

2026 Illinois Humanities Project Grants

Illinois Humanities

APPLICANT TYPE

Form Name*

Please use this format to type your answer in the space provided below:

"[ORGANIZATION NAME] Project Grant LOI Submission"

Example: Marsha P. Johnson Foundation Project Grant LOI Submission

Character Limit: 250

Applicant Type*

This application is being submitted on behalf of an:

Choices

Individual

Organization

INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Experience*

Please briefly describe your work and how it benefits people in Illinois.

Character Limit: 1000

Resume Upload (optional)

Must be limited to one page.

File Size Limit: 10 MB

Project Grants Category:*

Individuals are eligible to apply for a Project Grant. Individuals are **not** eligible for Collaborative Project Grants.

Please select the category that your proposal will fall under.

Choices

Project Grant

ORGANIZATION ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

ORGANIZATION

The following questions are about the applying organization.

Organization Type*

Choices

- Nonprofit
- Public Library
- Public School
- Park District
- Chamber of Commerce
- College/University
- Coalition
- Other (specify below)

If you selected "Other" above, please list your organization type

Character Limit: 250

Department/Center/Program Name (if applicable):

Character Limit: 250

Applying Organization 501c3 Status*

To be eligible for this opportunity, the applying organization must have an active 501c3 status in good standing with the IRS. An organization may also apply with the use of a fiscal sponsor. The fiscal sponsor must be an organization with an active 501c3 status in good standing with the IRS. Learn what "good standing" means [here](#). Check your organization's status [here](#).

Questions about fiscal sponsorship? There are excellent resources [here](#).

Choices

Yes, my organization is a 501c3 nonprofit in good standing with the IRS.

No, my organization's fiscal sponsor is a 501c3 nonprofit in good standing with the IRS.

Does your organization have the following?*

Your response will not impact your likelihood of being selected to submit a full application. Select all that apply.

Choices

- Cultural Data Project profile
- Strategic plan
- Accessibility plan
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion plan/statement
- None of the above

Applying Organization Annual Operating Budget*

Note: The number listed below must match with the financial document that you provide along with your submission.

Character Limit: 20

Applying Organization Funding Sources*

List your top 3 institutional funders (foundations, government, businesses). If you do not have any institutional funders, list your top 3 overall sources of income (ticket sales, individual donations, etc.)

Character Limit: 1000

Financial Document Upload*

Upload one of the following documents: most recent audit, most recent federal 990, or unaudited year-end financials from most recently completed fiscal year.

File Size Limit: 20 MB

Project Grants Category:*

Please select the category that your proposal will fall under.

Choices

Project Grant

Collaborative Project Grant

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT GRANT QUESTION

How many partner organizations do you plan to collaborate with?*

Enter a number below. Please only include the partner organizations in this number, not the applying organization.

Character Limit: 2

Partner Organization Names (optional)

If known, list the name(s) of the collaborating organization(s) and what their status of commitment is. Use the following format:

COMMITTED - Friends of Tony McDade Library Foundation

PENDING - Sylvia Rivera Community Center and Fannie Lou Hammer Gallery

Important Note: A letter of agreement from each partnering organization will be due at the time of a full proposal submission, if you are invited to apply.

Character Limit: 150

GENERAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Humanities Type*

Which best describes your work? (You may have answered this question already in the registration process. We are aware of this, and it is a result of our need to back-fill some data. This question won't appear in next year's application, and we appreciate your patience in the meantime!)

Choices

- Cultural and Ethnic
- History
- Humanities Education
- Museums
- Libraries and Archives
- Literature
- Media, Journalism, and Documentary
- Consortiums, alliances, collectives
- N/A - Not a Humanities Organization
- N/A - Individual who does not work in humanities

Areas of Expertise

Please select up to THREE disciplines that best reflect your organization's work. For individual applicants, please select up to THREE disciplines that best reflect your work.

This data is not used in grantmaking decisions; rather, we compile this data to get a picture of the public humanities across Illinois, as well as a tool to connect practitioners to each other.

