



## HUMANITIES TEXAS GRANTS PROGRAM

Working in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Humanities Texas provides financial support to nonprofit organizations and institutions for humanities programs aimed at public audiences.

### Who is eligible?

Public and private nonprofit organizations and governmental entities are eligible for Humanities Texas funding. Examples of past grant recipients include:

- two- and four-year colleges and universities
- libraries
- arts and humanities councils and institutes
- independent media groups
- churches and religious groups
- state and local governmental entities
- museums
- historical societies
- public and community radio stations
- labor organizations
- civic and social service organizations
- chambers of commerce

### What kinds of projects does Humanities Texas fund?

Funded projects take many different forms—forums, lectures, panel discussions, and conferences; teacher institutes and workshops; reading- and film-discussion groups; site interpretations; interpretive exhibits; television and radio programming; film production; and interactive multimedia programming.

However, all funded programs have the following characteristics in common:

- They are firmly grounded in the humanities, and humanities scholars play an active role in their conception, design, and execution.
- They are conducted in a spirit of open and informed inquiry.
- They involve partnerships between community organizations, educational and cultural institutions, and humanities scholars.
- Finally, they are directed primarily to the general public, both adults and young people, outside of the regular school or college classroom. Programs targeting special audiences such as K–12 teachers, ethnic and community groups, or professional groups are also welcome.

### What projects are not eligible for funding?

- Theatrical performances, art exhibitions, or other such artistic presentations, unless their primary purpose is to provide a focus for humanistic inquiry
- Courses for academic credit
- Capital improvements or operating expenses
- Preservation of objects or archival materials, unless directly related to a public program
- Publications and scholarly research, unless directly related to a public program
- Projects that advocate a single point of view, ideology, or specific program of social or political action
- Projects aimed primarily at audiences outside of Texas
- Scholarships and fellowships
- Fundraisers and profit-making projects

### How are funding decisions made?

The Humanities Texas Board of Directors reviews applications for **major grants**; the Executive Director and staff, with the authorization of the Board, review **mini-grants**. Projects are evaluated on the basis of Humanities Texas's organizational mission and grants guidelines. Of particular importance are the quality of each project's conception and design, the strength of its humanities component, its public impact, and the extent to which it will meet the particular intellectual, cultural, or professional needs and interests of its target audience(s). Priority is given to applications from Texas-based sponsoring organizations.

## Humanities Texas grant formats

- **Mini-grants** fund up to \$1,500 of the costs associated with public programs. These small grants, which are easy to apply for and administer, are particularly appropriate for funding a speaker and/or the rental of a traveling exhibit, including those exhibits provided by Humanities Texas. An organization might also apply for a mini-grant to pay for the services of a humanities consultant or exhibit designer, or to develop public programming related to an unexpected local, national, or international event.
- **Major grants for community projects** fund comprehensive public programs such as lectures, seminars, and conferences; book and film discussions; interpretive exhibits and materials; town forums and civic discussions; and teacher workshops. Programs should reflect substantial participation by both humanities scholars and members of the target audience(s).
- **Major grants for media projects** fund film, radio, television, or interactive programming related to the humanities. Applicants may request funds for any phase of the project, including scripting, development, production, post-production, and in some cases, distribution and free public screenings. Humanities scholars should play an integral role in determining the content and approach of the project. In addition, members of the target audience(s) should serve in an advisory capacity.

## Cost-share requirement

Grants cover no more than 50% of the total project cost. Sponsoring organizations can use cash and in-kind contributions to meet their cost-share requirement. **In-kind contributions** include donated services and goods, or the use of office space, equipment, telephones, and supplies. **Cash contributions** are the actual dollars or organizational resources assigned to a project.

## How to apply

- All organizations are encouraged to contact HTx prior to applying for a grant.
- Grant guidelines, application forms, and model applications are available online at [www.humanitiestexas.org](http://www.humanitiestexas.org). Contact the Humanities Texas staff for hard copies of all necessary materials.
- HTx staff will read and comment upon draft applications submitted at least a month in advance of the final submission deadline.

## Application deadlines

<b>Community and media projects</b>	<b>Fall cycle</b>	<b>Spring cycle</b>
Letter of intent/draft application	August 15	February 15
<b>APPLICATION DEADLINE</b>	<b>September 15</b>	<b>March 15</b>
Decision date	December 1	June 1
Project start date	January 1	July 1

<b>Mini-grants</b>	
Application deadline	Rolling
Decision date	Within 10 business days of application's arrival in HTx office.
Project start date	At least six weeks after application's arrival in HTx office.

## Common reasons for rejecting proposals

- insufficient humanities content
- inadequate involvement of humanities scholars
- advocacy or unbalanced presentation of contemporary public issues
- inadequate publicity or promotion plans
- budget not justified or not reasonable
- application too vague, lacking specifics
- application incomplete
- proposed activities occur prior to the beginning of the grant period

## Questions?

Contact the Humanities Texas grants staff, at (512) 440-1991 or [grants@humanitiestexas.org](mailto:grants@humanitiestexas.org).