#SHARP

RELIEF AND RECOVERY GRANTS

Humanities MONTANA

Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) Grant Guidelines

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) received $135 million in supplemental funding to assist humanities organizations and other cultural institutions affected by the coronavirus pandemic as part of the $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). To help mitigate the effects of the pandemic, NEH has issued $51.6 million of the ARP appropriation directly to state humanities councils.

Humanities Montana will distribute $501,326 in SHARP funds from the NEH to help public humanities organizations and cultural institutions throughout the state respond to and recover from the effects of coronavirus.

Beginning June 14, 2021 Humanities Montana is offering two grant opportunities to help humanities organizations and cultural groups respond to the ongoing pandemic:

- **General Operating Support Grants** provide funds for humanities organizations in need of relief and recovery support due to the effects of coronavirus. Applicants must be able to show financial need. These grants are up to $10,000. The application period will run from June 14, 2021 through September 30, 2021 or until all grant funds are awarded. Grant funds must be expended by June 30, 2022.
- **Project Grants**—A small number of larger grants are available to organizations that want to expand access to or introduce or redesign humanities programming based on opportunities that arose or lessons that were learned during the pandemic. The application deadline is August 20, 2021 and grant awards will be for up to $20,000. Grant awards will be made by September 20, 2021 and grant funds must be expended by November 30, 2022.

Organizations may apply for either or both grants.

General Operating Support Grant Eligibility

Only humanities focused organizations are eligible for general operating support grants (see definition and examples of types of organizations at the end of this document).

Allowable Grant Expenses

- Humanities programming
- General operating costs of humanities-focused organizations
- Strategic planning and capacity building efforts related to preparing, responding to, and recovering from the coronavirus

- Technical/consultant needs related to a digital transition or in support of preservation and access programs (equipment costs cannot exceed 20% of a grant)
- Expansion, due to the effects of the coronavirus, of outdoor and virtual humanities programming and activities, from traditional environments to those that are more accessible
- Equity assessments and planning related to coronavirus and the economic crisis

Unallowable Expenses

- Unallowable expenses as defined in [2 CFR 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles](#)
- Indirect costs on general operating support grants
- Overlapping project costs with any other pending or approved application(s) for federal funding and/or approved federal awards
- Funds for activities supported by other non-NEH federal funds
- Competitive regranting
- Cancellation costs
- Pre-award costs prior to March 15, 2021
- Equipment costs in excess of 20% of total project costs
- Travel (both foreign and domestic)
- Construction, purchase of real property, major alteration and renovation
- Environmental sustainability
- Collections acquisition
- The preservation, organization, or description of materials that are not regularly accessible for research, education, or public programming
- Promotion of a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view
- Advocacy of a particular program of social or political action
- Support of specific public policies or legislation
- Lobbying
- Projects that fall outside of the humanities and the humanistic social sciences (including the creation or performance of art; creative writing, autobiographies, memoirs, and creative nonfiction; and quantitative social science research or policy studies.)

All applicants must have a DUNS number in order to receive funds. Applicants are not required to have the DUNS number at time of application, but we strongly urge early submission for this free registration number.

We encourage applications from organizations serving and led by members of communities [traditionally under-resourced](#) in the humanities. 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 persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality (please note this list is not exhaustive).

Application Review

- General Operating Support Grant applications will be evaluated every two weeks by a review panel comprised of members of the Humanities Montana board of directors

- Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis from June 14, 2021 through September 30, 2021 or until SHARP funds have all been awarded
- Applications will be evaluated based on demonstrated need rather than a polished application
- Grant decisions will be made within one month of submission
- Some applicants who are denied may be given an opportunity to revise and resubmit

Project Grant Eligibility

In addition to humanities organizations (defined below), non-humanities focused organizations that are introducing or expanding a humanities project are also eligible for the Project Grants. Project Grants will require a full budget, complete explanation of the program and the need for the program, description of how the program is a response to the coronavirus pandemic, timeline, and evaluation plan.

Allowable Grant Expenses

- Humanities programming-related costs as long as the programming is in response to the coronavirus pandemic
- Project staff salaries may be paid with Humanities Montana funds
- Resource people may receive honoraria from Humanities Montana grant funds.
- Strategic planning and capacity building efforts related to preparing, responding to, and recovering from the coronavirus
- Technical/consultant needs related to a digital transition or in support of preservation and access programs (equipment costs cannot exceed 20% of a grant)
- Expansion, due to the effects of the coronavirus, of outdoor and virtual humanities programming and activities, from traditional environments to those that are more accessible
- Equity assessments and planning related to coronavirus and the economic crisis

Unallowable Grant Expenses

Unallowable project grant expenses are the same as unallowable general operating support grant expenses.

