

Disclaimer: The following slides were used to supplement a public presentation on November 8, 2024, for the Oregon Research Development Network. The slides are not intended to provide complete information about NEH, nor do they constitute an official statement of NEH policy. For current information about NEH programs, including eligibility requirements and the dates of deadlines, please consult the Notices Of Funding Opportunity posted on the NEH website at neh.gov.

Oregon Research Development Network – Update on NEH, its programs, and future opportunities



**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
HUMANITIES**

November 8, 2024

Today's Agenda

NEH 101

Programs

Recent Updates

- Program changes
- Partnerships
- Office of Outreach activities
- Initiatives
- Website

Reminders

What are the Humanities?

- Literature, linguistics, and language
- History
- Philosophy and ethics
- Archaeology
- Comparative religion
- History, criticism and theory of the arts
- Social sciences and sciences employing humanistic methods



What are the Humanities? Another Approach

By showing how others have lived and thought about life, the humanities help us **decide** what is important, and what we can do to make our own lives, and the lives of others, better. The humanities **connect** us with other people; they point the way to what is ethical and what **answers** are true to our diverse heritage, traditions, and history.



**\$207
Million**

Compared to others:

NEA: ~\$207 million

NSF: ~\$9 billion

NIH: ~\$49 billion

7 Grant-making offices and
divisions

47 61 grant lines

7

Grant Program Divisions & Offices

Challenge Programs

Digital Humanities

Education Programs

Federal/State Partnership

Preservation and Access

Public Programs

Research Programs

Programs

Re-shuffling of deadlines

- Public Scholars is first...of many?

New NOFOs coming

- 3-5 page NOFO is a reality

New General Terms/Conditions

Summer Stipends

- Increased stipend
- Expansion of exemptions
- Reduction of nomination from 2 to 1

Emergency NOFOs on the way

Payments/Accounting

Partnerships

International

- Greece, Israel, Germany, Japan - done
- UK, Canada - future

Domestic

- ACLS and others
- Future possibilities with NSF

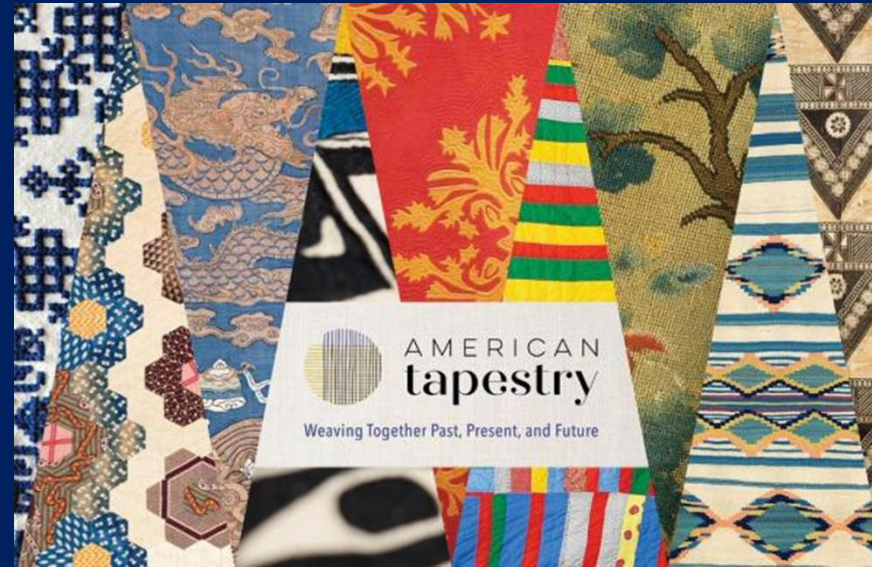
Outreach

Expansion of virtual and regional in-person application-writing workshops

Expansion of webinars

New, web-based tools

Initiatives



Website & Reminders

Still a work in progress.

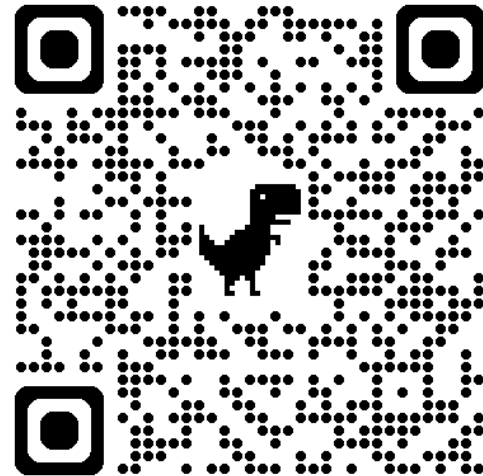
Check out the new information
for states.

Check out new resources.

Resources at NEH

1. NEH website: www.neh.gov.
2. We hold webinars for every deadline.
3. We are rolling out all new how-to videos soon.
4. An NEH program is always available by telephone or email.
5. We read draft applications in many, but not all, programs.
6. We provide sample successful applications on our website.
7. We provide all applicants with reviewer comments upon request...and we will talk to you about those comments.
8. And....

