

# Community Grants | Gen Ops 2022

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## *Illinois Humanities*

### ***GRANT APPLICATION***

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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](mailto:mark.hallett@ilhumanities.org).

### ***ORGANIZATION***

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#### **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](mailto: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](http://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**

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**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*

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**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*