

## 2024 Action Grant guidelines

**Humanities Kansas** is leading a movement of ideas. We believe that stories carry our culture and ideas change the world. Action Grants support projects that draw on history, literature, and culture to engage the public with stories that spark conversation.

### Goals of the Action grants:

1. Share stories that explore the human experience
2. Engage and involve the general public in discussions *centered on a humanities theme*, in-person or through other formats
3. Generate insights that cultivate a thriving democracy
4. Create projects that are grounded by current scholarship and lived experiences

### What types of projects do we support?

Humanities programs can take many forms. Formats include but are not limited to new interpretive exhibits, community conversations, panel discussions, presentations, book discussions, short documentary films, or podcasts.

Projects can be planned for in-person events, online platforms, or some other creative format. Engagement and involvement with the general public, which primarily refers to an adult, out-of-school audience, is key.

**Award Amounts:** Grants are competitive with a maximum award amount of \$3,500.

**Additional funds** can be requested to assist with increasing access to the project, including support for a sign language interpreter, Spanish language interpreter, audio tours for digital and in-person exhibits, rental of handicap accessible ramps, etc. See the budget section of the Application Step-by-Step for more details.

**Deadline:** Any time, but must allow *a minimum* of 6 weeks in advance of the first event.

- If you would like staff to review the application before submitting, please email the draft to Leslie VonHolten, Director of Grants & Outreach, [LVH@humanitieskansas.org](mailto:LVH@humanitieskansas.org). Do not use the online grants form to submit a draft.
- However, all *final* applications must go through the online grants form found on the Humanities Kansas website, [www.humanitieskansas.org](http://www.humanitieskansas.org)

### Who Can Apply, and What Is Required?

- In-state nonprofits are eligible.
- A determination letter of 501(c)(3) status is not required.
- A Unique Entity ID (SAM) from SAM.gov for sub-awardees is required. This 12-digit alphanumeric ID is used to track federal funding. (You do not need a full SAM.gov registration for HK grants. Only the UEID number is required.) *How do you get a UEID? Follow the [Quick Start Guide](#).*
- **NOTE:** Organizations with an open grant from a previous grant cycle are ineligible.

For information, contact Leslie VonHolten, Director of Grants & Outreach, at [LVH@humanitieskansas.org](mailto:LVH@humanitieskansas.org). Email is the quickest method of communication. Follow up phone calls can be arranged.

## GETTING STARTED

**Talk with HK staff.** Applicants are encouraged to speak with HK staff early to discuss ideas or clarify guidelines. Email Leslie VonHolten, Director of Grants & Outreach, [LVH@humanitieskansas.org](mailto:LVH@humanitieskansas.org).

**Participate in an online Grants Chat.** Humanities Kansas regularly schedules online grants chats for applicants to learn about the process and gain tips for writing a proposal. Participation is not required and does not obligate an organization to apply.

**Know what makes a successful project.** To be competitive for funding, the project should aim to do the following:

- Draw on our diverse history, literature, and cultures to explore a defined topic, keeping the humanities central to the project
- Engage the general public, which primarily refers to an adult, out-of-school audience. (Note that projects intended primarily for students, faculty members, or other on-campus or in-school audiences will not be considered.)
- Provide opportunities for engagement with in-person events and discussions, or with participatory online platforms or other formats
- Involve multiple ways to engage beyond one public event. (For example, a request for a keynote speaker is usually not considered a competitive proposal unless there are additional engagement opportunities such as an exhibit, book discussions, film screening, etc.)
- Projects with a community focus must formally partner with a nonprofit organization within that community. Ideally, the community organization will be the grant sponsor. At the very least, a letter of support from the partner organization is required.

**Humanities must be central to the project.** Humanities include the following disciplines:

- History
  - Literature
  - Languages and cultures
  - Law
  - Folklore
  - Gender studies
  - Religious studies
  - Philosophy
  - Art history\*
  - Archeology
  - Cultural anthropology
  - Ethics
- Social sciences, such as political science and sociology, are also considered humanities.

*\* A note regarding the arts:* Humanities Kansas does not support arts projects, defined as creation and display of visual art, creative writing workshops, or performance (drama, dance, music, etc.). However, as noted above, projects that focus on the analysis and contextualization of art, such as a panel discussion moderated by an art historian, are eligible. The difference between humanities and art can be a fine line. If your project includes arts components, contact HK staff for guidance. The Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission is also a resource for arts grant funding.

**Consider the format.** HK is interested in innovative, creative program formats, diverse perspectives, and new methods for reaching an audience.

