Major Grant Guidelines

I.   Examples of supported projects:

reading and discussion programs   local/regional history projects

exhibits   oral histories

workshops   panel discussions

conferences   lectures

media programs*   book festivals

digital projects

*As part of its grant funding, the IHC may support the development, production, and distribution of radio programs, podcasts, and documentary films that engage general audiences with humanities ideas in creative and appealing ways. Projects must be grounded in humanities scholarship and incorporate an approach that is thoughtful, balanced, and analytical; proposals must demonstrate the potential to attract a broad general audience.

II.   Deadlines:

Spring Cycle: Fall Cycle:

Application Opens – November 1   Application Opens – July 1

Required Draft – December 15   Required Draft – August 15

Final Application – January 15   Final Application – September 15

Board Meeting – February   Board Meeting – October

Decisions sent by March 15   Decisions sent by November 15

III.   Who can apply:

Governments (Indigenous Tribal governments, State, and Local)

Museums

Libraries

Historical Societies

Colleges & Universities

Scientific or environmental organizations

Religious organizations

Nonprofits

*Note to colleges and universities:
To be considered for an IHC grant, you must show that the project or program is for the broader public, not just students and faculty. It is encouraged to have an off-campus partner, but not required.

IV.   Assistance To Applicants

IHC staff will arrange to provide the guidelines in other formats or to meet with applicants at locations other than IHC offices as requested.

V.   Humanities and the Arts

Examples of the humanities include:

Cultural studies	Archaeology
Law	Music theory/history
History	Art theory/history
Linguistics	Medical literature
Religion	Literacy
Philosophy/Ethics	Storytelling

While the humanities and the arts share much in common, the federal government views them as two distinct categories. The IHC cannot fund the creation of art. However, research, consulting, and interpretations of artwork can be funded. In the simplest terms, art is the act of making something new, and the humanities are understanding something that already exists. A successful example of this blend is having a pre-performance talk about the history and significance of the play/piece of music. See the glossary for the full legal definition of the humanities.

VI.   Requirements

All IHC-funded grants require the following:

- Experts in the humanities (see the glossary for a full definition)
- Cannot promote a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view
- Cannot advocate for a particular program of social or political action
- Cannot support specific public policies or legislation
- Open and accessible to the public
- Brief letters of support from confirmed partners of the project
- A 1:1 match of the funds requested, also known as cost share (see the glossary for a full definition of cost share)
- A valid SAM Number/Unique Entity Identifier (reach out to IHC if you have any questions)

- This is NOT a DUNS number, Tax ID, or EIN. Please visit www.sam.gov to receive your free number. Please make sure you allow for public search authorization in the SAM site so we can validate the number. If you do not, it will delay the award process.

IHC funds cannot be used for the following:

- Lobbying
- Advocacy (see glossary for IHC definition of advocacy)
- Private programs
- Programs with high entry costs which could be a barrier to the public
- Construction or real estate
- General operating expenses outside of costs to run the program
- Collection acquisitions
- Projects that do not engage in critical thinking
- Meals or refreshments
- Alcohol
- Entertainment costs
- Candidates running for office
- Costs associated with the creation/production of art
- Brick-and-mortar preservation projects

VII. The Application Process

1. (Optional) – Reach out to IHC staff before applying and/or brainstorm
2. Submit the Draft application by the appropriate deadline. IHC Staff will provide feedback within two weeks after the draft deadline to make the application as competitive as possible
3. Submit Final Application

VIII. Evaluation Process:

The IHC Board will consider the following in reviewing major grants:
- *Are the experts actually being utilized?*
- *Are the experts being used with their field?*
- *Does this fit the IHC's mission?*
- *Are there any unreasonable barriers to access?*
- *Is the application clear?*

Questions? Contact Camille Daw, IHC Program Officer, at camille@idahohumanities.org