Arts & Humanities Grant Guidelines

These grants are intended to support innovative, Maine-based community projects with rich and well-developed arts and humanities components. We are excited to support projects with strong participation from artists/topic experts, robust support from partners in the community, and broad public outreach, especially to new audiences.

Funds

- Intended for projects incorporating *both* arts *and* humanities components undertaken by Maine non-profit organizations. Individuals may apply with a fiscal sponsor.
- 1:1 funding match or cost-share is required. (This can be in-kind and/or cash)
- The part of the project you're requesting funding for *cannot begin until 8 weeks after the grant deadline*. The grant cannot pay for any project expenses incurred before then.
- Funds cannot be used to cover general operating expenses.
- Funds cannot be used for projects that promote a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view or discriminate against persons or groups.

Priorities

- Intended to support projects incorporating *both* the arts *and* humanities that have broad public outreach and support, involving and engaging Maine communities.
- Organizations serving and/or led by members of communities traditionally under-resourced in the arts and humanities are encouraged to apply. These groups include people of color, people who identify as LGBTQ+, people who live in rural areas, people with disabilities, Veterans, people who identify as immigrants or refugees, and whose first (or only) language is not English. (This is not an exhaustive list).
- Maine Humanities Council aims to maximize the impact of available funding.

Project Criteria

MHC is looking for projects that:

- Engage Maine audiences through, and with, the arts *and* humanities;
- Have guidance from an artist and/or someone with deep expertise in the project's subject;
- Involve the community in the project's process.

The strongest proposals:

- State what form the project will take (exhibition, performance with discussion, etc.);
- Foster meaningful engagement, discussion and listening across broad audiences;
- Have a plan for outreach, especially to new audiences;

- Highlight topics, arts, or artists traditionally underrepresented or offer a new or rare perspective;
- Present a well explained budget that: details how A&H funding will be used, includes the project's total costs, accounts for the required cash and/or in-kind match, and explains how all figures were reached. We like to see artists, culture bearers, and other content experts compensated for their work.

Eligibility

Organizations with 501c3 status, government organizations (such as federally recognized Tribal governments or organizations or state/local/city governments), education organizations (such as schools or school districts, or public or private institutions of higher education) or churches are eligible to apply without fiscal sponsorship.

If your organization is **NOT** a 501c, or equivalent (see above), you will need a **FISCAL SPONSOR** for your project. The National Council of Nonprofits has a helpful resource sheet on fiscal sponsorship. **For-profit organizations are not eligible to apply through a fiscal sponsor.**

Not eligible: For-profit organizations; political or advocacy organizations; individuals without a fiscal sponsor.

Please note: Beginning in 2025, if your organization receives an MHC project grant (Major, Mini, or Arts & Humanities Grants), you aren't eligible to apply again in either the same or the following calendar year. For example, an organization awarded a project grant (at any point) in 2025 would not be eligible to apply for ANY MHC grants until January 2027.

Application review

Applications will be evaluated based on the strength and clarity of the project's arts and humanities content, design and budget, goals and impact, community involvement, and alignment with stated priorities and criteria. Grant notifications will be made within 8 weeks of the submission deadline.

Questions?

- Please see our website for our FAQ document, deadlines, application and application previews.
- Email questions to anyone on our Grants Team – we are here to help!

  Lizz Sinclair: lizz@mainehumanities.org
  Kyle Volland: kyle@mainehumanities.org
  Samaa Abdurraqib: samaa@mainehumanities.org

Please be sure to include your phone number in case we need to call you, and allow us one business day to respond.