**Set Goals.** Projects must have at least two goals. Goals are simple statements that summarize what you hope to accomplish. Goals might connect people with new information and points-of-view, spark discussion and new ideas, or strengthen relationships among groups or organizations.

**Contact a Humanities Scholar.** Every project must involve at least one humanities scholar to apply the tools of the humanities and provide in-depth knowledge. The scholar will be paid from grant funds for their

time and expertise. HK staff can help identify humanities scholars. Scholars must have at least one of the following criteria:

- At least a Master's degree in a humanities discipline helpful to the success of the project
- College-level teaching experience in a humanities discipline or proven record of scholarship in the humanities
- Museum curator, librarian, or other individual with exceptional knowledge of the relevant topic
- Culture bearers – tribal or community elders, or practitioners of traditional cultural forms

Before you submit your application, you and your scholar should:

- Discuss the project and formulate ways to strengthen the humanities aspects
- Consider the involvement of other scholars to add diverse perspectives
- Review the application to help clarify goals and methodology

During the grant project, your scholar could:

- Serve as a speaker, panelist, or lead a discussion
- Offer ongoing advice and guidance
- Review an exhibition script or short film script for authenticity and diversity of perspective
- Provide an assessment of the project at its conclusion

**Develop a plan of action.** A monthly timeline lists the work you hope to accomplish from planning stage to completion.

- Include a list of major project activities to be completed within 12 months
- Assign a date to complete each task
- Identify the key project staff and consider their role in accomplishing the activities. Key staff might include project director, fiscal officer, marketing coordinator, volunteers, etc.

**Develop a communications plan.** Identify your target audience and develop strategies to reach that audience. What are the characteristics or demographics of your audience? Press releases submitted to local newspapers and use of social media are effective methods. Publicity must not be released prior to the funding decision or without acknowledgement of Humanities Kansas.

**Create a budget.** Grant applications are requests for funding, and the budget should not be left to the last minute. Show all anticipated expenses needed to accomplish the project. Provide details.

In addition to grant funds, applicants are asked to contribute goods and services equal to or greater in value than the amount requested. This is called *cost share* and can include:

- Staff and volunteer time devoted to the project
- Donated use of office space, venue facility, equipment, and supplies
- Social media, public service announcements, and other free publicity
- Refreshments at events

Cash match is not required. HK only accepts costs accrued after the official start date of the grant period.

Examples of items grant funds CAN be used for:

- Salaries for temporary staff specifically hired to carry out the project
- Salaries for part-time staff with significant roles in the project
- Honoraria for scholars, speakers, panelists, and others providing expertise
- In-state travel reimbursement for staff and scholars including mileage, meals, and lodging
- Non-durable supplies and some equipment. Funds cannot be used exclusively for equipment purchases; however, a small portion of the grant request can be for equipment if it will enhance the overall goal of providing public humanities programming (cannot exceed 25% of the request)

- Tools to support online programming, such as a Zoom license for virtual public events.
- Rental of facilities or equipment such as projectors and audio systems
- Some publicity and promotions (cannot exceed 25% of the request)
- Funds *in addition to* the grant project can be requested to assist with increasing access to the project, including support for a sign language interpreter, Spanish language interpreter, audio tours for digital and in-person exhibits, rental of handicap accessible ramps, etc. (Accessibility funds are only available to enhance the humanities content as proposed in the project application. HK cannot fund projects that retroactively make existing humanities content accessible.)

*If you don't see something listed, contact staff for clarification.*

Grant funds CANNOT be used for:

- Salaries for full-time staff employed by the sponsor organization
- Publishing a book or catalog
- Performance pieces such as plays, musical performances, storytelling, or re-enactors
- Purchase of major equipment, website hosting, or insurance
- Purchase, restoration, or construction of a building
- Salaries for students for a class, school project, internship, or work study. Students may be involved as volunteers and their time counted toward cost share.
- Courses for academic credit or school projects.
- Academic conferences or programs directed to a single profession
- Creation or purchase of a mural, memorial, monument, or plaque
- Individual research, scholarships, or fellowships
- Fundraisers, advocacy, or lobbying
- Projects that discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, physical abilities, sexual orientation or identity
- Food, beverages, entertainment, and promotional giveaways such as shirts or mugs

Humanities Kansas is supported by funds provided by the federal government through the National Endowment for the Humanities. Organizations receiving Humanities Kansas funding may not use the funds to:

- Promote a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view;
- Advocate for a particular program of social or political action; or
- Support specific public policies or legislation.

**Action Grant recipients are required to attend a 30-minute post-award online meeting.** Topics will be compliance rules, deadlines, and Q&A. Date and time of the meeting will be determined after grant awards are announced.

