



SHARP Grant Guidelines

Humanities Washington is honored to provide funding to non-profit humanities and cultural organizations with an all-volunteer staff to respond to and recover from the effects of the coronavirus. These grants are funded by the American Rescue Plan via the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Grants Dedicated to Volunteer-Run Organizations

Nonprofit organizations with all-volunteer staff meet critical needs in our communities. Humanities Washington is committed to serving diverse communities across the state and recognizes that historical inequities have resulted in inadequate funding for some organizations, many of which are led by folks who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color. While this imbalance will take time to address holistically, this grant program dedicated to volunteer-run organizations is intended to foster an environment where organizations that are structured differently than organizations with paid staff can be considered for funding alongside similar organizations.

An all-volunteer run organization is defined in this situation as a not-for-profit organization that has no paid staff, be they part-time or full-time. The organization operates almost exclusively with the support of its board and maybe additional volunteers. Payments to temporary consultants or contract personnel would generally not be considered paid staff. Please email grants@humanities.org if you are unsure whether your organization would be considered all-volunteer run.

Grants Summary

- Organizations may apply for only one of the following grant programs:
 - **SHARP General Operating Support Grants** provide unrestricted operating support for volunteer-run non-profit organizations with a humanities-focused mission and a track record of humanities programming. Grants up to \$7,500 will be awarded and no match is required.
 - **SHARP Project Support Grants** provide funding for volunteer-run non-profit organizations to conduct public-facing humanities programs or projects. Grants up to \$7,500 will be awarded and no match is required.
- Reviewers from across the state and with expertise in a variety of humanities disciplines will evaluate applications after the application deadline. Applicants will receive decisions approximately one month after the submission deadline.

About the humanities & Humanities Washington

The humanities are our attempt to understand and communicate the human experience through language. It encompasses fields such as history, philosophy and literature, [among others](#). Cultural programming may also be considered humanities-focused if it draws from one or more of these disciplines. Events that primarily center around artistic performance tend to be outside the scope of the humanities and are not eligible for SHARP grants.

Humanities Washington's mission is to open minds and bridge divides by creating spaces to explore different perspectives. Founded in 1973, Humanities Washington is our state's flagship nonprofit for public humanities programming and the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Learn more at humanities.org.

SHARP General Operating Support Grant Guidelines

Funds

- Grants up to \$7,500 for Washington State volunteer-run non-profit organizations with a humanities-focused mission and a track record of humanities programming that have been adversely impacted by COVID-19 and meet the criteria set forth below.
- Grants are available for general operating expenses and can include specific humanities projects. A complete list of eligible and ineligible expenses is found below.
- No funding match is required.

Priorities

- Intended to support Washington State volunteer-run organizations with a humanities-focused mission who are responding to and recovering from the effects of the coronavirus.
- Organizations serving and led by members of communities traditionally under-resourced in the humanities are especially 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.)
- Funding will be distributed as evenly as possible between Washington's ten congressional districts.

Eligibility

- 501(c)(3) organizations registered in Washington State, including those affiliated with tribal organizations.
- Volunteer-run organizations with a humanities-focused mission and a track record of providing humanities programming may apply for a SHARP General Operating Support Grant.
- Applications must address how organizations have been adversely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Possible impacts can include one or more of the following:
 - Risk of permanent closure
 - Loss of volunteer staff
 - Loss of venue or workspace
 - Loss of significant revenue
- Not eligible: individuals; for-profit organizations; organizations solely focused on the arts (please contact the ArtsWA/Washington State Arts Commission for information on their relief grants); political or advocacy organizations; or basic operating expenses for government agencies, including universities, colleges, and public libraries. Organizations who applied for other Humanities Washington SHARP funding are also ineligible for this program.

Eligible SHARP General Operating Support Grant expenses include:

- Humanities programming
- General operating costs of humanities-focused organizations, such as rent, mortgage and utilities.
- Strategic planning and capacity-building efforts related to responding to and recovering from the effects of the coronavirus.
- Technical/consultant needs related to a digital transition or in support of preservation and access programs (please see below for limitations on expenses related to equipment).
- 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.

Ineligible SHARP General Operating Support Grant expenses include:

- 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)

Application Review

- Reviewers from across the state and with expertise in a variety of humanities disciplines will evaluate applications following the application deadline.
- Applications will be evaluated based on demonstrated need rather than a polished application.
- Unfortunately, due to the volume of applications we will receive, we regret that feedback cannot be given on draft applications or grant decisions.

To Apply

- If you don't already have them, register for a DUNS and SAM number. As required by federal guidelines, applicants must have a [DUNS number](#) AND an active [SAM registration](#) in order to receive funds. Apply for these early, as a DUNS number can take up to two business days, and a SAM registration up to two weeks, to receive. While not initially required to apply, funds cannot be disbursed without both registrations.
- Create an account with our Foundant grants system: [Instructions to Access Grants](#)
- [Preview the Application](#)
- [Apply here.](#) You will apply through a simple application that will take about 45 minutes to complete.

The table below summarizes key dates in the SHARP grant application and reporting timeline.

| Application Deadline | Notification | Period of Performance Start | Period of Performance End | Final Report Due |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Nov 4 | Dec 14 | March 15, 2021 but no later than Jan 1, 2022 | Dec 31, 2022 | Mar 31, 2023 |

Questions? Please email grants@humanities.org.

SHARP Project Support Grants Guidelines

Parameters & Priorities

- Grants up to \$7,500 for volunteer-run non-profit organizations across Washington State that have been adversely impacted by COVID-19 and meet the criteria set forth below.
- Grants are available for specific humanities projects that assist an organization in recovering from the effects of the coronavirus or use the humanities to help their community recover from the effects of the pandemic.
- A complete list of eligible and ineligible expenses is included below.
- No funding match is required.
- 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.)
- Funding will be distributed as evenly as possible between Washington's ten congressional districts.

Eligibility

- Volunteer-run 501(c)(3) organizations registered in Washington State, including those affiliated with tribal organizations.
- Not eligible: individuals, for-profit organizations, organizations solely focused on the arts (please contact the ArtsWA/Washington State Arts Commission for information on their relief grants), political or advocacy organizations, or government agencies. Organizations who applied for other Humanities Washington SHARP funding are also ineligible for this program.

Eligible SHARP Project Support Grant expenses include:

- Humanities programming and associated costs, including participant honoraria, staff time, marketing and evaluation.
- Technical/consultant needs related to a digital transition or in support of preservation and access programs (please see below for limitations on expenses related to equipment).
- 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.

Ineligible SHARP Project Support Grant expenses include:

- 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
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- Travel (both foreign and domestic)
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