Community Grants | Gen Ops 2022

Illinois Humanities

GRANT APPLICATION
Welcome to the application form for Illinois Humanities General Operating grants. These $5,000 grants are for humanities organizations based in Illinois with annual budgets of $500,000 or less and are for general operating (or unrestricted) support. Note that if you already have an open Illinois Humanities Community Grant, that grant has to be closed (meaning the project is finished and you have submitted a Final Report Form) before you can apply for a Gen Ops grant. If you have an open Envisioning Justice, ARP emergency relief and recovery, State of Illinois, or Activate History grant, you are eligible to proceed with this application.

Remember that you can take a break if you need to and return to the application later if you like. For any questions, please reach out to Mark Hallett at mark.hallett@ilhumanities.org.

ORGANIZATION
Is your organization located in or outside of Cook County?*
Illinois Humanities is committed to 50% of funding going to organizations located in Cook County and 50% to organizations located outside of Cook County.

Choices
In Cook County
Outside Cook County

This Gen Ops (unrestricted) grant is specifically designed for public humanities organizations. The below categories have been adapted from the Humanities Indicators project led by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Information on the Humanities Indicators project can be found here: https://www.amacad.org/humanities-indicators

- Cultural and Ethnic Organization: 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: American Indian Center, Haitian American Museum, African American Museum of Southern Illinois, Ukrainian National Museum, etc.

- 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: Bronzeville Historical Society, Bishop Hill Historic Site, Company of Folk, 1820 Col. Benjamin Stephenson House, etc.

- **Humanities Education:** Organizations that offer classes, seminar, 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: Prison + Neighborhood Arts Project, Chicago Freedom School, Chicago Humanities Festival, etc.

- **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: Katherine Dunham Centers for Arts and Humanities, Ray Bradbury Experience Museum, American Writers Museum, Atlanta Public Library and Museum, Alton Museum of History and Art, etc.

- **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: Lithuanian Archives Project, Rebuild Foundation, Read/Write Library, Chillicothe Public Library, etc.

- **Media, Journalism, and Documentary Organizations:** Organizations that are committed to covering humanities themes and/or telling the stories, happenings, and 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: 60 Inches from Center, South Side Weekly, Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, Kartemquin Educational Films, etc.

- **Consortiums, alliances, collectives of above-named groups.** Examples of past grantees in this category include: Chicago Cultural Alliance, Landmarks Illinois, Illinois Association of Museums, etc.

If you are a humanities organization, but do NOT fit into any of the above classifications, please contact Mark Hallett at mark.hallett@ilhumanities.org, so that we can discuss your organization type and whether you will qualify for a general operating grant or should apply for a humanities project grant through our Community Grants program.
Which humanities category best describes your organization?*
If your organization is not a humanities organization, then you are not eligible for a general operating grant in this round and might consider applying for a project grant under the Community Grants category in another cycle.

Choices
- Cultural and Ethnic Organizations
- History Organizations
- Humanities Education
- Humanities Museums
- Libraries and Archives
- Literature Organizations
- Media, Journalism, and Documentary Organizations
- Consortiums, alliances, collectives of above-named groups

How did you learn of this grants opportunity?*
Check all that apply:

Choices
- Illinois Humanities newsletter
- Illinois Humanities website
- Illinois Humanities social media
- Word of mouth
- Another source:

If you chose "Another source" for the above question, please explain here:
Character Limit: 250

Is your organization a tax-exempt nonprofit?*
Choices
- Yes
- No

What is your organization’s DUNS Number?*
You do not need a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to apply, however, one is required to receive funding. Please visit grant.gov to request a free DUNS number if you do not have one.
Character Limit: 50

What is your organization’s annual operating budget?*
This Gen Ops (unrestricted) grant is specifically designed for public humanities organizations that have budgets of $500,000 or less.
Character Limit: 20

How many full-time staff members does your organization have?*
Character Limit: 20
How many part-time staff members does your organization have?*
*Character Limit: 20

Please provide a brief history of your organization.*
Include for example the year it was founded, its mission, a brief history with major highlights, etc.
*Character Limit: 1000

What are your organization’s three leading sources of funding in a typical year?*
Please be specific about your typical sources of income including grants, donations, and other revenue sources.
*Character Limit: 500

What do you consider your organization’s greatest strengths or assets?*
When you think of your organization, its programs, staff, or volunteers, what do consider really compelling or unique about what you bring to your community?
*Character Limit: 1000

Please select up to THREE key discipline categories targeted by this project:*
We recognize that the disciplines indicated here might not align exactly with what you’re planning. In such cases, please select the closest approximation(s).

