Disclaimer: The following slides were used to supplement a public oral presentation for potential NEH applicants. They are not intended to provide complete information about the NEH’s programs, and they do not constitute an official statement of NEH policy. For current information about NEH programs, including eligibility requirements and the dates of deadlines, please consult the Notice of Funding Opportunity documents (NOFOs) posted on the NEH website at https://neh.gov.
Intro to NEH Grant Opportunities & Application-Writing Tips

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What is NEH?

NEH is a federal agency, founded in 1965-66 to support all areas of the humanities through project-based grants and fellowships using merit-based peer review.

• NEH programs are competitive, but you won’t get a grant if you don’t apply
• Biggest pitfall: failure to read the application guidelines and follow instructions
• Second biggest pitfall: not taking advantage of resources available to you
• Good things come to those who PLAN and have a regular regimen of applying
What are the Humanities?

• History
• Literature and Languages
• History, criticism, or theory of the arts
• Philosophy and ethics
• Archaeology
• Comparative religion
• Jurisprudence
• Social sciences employing humanistic methods
Challenge Grants: Strengthen humanities institutions

Digital Humanities: Nurture new ways to do and disseminate scholarship using technology

Education Programs: Strengthen teaching and learning

Federal/State Partnership: Support state and local humanities engagement

Preservation and Access: Preserve and provide access to cultural and educational resources

Public Programs: Provide opportunities for public engagement and lifelong learning

Research Programs: Facilitate research and original scholarship
Who Is Your Audience?

THE GENERAL PUBLIC (museum visitors, TV watchers)? → Public Programs

RESEARCHERS AND LIBRARY USERS? → Preservation and Access

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS? → Education Programs

SCHOLARS AND GENERAL READERS? → Research Programs

DIGITAL HUMANISTS? → Digital Humanities

INSTITUTIONS? → Challenge Grants

STATE AND LOCAL AUDIENCES? → Federal/State Partnership
Division of Research Programs

GRANT OFFERINGS

Grants for Individuals

- Awards for Faculty
- DLI-DEL-Fellowships
- Fellowships
- Japan Fellowships
- NEH-Mellon Fellowships
- Public Scholars
- Summer Stipends

Grants for Institutions

- Collaborative Research
- Scholarly Editions & Translations
- Archaeological and Ethnographic Fieldwork
- Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions
Division of Research Programs

WHAT WE FUND

Print and Digital Products

• Articles
• Monographs
• Multi-authored volumes
• Translations
• Editions
• Scholarly digital projects

Activities

• Travel
• Research
• Writing
• Collaboration
• Scholarly editing
• Convening
FELLOWSHIPS

Supports individual scholars pursuing projects that embody exceptional research, rigorous analysis, and clear writing.

Award period: From 6 to 12 months.

Award Amount:$5,000/month.

Award periods must be continuous and full-time.

Deadline: April 13, 2022
Division of Research Programs

AWARDS FOR FACULTY AT HBCUs, HSIs, AND TCUs

Seeks to strengthen the humanities at these institutions by encouraging and expanding humanities research opportunities for individual faculty and staff members.

Flexible award period: 2-12 full-time months or part-time equivalent

Flexible project types: Humanities research resulting in books, monographs, databases; supporting course revisions; or supporting community or institutional goal

Award Amount: $5,000/full-time month

Draft Deadline: Feb. 16, 2022
Deadline: April 13, 2022
Division of Research Programs

NEH-MELLON FELLOWSHIPS FOR DIGITAL PUBLICATION

Supports “born digital” research and publication in the humanities.

Awards are made for periods from 6 to 12 months.

Award Amount is $5,000/month.

Award period must be continuous and full-time.

Draft Deadline: Feb. 28, 2022
Deadline: April 20, 2022

From: Italian Songs from the Time of Christopher Columbus at http://ideamusic.web.unc.edu/italian-songs/
Division of Research Programs

PUBLIC SCHOLAR

Supports well-researched books in the humanities intended to reach a broad readership.

