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.
Research Grant Opportunities and Application Writing Tips

Information Session
University of Illinois at Chicago
September 13, 2021

Claudia Kinkela
Division of Research Programs
ckinkela@neh.gov
All you need to know...

✓ NEH programs are competitive, but ...

  you won’t get a grant if you don’t apply

✓ Read the application guidelines

✓ Talk to NEH program officers
THE HUMANITIES

The term 'humanities' includes, but is not limited to, the study of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.

National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965
SINCE 1965, NEH HAS FUNDED MORE THAN 66,300 PROJECTS

WWW.NEH.GOV
TOTAL APPLICATIONS: 727 (SINCE 1967)

AWARDS: 206

SUCCESS RATIO: 28.3% (WAY ABOVE AVERAGE)

Fun fact: Two of the first Fellowships went to UIC:
1967 Peter R. McKean (Title not available)
1968 Sandra L. Bartky (Title not available)
## Division of Research Programs

### GRANT OFFERINGS

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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
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
FELLOWSHIPS AWARDS FOR UIC (85)

2008: Richard R. John

*Network Nation: Ideals and Institutions in American Telecommunication 1840-1920* ($25,200)

2008: Stephen G. Engelmann

*Biopolitics: Charles Darwin, Moral Philosophy, and the Growth of a Governmental Social Science* ($50,400)
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 research.

Deadline: September 22, 2021
MOST RECENT SUMMER STIPENDS FROM UIC

2012  Sandra Sufian,  
_"A History of Disability, Pathology, and Adoption in America, 1945-present"_ ($6,000)

2005  Abraham Roth,  
_"Shared Agency, Self-Knowledge, and Testimony"_ ($6,000)
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NEH-MELLON FELLOWSHIPS FOR DIGITAL PUBLICATION

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

Awards are made for periods from 6 to 12 months.

Awards Amount: $5,000/month.

Award periods must be continuous and full-time.

Deadline: April 27, 2022

From: Italian Songs from the Time of Christopher Columbus at http://ideamusic.web.unc.edu/italian-songs/
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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, with some combination of full- and part-time.

Deadline: December 15, 2021
DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Average funding rates for individuals (last 5 years)

Fellowships:
  received 1110 applications per year
  funded 79 (7%)

Summer Stipends:
  received 827 applications per year
  funded 81 (10%)

Public Scholars:
  received 278 applications per year
  funded 24 (9%)
There are four categories for scholarly collaborative projects:

- **Planning International Collaboration**: 6-12 months, up to $25,000
- **Conference Awards**: 12-24 months, up to $100,000
- **Manuscript Preparation**: one to three years, up to $250,000
- **Scholarly Digital Projects**: one to three years, up to $250,000

**Deadline**: December 1, 2021 (Staff will review drafts)
COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS FROM UIC

2011 Sloan Williams, *Decoding the Swahili* ($214,999.80)

A project combining archaeological excavation, ethnohistory, and genetic analysis to study the origin and development of urban communities along the Swahili coast of East Africa. The project focused on a Swahili archaeological site in the Lamu archipelago (800-1400 CE).

2009 Joel Palka, *Archaeological Sites, Indigenous Frontiers, and Unconquered Maya Culture at Lake Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico* ($240,000.00)
For scholarly editions and scholarly translations of pre-existing texts that would otherwise be difficult to access or use

Collaboration must involve at least two scholars

Awards are made for one to three years and rarely exceed $100,000 per year

**Deadline:** December 1, 2021

Staff will review drafts
RECENT SCHOLARLY EDITION FROM UIC

2014  
John Monaghan, *The Lord Eight Deer Saga* ($169,026.00)

Preparation for publication of the saga of Eight Deer, the story of an 11th century hero of the Mixtec people of Southern Mexico. It will provide a scholarly introduction to Mixtec writing, literature, poetics and history, and produce a reading of the saga in English. The project will also produce an on-line work book that interested readers can use to teach themselves to read the original Mixtec texts.
For empirical field research using archaeological and/or ethnographic methods to answer questions in the humanities

Awards: 4 to 36 months, up to $150,000
Tenured faculty are required to raise $20,000 in matching funds

Deadline: September 29, 2021
SUMMER PROGRAMS

SUMMER INSTITUTES
Awards: Up to $235,000

LANDMARKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE
Awards: Up to $180,000

DEADLINES
Directors: March 2021 for projects in 2022
Participants: March 2021 for projects in 2021

https://www.neh.gov/divisions/education/summer-programs
Division of Education 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.