Areas of Expertise (1 of 3)*

Choices

- African American/Black Studies
- American Studies
- Anthropology/Archaeology
- Architecture
- Art History & Criticism Studies
- Asian American Studies
- Classics
- Communications
- Cultural Anthropology
- Economics
- Ethnic Studies
- Film & Cinema Studies
- Folk Arts & Folklore
- Foreign Language/Literature
- Gender & Women's Studies
- Historical & Cultural Geography

History
Indigenous/Native American Studies
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

Area of Expertise (2 of 3)

Choices

African American/Black Studies
American Studies
Anthropology/Archaeology
Architecture
Art History & Criticism Studies
Asian American Studies
Classics
Communications
Cultural Anthropology
Economics
Ethnic Studies
Film & Cinema Studies
Folk Arts & Folklore
Foreign Language/Literature
Gender & Women's Studies
Historical & Cultural Geography
History
Indigenous/Native American Studies
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

Area of Expertise (3 of 3)

Choices

African American/Black Studies
American Studies
Anthropology/Archaeology
Architecture
Art History & Criticism Studies
Asian American Studies
Classics
Communications
Cultural Anthropology
Economics
Ethnic Studies
Film & Cinema Studies
Folk Arts & Folklore
Foreign Language/Literature
Gender & Women's Studies
Historical & Cultural Geography
History
Indigenous/Native American Studies
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

Congressional District*

Choose the Illinois congressional district where you are located. (Your headquarters, NOT where programs are held, if different.)

Find your district here: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Choices

District 1
District 2
District 3
District 4
District 5
District 6
District 7
District 8
District 9
District 10
District 11
District 12
District 13
District 14
District 15
District 16
District 17

None of the above (not located in Illinois, therefore not eligible)

Website (optional)

Character Limit: 2000

FISCAL SPONSOR INFORMATION

FISCAL SPONSOR

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.

The Fiscal Sponsor must have an active 501c3 status and be in good standing with the IRS (learn what "good standing" means [here](#)). Check your fiscal sponsor's status [here](#).

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.

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: 254***Fiscal Sponsor EIN:****Character Limit: 13***Fiscal Sponsor Annual Budget:****Character Limit: 20***Confirmation***

I agree that my organization has already discussed, and agreed upon, a fiscal sponsor relationship with the above organization.

If you have not already done so, please come back to this application once you've confirmed this partnership.

Choices

Yes

Thank you for your fiscal sponsor's information. The following questions below will now be about your organization.

PROPOSAL DETAILS**Project Type***

Please select the category that best fits your proposed project.

Choices

Advocacy / Civic Engagement

Collections and archives

Digital Humanities: Podcast, Documentary, Film

History

Humanities through visual/performance art

Storytelling, dialogue, community conversation programming

Multi-disciplinary

Other

Geographic Area for Programming*

Please indicate the primary geographic area that will be impacted by this grant.

Choices

Cook County
Non-Cook County

Request Amount:*

Maximum request amount based on grants category:

- Project Grant: \$4,000
- Collaborative Project Grant: \$10,000

Character Limit: 20

Are you interested in requesting additional accessibility and media funds?*

Illinois Humanities cares that public events are as inclusive and accessible as possible. Because of this, grant applicants may check a box to request up to an additional \$250 to provide funds for additional media support, accessibility services (e.g., American Sign Language translation or Communication Access Realtime Translation, etc), as well as other resources such as providing transportation to and from events for those with limited mobility, etc.

Choices

Yes
No

Project Summary*

Provide a 2-3 sentence summary of your project.

Character Limit: 200

Audience Engagement Goals*

Briefly describe your intended audience that will benefit from the project and your history engaging with this community. Would you describe the community as underserved?

Illinois Humanities is interested in funding a full spectrum of public humanities programs in the state, including audiences and communities that do not have as much access to the humanities as others. Note that 'underserved' is defined by the applicant.

Character Limit: 650

Project Timeline*

Outline the most important dates and tasks for a successful completion of your proposed project.

Character Limit: 650

Project Use of Funds*

Please briefly describe or outline how grant funds would be used to support the project.

Character Limit: 650

Is there anything else you would like to add?*Character Limit: 800****REVIEW AND SUBMIT***

Please review your responses to ensure a complete submission. Once you have completed your review, click "Submit" in the bottom right corner of your screen. You can save your work and return to this page at a later time by clicking on the "Save" button at the bottom right of this page.

You cannot make changes to your submission once it has been submitted.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Email notifications regarding your submission will be sent from administrator@grantinterface.com. Please save this email as a contact to ensure these messages are sent directly to your inbox rather than misfiled to your spam/junk folder.