**Past Successful Grant Applications** are available upon request.

*Follow the Application Step-By-Step Guide below for additional details as you develop your draft and final application.*

## APPLICATION STEP-BY-STEP

### 2024 Action Grant

#### Submit a Draft (Optional)

Organizations are strongly encouraged, but not required, to submit a draft. Prepare a draft by answering the questions below, which mirror the online application. Include preliminary budget details. HK staff will provide feedback to make the project more competitive for final submission. We understand the draft is a work-in-progress. Drafts should be emailed to [LVH@humanitieskansas.org](mailto:LVH@humanitieskansas.org) (Do not use the online grants form to submit a draft.)

#### Submit Final Application

Applications must be submitted online at the HK grant portal.

**Supplemental Questions.** Some projects require answering supplemental questions in addition to the main application. See the [Action Grant Guidelines](#) webpage for links to further instructions. Supplemental questions should be answered in a Word or PDF document and attached to the application:

- Book Discussions
- Exhibitions
- Media Projects (films, podcasts, media broadcasts, etc.)
- Outdoor Signage Projects
- Kansas Town Hall (Community Conversations)

## APPLICATION

1. **Does your project qualify for Humanities Kansas funding?** Eligibility questions ensure that your organization and project are eligible for HK funding before you complete the full application.
  - Is your organization a nonprofit in the state of Kansas?
  - Do you have a current Unique Identity ID (SAM) for sub-awardees from SAM.gov?
  - Do you have a grant currently open with Humanities Kansas?
  - Humanities content: Which disciplines are included in your grant project? (check all that apply)
    - History
    - Literature
    - Languages and Cultures
    - Law
    - Folklore
    - Gender Studies
    - Religious Studies
    - Philosophy
    - Art History
    - Archeology
    - Cultural Anthropology
    - Ethics
2. **Project Director.** This person is responsible for the management of the project and will submit final reports. All official correspondence and contracts will be sent to this person.
3. **Fiscal Officer.** This person is responsible for accounting of grant funds and cost share. The Fiscal Officer cannot be the Project Director.

## BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION

4. **Project Name.**
5. **Describe your project in 1-2 sentences.** This brief description is for communication purposes. You will have an opportunity to describe your project in more detail below.

- 6. What is the format for your humanities project?** Check all that apply. For example, exhibition, presentation, reading series, etc.

**NOTE:** Exhibitions and Media Projects (films, podcasts, radio and TV broadcasts) require answers to supplemental questions. See the [Action Grant Guidelines webpage](#) for links to further instructions.

## PROJECT NARRATIVE

**7. Audience Type.**

- a. In Person (panel discussion, speaker, film premiere, exhibition visitation)
- b. Online
- c. Hybrid (in person and online)
- d. Media Broadcast (television or radio broadcasts)

- 8. Estimated Audience Size.** Estimate combined total for in-person and online events.

- 9. What unique story will you explore with the project?** Include in your answer an explanation of how the public will engage with the project and how the humanities will be central to its success. [3,500 characters]

- 10. What are your goals for this project?** Include in your answer why this project is important to your organization or community. [3,500 characters]

- 11. Provide a detailed timeline from planning stage to completion.** Include in your answer what you hope to accomplish during the funding period. Provide a month-by-month outline of steps from beginning to end of the project. [3,500 characters]

- 12. Key Project Staff.** List the key project staff, other than humanities scholars, and describe their responsibilities to the project. [3,500 characters]

- 13. Describe your marketing and communications strategy.** How will you reach your audience? Check all that apply.

- 14. If applicable, describe the involvement of partner organizations.** [1,500 characters]

## HUMANITIES SCHOLARS

- 15. Every grant must involve at least one humanities scholar. The Project Director cannot serve as a project scholar. For each scholar, provide the information below. If your project involves more than 3 scholars, upload a separate document at the end of the application.**

- Scholar Name
- Title (if applicable)
- Affiliation (if applicable)
- Phone and Email
- Address, City, State, ZIP
- Credentials. List academic degrees and disciplines or explain their professional background. [1,500 characters]
- Scholar's role in the project. (Check all that apply)

If your project has more than three scholars, provide the above information in a Word or PDF document and attach to the end of the application.

## PUBLIC EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- 16. Public Events.** Provide a list of all public events, such as lectures, panel discussions, and opening receptions. Include activities such as exhibitions, television broadcasts, or online formats. Tentative dates, times, locations, and estimated attendance for each event and activity are helpful for reviewers to understand the full scope of your project. [3,500 characters]

## BUDGET

- 17. Budget Form.** Use the budget form to provide a clear description of all the anticipated expenses throughout the course of the project. Remember that applicants must provide cost share that is equal to or greater than the total grant amount requested.