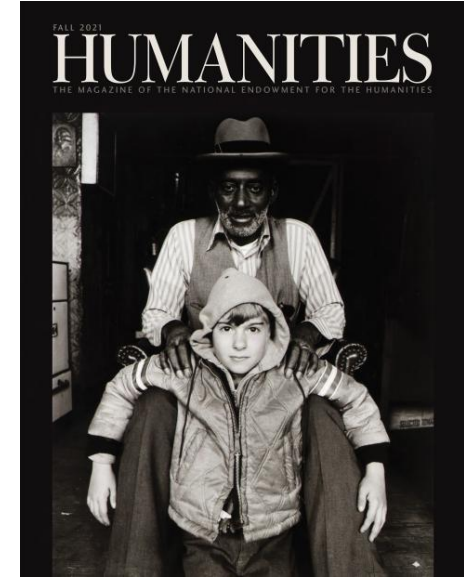
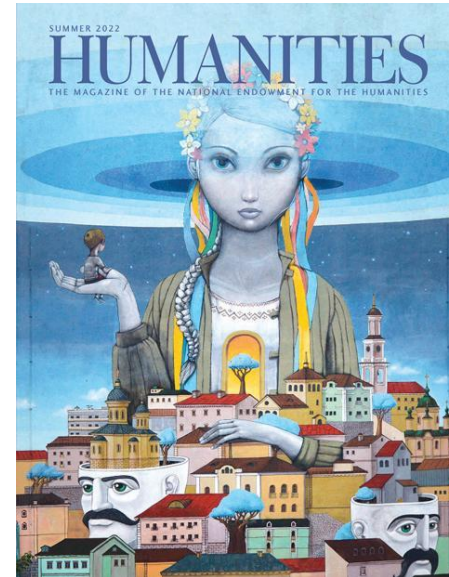
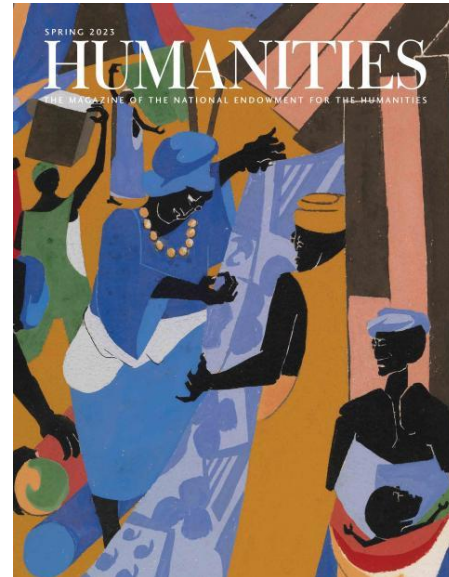
Become Involved – Become a Peer Reviewer



Sign up using the QR code or go to <https://apps.neh.gov/signup/>

Want a free two-year subscription to NEH's award-winning *Humanities Magazine*?

Send your postal address to Outreach@NEH.GOV



Questions

1. NEH-NSF collaboration? (Gina)
2. How much detail in the workplan, especially for travel/research? (Beata)
3. For research grants, how competitive are articles (v. books)? (Beata)
4. Work on Harry Truman's foreign policy in the "third world." Are there any special guidelines? (Ehsan)
5. Any advice for international PhD students? (Ulrike)
6. How do you write a successful application? (Yu)
7. The elephant in the room.

Questions?

Russell Wyland
Outreach@neh.gov
(202) 606-8391

Pay attention to the Evaluation Criteria

EXAMPLE: NEH Fellowships

1. The intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.
2. The quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project and the applicant's clarity of expression.
3. The feasibility and appropriateness of the proposed plan of work.
4. The quality or promise of quality of the applicant as an interpreter of the humanities.
5. The likelihood that the applicant will complete the project (not necessarily during the period of performance), including, when relevant, the soundness of the dissemination and access plans.

Evaluation Criteria

1. The Project.
2. The Proposal.
3. The Plan.
4. The Person.
5. The Payoff.

The PROJECT

"The intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both."

- First among equals...if the project is not worth doing, nothing else matters.
- How do panelists talk about the project? Significance
 - Significance/Importance
 - Is it new? What does it revise?
 - Contributions to the field: "What will I know when you're done that I don't know now?"
 - The "so what?" question: How does this relate to larger scholarly discussions large and small?
- How do you get to your intellectual goal? Your methodology might be significant.
- Tips for talking about your project:
 - Russ's "rule of three." Demonstrate significance in at least three different ways
 - Don't make panelists hunt for your significance
 - Don't assume significance

The PROPOSAL

"The quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project and the applicant's clarity of expression."

- The quality of your application is more than just good copy editing (although it is also copy editing).
- How do the components of your application—including your letters of reference—work together?
- Say what you're doing in the first few lines.
- **Know your audience.**
- Research questions vs. Chapter outline.
- Heavy on theory or highly technical? Think of well-chosen examples.
- Have you written the right kind of proposal for your project? Avoid "spin."

The PLAN

"The feasibility and appropriateness of the proposed plan of work."

- If you want someone else's money, you must prove that you will use it wisely.
- Details are important but will differ from project to project.
- Your plan must reflect the rest of your proposal.
- Your plan depends on when you begin your award.
- Is your plan ambitious enough? Too ambitious? Does it include items/projects not mentioned in the rest of your application?

The PERSON

"The quality or promise of quality of the applicant as an interpreter of the humanities."

- Your *curriculum vita* does not speak for itself. Do not hide your light under a bushel.
- Everyone has a story that explains why you are the right one to do this project....You have done this kind of thing before? You have worked in an adjacent field? You wrote you dissertation on this topic? You teach this?
- Don't forget to explain what skills you will need to complete the project.
- Afraid the panelists will think you are too junior? Too senior? Are you worried about an unexplained gap in your career or some other event that is difficult to explain? Remember, you have letter writers.

The PAYOFF

"The likelihood that the applicant will complete the project (not necessarily during the period of performance), including, when relevant, the soundness of the dissemination and access plans."

- What is the tangible product(s) at the end of your effort?
- Are there other non-tangible payoffs? Don't forget your teaching.
- Publisher? If not, what kind of publisher you consider ideal?
- How do you get from the end of your grant to your payoff?

And finally, three parting thoughts...

- * Don't be “one and done”**
- * 100 percent of those who don't apply, don't get funded**
- * A “perfect application” doesn't exist**