**Choices**
- African American/Black Studies
- American Studies
- Anthropology/Archaeology
- Architecture
- Art History & Criticism Studies
- Asian American Studies
- Classics
- Communications
- Comp. Religion/Religious Studies
- Cultural Anthropology
- Economics
- Ethnic Studies
- Film or Cinema Studies
- Folk Arts & Folklore
- Foreign Languages/Literature
- Gender & Women’s Studies
- Historical & Cultural Geography
- History
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- International Studies
- Jurisprudence
- Latin American Studies
- Latina/x or Chicana/x Studies
- LGBTQ/Queer/Sexuality Studies
Linguistics
Literature
Media/Journalism
Middle Eastern Studies
Philosophy
Political Science
Public Humanities
Sociology
Other

If chosen "Other" for discipline, please explain:

Character Limit: 250

To be more aware of our partner organizations, we’d like to ask a few questions about your organization's demographics.

Please indicate the race/ethnicity of your executive director:*

Character Limit: 250

Please indicate the gender of your executive director:*

Character Limit: 250

What percentage of your permanent staff is people of color:*
If there are no permanent staff, please indicate as "N/A"

Character Limit: 250

PROGRAMS

What are your most significant planned programs for 2022-2023?*

Please provide the names of a leading program or programs and a 1-2 sentence description of each.

Character Limit: 1000

How many people does your organization engage with or serve in a typical year?**

Please estimate and provide a brief description.

Character Limit: 250

Who does your organization serve?*

Choices
All Ages
All Ethnicities and Races
American Indian or Alaska Native
Artists, Collectors, Etc.
Asian
Black
Business/Corporate
Community Leaders
Court-Involved/Incarcerated
Faith Leaders
Folklorists
General Audience
Government Employees
Guardian/parent
Health Care Workers
Hispanic or Latinx
Immigrant/Refugee
Labor Group/Blue Collar
LGBTQIA Community
Low Income/Working Poor
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
Partner
Policy Makers
Post-secondary | College
Post-secondary | Graduate
Returning Citizens/Formerly Incarcerated
Rural
Scholars
Senior Citizens/Elders
Social Service Providers
Students/Youth | K-12
Teachers/Educators | K-12
Teachers/Educators | Post-Secondary
Towns & Villages
Urban
Veterans
West Asian/North African
White
Women
Working Class
Young Adults | 18-24
Other

If chosen "Other" for audience, please explain:
Character Limit: 250

Does your organization prioritize any of the following communities?*
Check all that apply. If you are a public serving organization, like a public library, then please only choose specific communities that you prioritize outreach and programming for.

Choices
Communities of color
Communities highly impacted by mass incarceration
Low-income individuals (defined as living at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guideline)
Rural communities
None of these communities

Would you describe your community as being historically disinvested or economically under-resourced?*

Choices
Yes
No

If chosen "Yes" above, please explain:
*Character Limit: 250

FUNDING INFORMATION
In what ways was your organization affected by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic?*

Select all that apply.

- **Lost Revenue**: Significant total projected revenue was lost because of canceled programs since March 2021.
- **Losing Space**: We came close to losing (or lost) our space because we could not make our monthly rent, mortgage, or utility payments.
- **Staff Layoff**: We nearly had to lay off (or in fact laid off) one or more staff members because we could not make payroll.
- **Risk of Permanent Closure**: We considered permanently closing our organization as a result of COVID-19.
- **Use of Savings/Reserve**: We had savings before COVID-19 and have had to spend some in order to meet expenses.

Choices
Lost Revenue
Losing Space
Staff Layoff
Risk of Permanent Closure
Use of Savings/Reserve
Other
None of the Above

If chosen "Other" for impact, please explain:
*Character Limit: 250
In what ways has your org adapted to challenges and opportunities presented by the pandemic?*  
*Character Limit: 1250

How would a Gen Ops (unrestricted) grant help your organization at this time?*  
*Character Limit: 1250

Additional Comments:  
Is there any information we have not requested that you feel is important for Illinois Humanities to consider in evaluating your application?  
*Character Limit: 1250