Cost share is not required for project grants, but organizations are encouraged to show any cost share they might bring to the project in both their application budget form and their follow up report form.

All applicants must have a DUNS number in order to receive funds. Applicants are not required to have the DUNS number at time of application, but we strongly urge early submission for this free registration number.

Applicants for a SHARP Project grant cannot additionally apply for Regular or Film + Digital grants which also have an August 20th deadline.

Project Grants Application Review

- Project grant applications are due by midnight August 20, 2021 and will be reviewed by the full board of directors at their September meeting
- Applications will be evaluated based on the quality of the humanities project, the quality of the application, and the organization's overall capacity
- We encourage applications for projects serving and led by members of communities traditionally under-resourced in the humanities. 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 persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality (please note this list is not exhaustive).

WHAT QUALIFIES AS A HUMANITIES ORGANIZATION?

The humanities are the examination of what it means to be human through the interpretation and discussion of all forms of thought, interest, and expression. While we value traditional humanities disciplines, such as art history, literature, history, and philosophy, our emphasis is on the public humanities, which means that we look at the humanities as more than an academic discipline.

For us, the public humanities are a mode of inquiry and conversation that aims to engage, support, or challenge the ideals, beliefs, tensions, and prejudices of the communities in which we live. We believe that important thought can happen outside of the academy – in neighborhood institutions, schools, churches, and at kitchen tables across the country. We are especially interested in instances of the public humanities that promote civic engagement – in raising critical issues facing everyday people and conducted with the hope of increasing their thirst for staying engaged. Rather than being defined by rigid disciplinary boundaries, it is the humanistic lens, which emphasizes curiosity, questioning, and dialogue, that matters.

In order to apply for a General Operating Support Grant, you must be one of the following types of organizations:

Cultural and Ethnic Organizations: This category includes organizations dedicated to the study, preservation, and/or dissemination of the history and culture of ethnic groups.

Examples of past grantees in this category include: Crow Language Consortium, Mai Wah Society, Selis Qlispe Culture Committee.

History Organizations: This category includes historical societies and their support organizations, historical preservation groups and their support organizations, historic houses, folklore/folklife organizations, place-based learning organizations, cultural sustainability organizations, and other organizations with a historical focus.

Examples of past grantees in this category include: Montana Preservation Alliance, The Extreme History Project, Moss Mansion Museum, Travelers' Rest State Park.

Humanities Museums: This category includes organizations that acquire, preserve, research, exhibit, and provide for the educational use of works of art or objects/artifacts that are related to the study of humanities content.

Examples of past grantees in this category include: Museum of the Rockies, Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, Mondak Heritage Center.

Literature Organizations: This category includes organizations that promote the study or appreciation of books and/or literature.

Examples of past grantees in this category include: Express to Speak, Alpine Artisans, Free Verse.

Humanities Education: Organizations that offer classes, seminars, and workshops in the humanities (which include but are not limited to literature, languages, history, philosophy, religious studies, art history, and interdisciplinary humanities programs – like ethnic studies, gender and sexuality studies, and American studies).

Examples of past grantees in this category include: Merlin CCC, Wild Rose Center, Forward Montana, Sunburst Arts and Education.

Media, Journalism, and Documentary Organizations: Organizations that are committed to covering humanities themes and/or telling the stories, happenings, or histories of communities that are informed by the members of those communities, challenge predominant narratives, and/or nurture critical analysis of media.

Examples of past grantees in this category include: Big Sky Documentary Film Institute, A VOICE- Art Vision & Outreach in Community Education.

Libraries and Archives: These organizations include operating libraries and archives (excluding those that are purely science- and medicine-focused). Combination museum-libraries can be treated as museums or libraries.

Examples of past grantees in this category include: Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives, Dillon Public Library, Friends of the Bridger Public Library

If you are a humanities organization, but do not fit into any of the above classifications, please contact us, so that we can discuss your organization type and whether you will qualify for a General Operating Support Grant or should apply for a humanities Project Grant.

Categories that are not eligible to apply: Individuals; for-profit organizations; organizations solely focused on the creation of art; political or advocacy organizations.