Public Humanities Fellows
Call for Applications

Applications Due: March 1st, 2022

Application Link: [https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=humanities](https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=humanities)

Contact: Stone Addington, Director of Programs at stone@humanities.org

The public humanities is a vibrant field aimed at sharing the humanities outside of academic circles, but there are too few opportunities for hands-on training and professional development. To help remedy this gap, Humanities Washington is seeking applications from the next generation of public humanists for innovative public humanities programming that serves Washington communities.

The Public Humanities Fellows program is designed for early-career humanists (including graduate students, non-profit professionals, untenured professors, culture bearers, and other humanities experts) who are seeking to develop their program management and public humanities skills. Humanists from communities who are underrepresented in the humanities are encouraged to apply.

Fellows receive stipend of $5000, professional development opportunities, technical assistance and mentorship from public humanities professionals, and regular meetings with a cohort of other fellows.

**Summary**

- Stipend of $5000
- Up to $3500 to fund your public humanities project (if proposing a new project)
- Publicity and marketing for your project
- Membership in a statewide cohort of early-career public humanists
- Mentorship and technical assistance from experienced public humanists from Humanities Washington staff and networks, including weekly meetings with cohort and public humanities experts
- Unique hands-on experience in designing and executing public humanities projects

**Two Options for Participation**

Fellows may choose one of the two options when applying, either proposing a new project they wish to design and execute or contributing to an existing Humanities Washington project:
1. **New Project:** apply with a project of their own design, which should be free to experience or access, open to the public, robustly situated within the humanities, and completable by November 15, 2022. Projects that are unique, innovative, and serve audiences not adequately served by the humanities are especially encouraged. Projects may take a variety of forms, but examples include: podcasts, panel events, discussion groups, video series, place-based programming, digital publications, and many more.
   a. Accepted applications receive $3500 of additional funding for eligible project expenses.
   b. Examples of ineligible expenses include:
      i. Additional compensation for the fellow; construction, purchase of real property, major alteration and renovation; 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.

2. **Existing Project:** if you would like to develop your public humanities skills, but do not yet have an idea for a project of your own, you can contribute to an existing Humanities Washington project. Choose from the following open opportunities curated by Humanities Washington:
   a. **Speakers Bureau Video Project**
      i. Humanities Washington aims to produce a series of short videos highlighting our Speakers Bureau members. Under the supervision of the Speakers Bureau program manager, this role would design and produce 5-7 videos, each 3-5 minutes long, featuring a Speakers Bureau member and their topic of expertise. Videos would be aimed at a wide audience, but particularly suitable for pre-college classroom discussions. This project would involve working with Speakers, creating and adhering to a work plan and publishing schedule, managing video recording or hiring a contractor videographer, and soliciting input from teachers and other stakeholders.
   b. **Social Media Strategy Project**
      i. Humanities Washington seeks a fellow who would like to experiment with social media in the service of the humanities, answering the question, “What kind of content can help us bridge divides and better understand both our differences and our common humanity, yet still be compelling, exciting, and, in marketing terms, ’sticky?’” The fellow would first explore the
social media strategies of other councils and academic institutions, develop a plan for implementation, and then create content based on that plan under the supervision of the communications director. The plan can include both short-term social media projects (e.g. take-overs, sequential messages, or graphics like Humanities Washington’s Cabin Fever Questions), as well as ideas for regular, ongoing content. The focus would be on Humanities Washington’s Instagram channel, but certain strategies could be applicable to its Facebook and Twitter channels as well.

Role and Responsibilities

- Early-career, intrepid humanists (e.g. graduate students, new/ untenured professors and culture-bearers, etc.) based in Washington with an interest in the public humanities.
- Responsibilities:
  - Participation in twelve weekly 60-minute cohort meetings via Zoom, April through June
  - Final report and reflection
  - Presentation to board of trustees and staff
  - Timely updates to Director of Programs and any other supervisors
  - Maintenance of project work plan and budget
  - Keeping and organizing records for final report, reflection, and presentation
  - Respectful communication and collaboration with colleagues, partner organizations, and audience members

Program Priorities

- **Equity** – Projects serving and led by members of communities traditionally under-resourced in the humanities are prioritized by this program. These groups include people of color, people who identify as LGBTQIA+, 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.)
- **Professional Development** – Humanities Washington aims to provide hands-on experience, a supportive community of learning, and direct access to subject matter experts to Fellows.
- **Respectful Relationships with Washington Communities and Organizations** – Fellows are encouraged to identify communities undeserved by the humanities, and to
develop thoughtful and respectful relationships with organizations and leaders who can help ensure that our support is equitable, ethical, and informed.

- **Program Incubation** – This program seeks to support innovation and experimentation in humanities project design and implementation, keeping in mind the ultimate goal of serving the public with the humanities. If a program is particularly successful, scalable, and sustainable, then there may be opportunities for continued support.

**To Apply**

- Create an account with Foundant ([instructions here](#)).
- [Preview the application here](#).
- [Apply here, due March 1st, 2022](#)

**Timeline**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Applications Due</td>
<td>Process will include brief Zoom interviews with finalists.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late March</td>
<td>Decisions Announced</td>
<td>Applicants will be notified of decisions via email.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-April</td>
<td>Fellowship Begins</td>
<td>Program activity throughout this time until completion of project. Weekly learning meetings with cohort for 12 weeks, from April to June.</td>
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<td>October 6 &amp; 7</td>
<td>Presentation to Board of Trustees and Staff</td>
<td>Brief presentation outlining project, what has been learned, and next steps.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>Project Deadline</td>
<td>All program activity must be completed by this date.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 30</td>
<td>Final Report Deadline</td>
<td>Project summary and reflection.</td>
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About Humanities Washington

Humanities Washington and its partners create spaces for people to come together to explore and consider what it means to be human, and to reflect on our shared past, present, and future. We hold events and programs led by cultural experts, scholars, and storytellers, who discuss everything from Washington State history to philosophy to current social issues. We also support and partner with a wide network of communities, organizations, and individuals across the state.

In libraries, community halls, retirement homes, and cultural centers in every corner of Washington State, our programs and events challenge assumptions and spark insight for audiences ranging from adults at a Speakers Bureau presentation to children and families at a Prime Time Family Reading night. All Humanities Washington programs are open to the public, and nearly all are free of charge.

To learn more about our programs, visit our programs page or view our organizational video.

Humanities Washington’s work is made possible through contributions from many individuals, corporations, and foundations, the State of Washington, and the National Endowment for the Humanities

Learn more: https://www.humanities.org/public-humanities-fellows

Questions? Contact Stone Addington, Director of Programs, at stone@humanities.org.