Awards are made for periods from 6 to 12 months.

Award amount: $5,000/month.

Award periods must be continuous, but may combine full- and part-time work.

Deadline: December 15, 2021 (check website for next year’s deadline)
Division of Research Programs

SUMMER STIPENDS

Supports continuous full-time work on a humanities project for a period of two consecutive months.

Award periods must be continuous and full-time.

Awards amount: $6,000.

NEH funds may support recipients’ compensation, travel, and other costs related to the proposed scholarly project.

Deadline: September 21, 2022
There are four categories for scholarly collaborative projects:

**Planning International Collaboration:** 6-12 months, up to $25K

**Conference:** up to 24 months, up to $100K

**Manuscript Preparation:** one to three years, up to $250K

**Scholarly Digital Projects:** one to three years, up to $250K

**Deadline:** December 1, 2021 (Staff will review drafts submitted by fall deadline using online template)
Supports the preparation of editions and translations of pre-existing texts of value to the humanities that are currently inaccessible or available only in inadequate editions or translations.

Collaboration must involve at least two scholars (can be from same or different institutions).

Awards are for 1 to 3 years, max of $100K per year

App Deadline: December 1, 2021; 2022 deadline TBA on website

Optional Draft Deadline: fall, 2022, draft deadline TBA on website
Supports field-based projects that provide observational and experiential data on human history and culture to answer significant questions in the humanities.

Projects can include individual scholars or collaborative teams.

Awards are made for 4 months to 3 years, for up to $150K.

**Deadline:** September 28, 2022
Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions
DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS
DIVISION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

SUMMER INSTITUTES
Awards: For 15 to 24 months, up to $235K
Deadline to Propose/Direct One: Feb. 15, 2022

LANDMARKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE
Awards: Up to 24 months, up to $190K
Deadline to Propose/Direct One: Feb. 15, 2022

DEADLINES
To Participate: March 1, 2022
https://www.neh.gov/divisions/education/summer-programs
HUMANITIES INITIATIVES

Helps strengthen the teaching and study of the humanities by developing new humanities programs, resources, or courses, or by enhancing existing ones.

Awards: Up to 3 years, up to $150K

Deadline: May 19, 2022
Seeks to expand the role of the humanities in undergraduate education at two- and four-year institutions.

Deadline: September 1, 2022

Planning Grants: 12 months, up to 35K

Implementation Grants: 18 to 36 months, up to 150K

Must involve at least one program/department outside the humanities
DIVISION OF
PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

Funds projects that preserve and create intellectual access to collections and cultural heritage resources of importance for research, education, and public programming in the humanities.
Division of Preservation and Access

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED

• Increasing access and intellectual control, through cataloging, arranging, and describing (e.g., library collections, archival records, museum artifacts)

• Extending the life of collections through conservation treatment, reformatting, and rehousing

• Digitizing collections, including historical United States newspapers

• Creating databases, spatial tools, and reference resources

• Conducting assessments and developing plans for the care of collections

• Planning and implementing sustainable solutions for preventive conservation of large and diverse holdings in cultural institutions

• Undertaking research and development to advance the field of preservation and access
Supports projects that provide access to primary documents that underpin scholarship, education, or public programming in the humanities

Two Funding Levels:
Foundations Projects: Up to 2 years, up to $60K
Implementation Projects: Up to 3 years, up to $350K

Deadline: July 19, 2022

Image from: The Folger Shakespeare Library’s A Digital Anthology of Early Modern English Drama
OFFICE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Director: Brett Bobley

Offers grant programs that address cultural changes brought about by the introduction and spread of digital technology. This includes projects that explore how to harness new technology for humanities research as well as those that study digital culture from a humanistic perspective.
Office of Digital Humanities

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Development of new digital technology that contributes to the humanities

Research on digital culture from a humanistic perspective

International collaboration in computationally-intensive humanities and social sciences

Workshops to discuss new and emerging methodologies and best practices

Institutes to train scholars, humanities professionals, and students in DH tools and methodologies
NEH Announces $33 Million for 213 Humanities Projects Nationwide

Grant awards support innovative digital projects for the public, humanities initiatives on college campuses, and infrastructure projects at cultural institutions.
Fellowships

Division of Research Programs

NEH Fellowships are competitive awards granted to individual scholars pursuing projects that embody exceptional research, rigorous analysis, and clear writing. Applications must clearly articulate a project’s value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.

