



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

DIVISION OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Public humanities programs promote the experience of lifelong learning in American and world history, literature, comparative religion, philosophy, and other fields of the humanities. They offer new insights into familiar subjects and invite conversation about important humanities ideas and questions.

The **Division of Public Programs** supports a wide range of public humanities programs that reach large and diverse public audiences. Fundable activities include, but are not limited to, radio and television programs for national broadcast, exhibitions and interpretation of historic sites, reading or film discussion series, lectures, and symposia. NEH encourages projects that make creative use of new and emerging technologies to enhance the content of programs or to engage audiences in new ways.

TYPES OF GRANTS

For complete application guidelines, visit the NEH website at www.neh.gov and click on “Grants.”

Interpretive exhibitions and programs at museums, libraries, historic sites and historical and cultural organizations can find support in the **America’s Historical and Cultural Organizations** grant category:

- **Planning Grants** are available to develop the content, interpretive approach, and formats of public humanities projects.
- **Implementation Grants** support the final development, design, and production of public humanities projects.
- **Chairman’s Special Awards** support large-scale traveling exhibitions of national visibility that have exceptional potential for attracting large numbers of visitors. These exhibitions should show unusual promise in terms of disseminating important ideas in the humanities. Up to \$1 million may be requested in this grant category, but applicants must meet the special criteria for this award.

NEH supports radio and television programs that explore significant events, figures, or developments in the humanities under the category of **America’s Media Makers**.

- For radio producers, **Development Grants** are available to refine the content and to develop treatments of programs and **Production Grants** support production and postproduction.
- For television programs, **Development Grants** allow producers to prepare scripts or detailed treatments; **Production Grants** are offered for the final preparation of programs for broadcast.
- **Chairman’s Special Awards** at the Production Grant level are more complex projects that would be of compelling interest to the general public; they have the capacity to examine important humanities ideas in new ways and promise to reach large audiences. These goals can often be accomplished through combining a

variety of program formats, forming creative collaborations among diverse institutions, and expanding the scope and reach of the project.

- ***Bridging Cultures through Film: International Topics*** grants support documentary films that examine international themes in the humanities. Both **Development** and **Production** grants are available in this category.

In all grant categories, the Division invites projects that involve collaboration among institutions and that engage audiences through creative use of multiple formats (for example, a public television broadcast that also includes a reading and discussion series at local libraries, or a museum exhibition that explores its subject through extensive K-12 curricula and an interpretive web site and DVD).

BRIDGING CULTURES

As part of the NEH *Bridging Cultures* Initiative, applications that focus on cultures internationally, or within the United States, are encouraged. International projects might seek to enlarge Americans' understanding of other places and times, as well as other perspectives and intellectual traditions. American projects might explore the great variety of cultural influences on, and myriad subcultures within, American society. These projects might also investigate how Americans have approached and attempted to surmount seemingly unbridgeable cultural divides, or examine the ideals of civility and civic discourse that have informed this quest.

CHANCES OF SUCCESS

An application's chances of winning support vary according to the number and quality of proposals received in any particular round of competition. Division wide, the success rate of proposals averages about 18%. In fiscal year 2011, the Division of Public Programs awarded roughly \$15 million in grants.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Any U.S. nonprofit organization or institution that has obtained tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service is eligible to apply for funding from the Division of Public Programs. Awards are not made to individuals.

TALK WITH US

Applicants are encouraged to contact NEH staff by e-mail (publicpgms@neh.gov) or by telephone (202/606-8269). Program officers are available to discuss project ideas, to offer advice about funding priorities, and to supply samples of funded applications. Staff will review preliminary proposal drafts if they are submitted well before the deadline.