Greetings! If you have selected this grant application, it is because you are working in a rural community in Illinois and have aspirations to do - or continue doing - work that harnesses the arts and humanities and other cultural work in community building. This grant application is for you if you are applying for a Rural Initiative Organization Grant; if you are applying as an individual, then choose the "Foreground Rural Initiative | Individual" application on the Apply page. We are eager to learn about you, and your goals and aspirations! Remember that you can take a break if you need to and return to the application later if you like. If you would rather do the application process as an interview, reach out to us right away (as we can only accommodate limited requests for this). For that or other questions, please reach out to Mark Hallett at mark.hallett@ilhumanities.org.

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:
Character Limit: 100

Is your organization located in a rural community in Illinois:*

Working definition of a ‘rural’ organization:
The adjective “rural” is notoriously difficult to define, and its usage varies widely from one context to another. For purposes of this initiative, Illinois Humanities proposes to consider an organization “rural” if it meets at least two of the following four criteria:

1. it is located in a county with a population density of 150 or fewer residents per square mile;
2. it is located either in an unincorporated area or in a village, town, or city with a population of 7,500 or fewer residents;
3. it is located at least 20 miles from the nearest city with a population of 75,000 or more;
4. it has an explicit mission to serve rural communities or people who reside in rural locations.
We will revise these criteria as needed based on input from partner organizations and consultants.

If "Yes", then you are eligible to apply for this grant offering. If ‘No’, then perhaps your organization is not eligible for this grants opportunity. However, if you’d like to make the case for your eligibility, please email Mark Hallett at mark.hallett@ilhumanities.org before moving forward with the application.

**Choices**
Yes  
No

**Will you be using a Fiscal Sponsor for this project?**
Note: A Fiscal Sponsor is an established IRS 501c3 tax-exempt organization that agrees to accept donations on behalf of another group that does not have IRS tax-exempt status. The Fiscal Sponsor is different than the organization applying for the grant and proposing the project.

**Choices**
Yes  
No

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**FISCAL SPONSOR**
The following questions are about the Fiscal Sponsor; beyond this, when we say the Applying Organization we are referring to the organization, program or individual that is applying to carry out this project, not the Fiscal Sponsor. Note that working with a Fiscal Sponsor is simply an option, not obligatory.

**Fiscal Sponsor Name**  
*Character Limit: 250*

**Fiscal Sponsor Address**  
*Character Limit: 250*

**Fiscal Sponsor Contact Name**  
*Character Limit: 250*

**Fiscal Sponsor Contact Position/Title**  
*Character Limit: 250*

**Fiscal Sponsor Contact Email**  
*Character Limit: 250*
Questions

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: 100

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

Applying Department/Center/Program (if applicable):

Character Limit: 250

What is your organization’s annual operating budget?*

Character Limit: 20

How many full-time staff members does your organization have?**
If not applicable, please put N/A

Character Limit: 20

How many part-time staff members does your organization have?*
If not applicable, please put N/A

Character Limit: 20

How would you describe your organization (by type or category)?*
(For example, historical society, art center, literary group, public library, economic development group, chamber of commerce, church, high school, etc.)

Character Limit: 150

What is your organization’s mission?*

Character Limit: 10000

What year was your organization founded?

Character Limit: 250

Please describe in brief the history of your organization.*
Include a brief history with major highlights, etc.

Character Limit: 1000

What are your three leading sources of funding in a typical year?*
Please be specific about your typical sources of grants, donations, and other sources of revenue.
**Who does your organization serve?**
Select all that apply.

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

**If chosen "Other" above for audience served, please explain:**

*Character Limit: 250*
How would you describe the community you are working in?*
We’re interested in knowing a little bit about your community. Include for example where you are located, any relevant demographics, local geography, cultural assets, etc.

*Character Limit: 1250

How do you engage with this community or these communities?*
Include your relationship to them, your programming that engages with community, etc.

*Character Limit: 1000

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

*Character Limit: 1000

What relationships does your organization have?*
What relationships, if any, does your organization have with other organizations and institutions within your geographic area?

*Character Limit: 1000

ORGANIZATION DEMOGRAPHICS
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:*  
*Character Limit: 250

Would you describe your community as being historically disinvested or economically under-resourced?  
Choices
Yes
No

If chosen "Yes" above about your community, please explain:
*Character Limit: 250
ORGANIZATION

Please upload a completed W-9 form on behalf of the organization:*  
*File Size Limit: 3 MB

Please choose up to three disciplines that best describe your organization:*  
We recognize that the disciplines indicated here might not align exactly with how you identify. In such cases, please select the closest approximation(s).

**Choices**
- African American/Black Studies
- American Studies
- Anthropology/Archaeology
- Architecture
- Art History & Criticism Studies
- Arts Programming
- Asian American Studies
- Classics
- Communications
- Comparative Religion/Religious Studies
- Cultural Anthropology
- Economics Ethnic Studies
- Film or Cinema Studies
- Folk Arts & Folklore
- Foreign Languages/Literature
- Gender & Women's Studies Geography
- Historical & Cultural Studies
- 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" above for disciplines, please explain:  
*Character Limit: 250*
**PROGRAMS**

**What are your leading planned programs in 2022?**
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?**
*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

**In what ways does your organization engage with these indicated communities?**
*Character Limit: 1000*

**How much funding are you seeking from Illinois Humanities?**
This grants to organizations are for as much as $10,000.
*Character Limit: 20*

How would an Illinois Humanities Rural Initiative Organization Grant help your organization at this time to harness the arts and humanities in community building efforts?

If awarded support, how would you use this funding? Please provide a basic description of any programming or activities you would be able to provide, including name of program, goal, approximate timeline, audiences engaged, any partnerships, etc. *
*Character Limit: 1250*

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