet to be determined. The proposal doesn't adequately address the issues of measurement and evaluation.	Without knowing how many events or where they will be held it's difficult to assess feasibility. Similarly, the budget is necessarily incomplete—the number of panelists and how far they'll need to travel will affect the amounts spent on honoraria and travel-related expenses.	In theory, this project seems very worthy of Humanities Montana's support. However, without knowing more about each film and without a more finalized timeline and panelist identification, it's hard to give an unqualified "yes." We need more information on the subject matter of the films, on the number and location of events, as well as the number and identities of the final list of panelists. The budget can then be updated to more reflect what the project needs to go forward. We also need to confirm the salary match with Accelerate Montana.
Jennifer Corning						In concept this is an interesting project, bringing films to communities for discussion. The project would be worthy of another look with more secure details about who's involved, which communities are involved, timelines, budgets, outreach, evaluation, venues. Also, the promotion of PA program is confusing. Generally, this application needs more detail and specifics.
Lathie Poole						Awareness and spreading the history are worthy goals. Travel and salaries are the main use of funds. I'll say 50%.
Beth Sullivan					in kind unclear pertaining to venues and other local support - just an overall estimate (which I assume is possible low) but no mention of which organizations or businesses might be contributing	
Karen Reiff					The budget is unclear. It seems like this project is still in the initial planning phase.	I think the project is worthy of another look, but it doesn't seem ready to go. I am also unclear about Accelerate MT's involvement in this and how the PA program intersects with this project.
Tim Wilson						Great opportunity for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Montanans to come together to discuss important topics such as the impact of Native boarding schools.