DEADLINE: MAY

Awards: Up to: $150,000

- Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- Hispanic-Serving Institutions
- Tribal Colleges and Universities
- Associates Colleges
- Colleges and Universities (NEW 2020)
Seeks to expand the role of the humanities in undergraduate education at two- and four-year institutions.

**Deadline:** September

**Planning Grants:** Up to 12 months, up to $30,000

**Implementation Grants:** Up to 36 months, up to $100,000

Must involve at least one program/department outside the humanities
Supports the study and discussion of important humanities sources about war, in the belief that these sources can help U.S. military veterans and others think more deeply about the issues raised by war and military service.

Convenes at least two discussion programs for no fewer than fifteen participants.

Creates a preparatory program to recruit and train program discussion leaders.

**Awards:** Up to $100,000

**Deadline:** October 14, 2021
For development of new digital technology that contributes to the humanities (innovative digital methods, workflows, software, or infrastructure).

Funding: Up to $50,000 for Level I
Funding: Up to $100,000 for Level II
Funding: Up to $325,000 for Level III

Deadlines: January and June
CoCensus: Collaboration Exploration of Census Data in a Museum ($49,999)

Leilah Lyons

to support the development of a prototype museum exhibit that would allow visitors to interact with dynamic visualizations of census data.
The Submission and Review Process & Tips for Applicants
Quick lessons & agenda

✓ You won’t get a grant if you don’t apply.
✓ Good things come to those who PLAN and have a regular regimen of applying.

✓ Biggest pitfall: failure to read the application guidelines and follow instructions
✓ Second biggest pitfall: not taking advantage of resources available to you
Prepare early

Find the right program

Navigate www.neh.gov

Grants.gov

Read the guidelines

Read the available samples

Contact a program officer

Apply!

— Maria Biernik / NEH
NEH Announces $33 Million for 213 Humanities Projects Nationwide

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

Since its creation in 1965, NEH has awarded more than $5.6 billion for humanities projects through more than 64,000 grants.
Timeline, including application deadline and notification date

Fellowships

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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, articles, digital materials, public lectures, and similar creative projects.

Grant Snapshot

Maximum 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

Timeline

Application deadline: April 14, 2021
Expected notification date: December 17, 2021
Project start date: January 1, 2022
Program Resource Page (lower portion)

- Link to NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity)
- FAQs
- List of recent awards
- Samples of successful application narratives
Applications to NEH must be submitted through grants.gov
The Life of Your Application

Submission

Compliance check and sort

Review panels

Staff recommendations

National Council review

Chairman’s decision

Award notification
Tips for Writing

Remember the audience
Tips for Writing I

Remember the audience

Write for specialists and generalists

Avoid jargon

Anticipate and answer possible concerns

Address the evaluation criteria
FELLOWSHIPS AND SUMMER STIPENDS

Evaluation Criteria

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 plan of work.

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.
Tips for Writing II

Address the evaluation criteria
Tips for Writing III

Make Your Case

- Demonstrate your project’s significance
- Provide context, explain what is new
- Situate your project in the scholarly discussion
- Demonstrate with an example
- Identify connections to other areas, be broad
- Avoid over-reliance on “gap-filling”
Additional Tips for Individual Research Grants

Don’t neglect the abstract

Don’t neglect the bibliography

For a dissertation revision, take special care with the work plan

Actively manage your letter writers
General Tips for all NEH Proposals

Study the sample applications on the NEH website

Draft early

Show your application to colleagues outside your area and solicit feedback

Include required supporting materials

Proofread!
Post-announcement

Request your reviewers’ comments

Contact a program officer

Resubmit!

Serve as an NEH panelist
Claudia Kinkelka
Division of Research Programs
Ckinkelka@neh.gov