



## Become a Speaker with Humanities Washington

Humanities Washington is looking for qualified individuals to serve as presenters for our 2021-2022 statewide Speakers Bureau program. The deadline to apply is **April 8, 2020**.

Please read this document before you begin your application. When you are ready to apply, you can access our application portal [HERE](#). The online application will open in February.

### What is Humanities Washington's Speakers Bureau?

Humanities Washington's longest running and most popular program, Speakers Bureau provides communities with experts and scholars who give public presentations across Washington State. Speakers Bureau presenters discuss topics as diverse as the communities they serve, ranging from history to politics, music, philosophy, and everything in between. Our roster of presenters is chosen not only for their expertise, but for their ability to inspire discussion with people of all ages and backgrounds.

Speakers Bureau presenters collectively deliver hundreds of events each year. To reach as many Washingtonians as possible, we partner with a wide range of organizations, including libraries, schools, museums, historical societies, community centers, and civic organizations.

### Why apply?

If you are passionate about a subject, sharing your expertise with a wide variety of audiences can be both exciting and meaningful. From urban libraries to rural community centers, Speakers Bureau programs let you meet with and learn from audiences of diverse geographic, cultural, educational, and experiential backgrounds. Speakers Bureau programs often have the energy of a community event, making them different from a typical lecture at a college or university.

Benefits of joining Speakers Bureau:

- \$300 honorarium per presentation
- Travel expenses covered
- Flexible schedule
- Meet communities big and small in beautiful Washington State

*"Humanities Washington has done a fantastic job with the Speakers Bureau! As a speaker, I feel supported and respected."*

## How It Works

Every two years, Humanities Washington enlists a new cohort of speakers who nonprofit organizations and community groups can book to give talks in their communities. These organizations select which Speakers they are interested in hosting, then apply to Humanities Washington to receive funding for the event. If approved, hosts receive funding, resources, and one-on-one support from staff to hold a successful event. All talks are free and open to the public.

## Humanities Washington seeks speakers with the following qualifications:

- Significant or advanced expertise with the subject matter of your proposed presentation. This can include:
  - Recognition from cultural community as a teacher or interpreter of traditional cultural knowledge, such as a tribal elder, storyteller, or traditional practitioner
  - Advanced formal study in the field (master's level or higher)
  - Extensive professional and/or life experience on the subject
- Demonstrated success in working with public audiences
- Ability to work well with culturally, economically, and geographically diverse audiences
- Interest in – and ability and willingness to – travel to communities across the state

## Speakers who are selected will be asked to:

- Agree to be available for 5-10 presentations during each program year at mutually agreed-upon times with host organizations
- Attend a one-day speaker orientation in August 2020 in Seattle (specific date TBD)
- Provide their own mode of transportation (Round-trip travel costs are reimbursed)
- Encourage dialogue and conversation among program attendees through a one-hour interactive presentation at each scheduled event
- Reach out to potential host organizations to generate interest in their presentation
- Work collaboratively with Humanities Washington to promote their Speakers Bureau talk
- Maintain communication with the Speakers Bureau program manager about all events and pertinent updates
- Offer the approved presentation exclusively as part of the Speakers Bureau program for the duration of their contract with Humanities Washington

## Presentation Topics

Speakers Bureau presenters apply with **one specific topic** that they are passionate and experienced in discussing with public audiences. Topics should be relevant to Washington State audiences and based in the humanities. For inspiration and ideas, you can view our [current Speakers Bureau presenters](#). While we welcome applications on all humanities topics, below are examples of presentation categories that have been well-received by local audiences and/or are sought by Humanities Washington:

- State and national history
- Racial and cultural identity
- Natural history and environmental science
- Native American history and culture

- Civil and human rights
- Politics and citizenship
- Connecting the humanities and the sciences through a specific topic
- Connecting the humanities and the arts through a specific topic
- Storytelling and literature

## Apply

Humanities Washington seeks new speakers every two years in a competitive process overseen by a statewide review committee and Humanities Washington staff. Interactive models that include group discussion, workshops, participatory activities, and other forms of collaborative engagement are highly preferred. Ready to Apply? Learn more at our resources below.

## Resources

- [Visit our Website](#)
- [Preview Application](#)
- [Instructions to Access Application](#)
- [Application Notes](#)
- [Register for Webinar](#)

Join Humanities Washington for a webinar on developing a strong Speakers Bureau application on Monday, March 16, 2020 from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM.

## 2020 Timeline

February 4	Online application opens
March 16	Webinar for applicants
<b>April 8</b>	<b>Online application deadline</b>
By May 30	Applicants notified
June 1-19	Video auditions with selected applicants
July	Finalists selected and notified
August (TBD)	Orientation for finalists held in Seattle, WA
January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2022	Term as a Speakers Bureau presenter

## Questions?

If these resources do not answer your questions, please contact Hannah Schwendeman at [hannah@humanities.org](mailto:hannah@humanities.org) or 206-682-1770 ext. 101.

## About Humanities Washington

Humanities Washington opens minds and bridges divides by creating spaces to explore different perspectives. Founded in 1973, Humanities Washington is our state's flagship nonprofit for public humanities programming and a state affiliate with the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more about Humanities Washington, visit [humanities.org](http://humanities.org).