Fellowships provide recipients time to conduct research or to produce books, records, or other work, such as books, digital materials, translations with annotations or a critical apparatus, or critical editions resulting from previous research. Projects may be at any stage of development.

NEH invites research applications from scholars in all disciplines, and it encourages submissions from independent scholars and junior scholars.

Applicants interested in research projects that are either born digital or require mainly digital generation and digital publication are encouraged to apply instead for NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication.

Grant Snapshot
Minimum award amount: $60,000 ($5,000 per month)
Open to: Individuals
Expected output: Book, Digital Material and Publication; Other Scholarly Resource; Peer-reviewed Article; Translation with annotations or critical apparatus; Critical Edition
Period of performance: Six to twelve months

Application available: January 15, 2020
Application due: April 14, 2021
Expected notification date: December 17, 2021
Project start date: January 1, 2022

Contact the Division of Research Programs Team
(202) 606-5000
Fellowshipinfo@neh.gov
Applicants who are deaf or hard of hearing can contact NIDIR via Federal Relay (TTY users) at 800-677-6868.
Review your application package

Begin by reading the notice of funding opportunity, below. You want to ensure you understand all the expectations and restrictions for projects delivered under this program and are prepared to write the most effective application.

Download Application Materials

- Fellowships Notice of Funding Opportunity (PDF)
- Grants.gov application package

Program Resources

- Fellowships Frequently Asked Questions, 2020 (PDF)
- List of recently funded Fellowships

Sample Application Narratives

- African Studies, A History of Popular Transportation in Nairobi
- American History, African Americans who Returned to the United States from Canada after the Civil War
- American History, The Mutiny on the Hermione and American Political Culture
- American Literature, Poetry and Community in Auden and Others
- Asian Studies, Diaspora and Empire in Southern China, 1570-1850
- Comparative Literature, Moroccan Literature and the Memory of Medieval Muslim Iberia
- European History, Emigration from Eastern Europe to the United States, 1889-1989
- Film History, Newspapers and the Emergence of American Film Culture, 1911-1916
Notice of Funding Opportunity

• Describes the program and its purpose in detail

• Explains how to prepare and submit your materials

• Indicates whether staff will read a draft application

• Lists prohibited activities

• Lists the review criteria (i.e., how your application will be judged)
Prepare early

Find the right program

Read the NOFO and samples

Watch the program-specific webinars

Contact a program officer

Grants.gov
The Life of Your Application

Submission

Sorting by NEH staff

Review panels

Staff recommendations

National Council review

Chair’s decision

Award notification
Evaluation Criteria

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 work plan.

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.
Rating Scale

E: Excellent
VG: Very good
G: Good
SM: Some merit
NC: Not competitive

No +s, -s, or / ratings allowed!
Start with the review criteria
Demonstrate your project’s significance
Provide context
Intrigue the panelists
Make it sound interesting
Dissertation: What’s new?
Develop a clear and realistic work plan

—Maria Biernik/NEH
Remember your audience

Write for specialists and generalists

Avoid jargon

Address the criteria

Use concrete examples

Show them you know what you’re doing

Anticipate and answer possible concerns

—Alamy
Pay Attention to Details

Draft early and solicit feedback
Check your bibliography
Include required supporting materials
Proofread!
Discuss your application with your letter writers
Post-announcement

Request your reviewers’ comments

Contact a program officer

Resubmit