*Cost share* is a way to document local contributions. It is the goods and services contributed to the project by the sponsor organization (or other partners involved) that are not funded by the grant. Everything used or done in support of the project once the grant has been awarded has a value.

These local contributions ensure that Humanities Kansas is able to meet its requirements to the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Include detailed notes for each expense that explains how the amount was determined. Round totals to the nearest dollar. Provide details in the following categories. Reviewers expect a clear understanding of where funds are being allocated.

- Project Staff
- Honoraria
- Travel
- Promotion
- Supplies
- Equipment and Facilities
- Other Expenses

### **What Do These Budget Categories Mean?**

**Project Staff** is the value of time for people who administer the project, both paid and volunteer. Staff may include the project director, marketing coordinator, or specialty staff hired for the project. For each person, estimate the total hours dedicated to the project and multiply by a comparable wage.

- Fiscal Officer's services must be a cost share contribution
- Grant writing or other activities prior to the grant award cannot be included
- Volunteer time may be valued at \$29/hr and should be listed as cost share
- Fringe benefits may only be shown as cost share

**Honoraria** are payments made to humanities scholars that serve in roles such as speakers, panelists, or consultants. Honoraria should be proportional to the work and qualifications of each scholar, and therefore ranges according to the time and expertise required. Consult with scholars to determine the appropriate amount. In general, honorarium is typically the following:

- \$250-\$300 per speaking event
- \$500 for consulting a project and speaking at an event
- Up to \$65 per hour for research, consultation, and project content.

Speakers not paid with grant funds should be listed as cost share.

**Travel** includes mileage, lodging, and meals for both project staff and scholars. Only out-of-town travel can be funded by the grant. In-town travel must be counted as cost share. HK allowable rates:

- Mileage: \$0.56/mi for private vehicles. Rental cars with economy rates are allowed.
- Lodging: Up to \$135/night. Expenses beyond this rate must be cost share.
- Meals: Up to \$45/day
- Airfare: Economy rate only

**Promotion** includes the creation of brochures, invitations, flyers, posters, and costs associated with mailings. It may also include paid advertising such as online media, newspaper, radio, and television. The use of social media is encouraged. Promotions costs cannot exceed 25% of the grant request.

**Supplies** include detailed material costs for aspects such as exhibits or book discussions, or production of program agendas and gallery brochures. This category may include estimated costs of expendable items or office supplies needed for the project, such as pens, paper, or printer ink.

**Equipment and Facilities** includes rental costs for meeting rooms, public venues, sound equipment, projectors, or other items needed for a project. Grant funds cannot be used to purchase major equipment, but you can place a fair market value on its use and count cost share. Fair market value is based on the cost of renting similar equipment. Small equipment purchases are allowable, but purchase must be vital to the project and cannot exceed 25% of the overall grant request.

**Other** includes costs essential to the project not identified above, including accessibility costs. Be specific. HK rarely funds “miscellaneous” costs. Items such as refreshments and group meals should be listed as cost share.

**18. Additional Funding Sources.** List additional funding that you have requested, plan to request, or have secured for this project. Provide amount(s) and funding source(s). [1,500 characters]

**19. Admission.** Are you charging admission for anything related to the project? Yes or No.

AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL

**20. Authorizing Official** is the person, such as president, dean, or executive director, who is authorized to approve an application on the organization’s behalf.

- Name and Title / Role in Organization

ATTACHMENTS

**21. Promotional Image:** All applicants must upload a photograph or image related to the project that can be used in Humanities Kansas publications. Images of people and faces are preferred. Avoid logos. Historical photographs are acceptable. Images should be a maximum of 1 MB in size. (JPG, PNG, GIF, PDF)

**22. Letters of Support** for community-based projects are required if the sponsor organization is not a nonprofit within that community.

For other projects, letters of support are not required, but can explain the broader community impact. Letters provided by a partner organization, mayor, or convention & visitors bureau help demonstrate local interest. No more than three letters of support. Combine letters into one file to upload. Documents should be a maximum of 1MB in size. (PDF or Word)



**23. Additional Material** that has not been previously addressed, additional scholars, or supplemental questions. Combine documents into one file to upload. Documents should be a maximum of 1MB in size. (PDF or Word)

**Acknowledgement of Humanities Kansas.** All material developed with an HK grant, including associated publicity and promotional materials, shall include the HK logo and credit funding by Humanities Kansas. All projects must include a disclaimer statement to the effect that views expressed are not necessarily those of Humanities Kansas or the National Endowment for the Humanities.