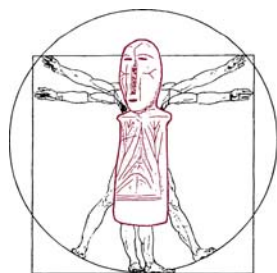


ALASKA HUMANITIES FORUM

General Grant Guidelines



421 W 1st Ave, Ste 300

Anchorage, AK 99501

907-272-5341

grants@akhf.org

www.akhf.org

THE ALASKA HUMANITIES FORUM

MISSION: TO USE THE WISDOM AND METHODS OF THE HUMANITIES TO PROMOTE THE CIVIC, INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL LIFE OF ALL ALASKANS.

WHO ARE WE?

The Alaska Humanities Forum is a non-profit organization affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Congress established the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1965. Our purpose is to promote the exploration of ideas, human values, and public issues that concern Alaskans today. The Forum believes that projects rooted in history, philosophy, literature, traditional wisdom, and other studies in the humanities contribute to our quality of life in meaningful ways.

A statewide Board of Directors establishes the programs and policies of the Forum. Nominations for election to the Alaska Humanities Forum board take place periodically by public solicitation. Five members of the board are appointed by the Governor.

WHAT ARE THE HUMANITIES?

The humanities are the **study of human values, traditions, ideals, thoughts, and actions.** The humanities seek answers to questions about who we are, what we believe, where we have been, what we value, and why. By connecting us with other people through the examination and discussion of ideas, the humanities point the way to answers about what is right or wrong, or what is true to our history and our heritage. The humanities emphasize analysis, interpretation, and exchange of ideas rather than the creative expression of the arts or the quantitative explanation of the sciences. The humanities should not be confused with “humanitarianism,” the concern for charitable works and social reform or with “humanism,” a specific philosophical belief.

Disciplines relating to the humanities include but are not limited to:

<i>Archaeology</i>	<i>History</i>	<i>Geography</i>
<i>Ethics</i>	<i>Linguistics</i>	<i>Ethnic studies</i>
<i>Philosophy</i>	<i>Folklore studies</i>	<i>Political science</i>
<i>Cultural anthropology</i>	<i>Languages</i>	<i>Non-western philosophy</i>
<i>Linguistics</i>	<i>Literature</i>	<i>Film criticism</i>
<i>Comparative religions</i>	<i>Women’s studies</i>	<i>Jurisprudence</i>
<i>History, theory and criticism of the arts (not performances of the arts)</i>	<i>Those aspects of the social sciences which employ a philosophical or historical approach (i.e. sociology, economics, psychology)</i>	

WHAT THE GRANT PROGRAM DOES

The grant program funds humanities-based projects. In carrying out the Forum’s mission, we support grant projects that:

- ♦ Cultivate appreciation and enjoyment of the humanities.
- ♦ Create dialogue among peoples holding divergent points of view.
- ♦ Apply traditional bodies of wisdom to present concerns.
- ♦ Search for a sense of personal identity and a sense of place through history, traditions, and new ideas.
- ♦ Pass on the values, methods, and wisdom of the humanities to future generations of Alaskans.

GENERAL GRANTS

General grant awards are made one time per fiscal year with the following deadline for proposals:

◆ **October 1**

If this date falls on a weekend, the deadline moves to the following Monday. **The majority of grant awards range from \$2,000-\$12,000, with the average award around \$5,000.**

We invite you to visit our website at www.akhf.org to review the most recent list of grants awarded and to request a copy of our biannual newsletter *The Forum*, which lists a more extensive description of grant projects.

ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible to apply?

- ◆ Non-profit organizations or institutions, individual scholars, and ad-hoc groups may apply for grants.

Who cannot apply?

- ◆ for-profit groups and organizations;
- ◆ previous grant recipients who have not fulfilled the terms/conditions of their Grant Agreement; and
- ◆ Alaska Humanities Forum staff or member of the AHF Board of Directors.

The following projects and project costs are not eligible for grant award funding:

- ◆ projects that are not open to the public, or will not benefit the Alaskan public;
- ◆ those that influence an audience toward a single position or present a one-sided, uncritical treatment of an issue (i.e., if public policy issues are involved, discussion must be balanced);
- ◆ work for academic credit or toward the completion of a formal degree, including travel to professional meetings and academic conferences;
- ◆ performances in the arts, unless their primary role is to foster analysis or interpretation using history, literature, philosophy or other humanities discipline
- ◆ library or museum acquisitions and capital equipment, endowments, or loans;
- ◆ acquisition of equipment;
- ◆ building construction, acquisition, or restoration costs (including historic preservation);
- ◆ profit-making projects;
- ◆ lobbying or partisan political activity;
- ◆ food, alcoholic beverages, refreshments, or entertainment for projects or project-related activities;
- ◆ social service programs;
- ◆ projects not centrally concerned with the humanities; and
- ◆ indirect costs.

While the humanities and their interpretation are universally applicable, Forum grants generally go to projects that have an impact in Alaska through their subject, focus, analysis, or activities.

PROJECT PERSONNEL

What is a sponsor? What is a project director?

- ◆ The **sponsoring organization** is the fiscal agent for the project. They are responsible for requesting grant fund disbursements during the project period and are responsible for providing the final financial reports at the completion of the project. If the project has a sponsoring organization, all grant fund disbursements are issued to the sponsor.
- ◆ The **project director** is the individual who is in charge of carrying out and/or coordinating the project. The project director is our “point of contact” and provides the final narrative report at the project’s completion. Correspondence and communication with the Forum normally coordinates through the project director. If the project director is an independent scholar with no sponsoring organization, all sponsor responsibilities fall to the project director.

Who are Humanities Scholars/Tradition Bearers?

Every grant project must include at least one humanities scholar and/or tradition bearer.

- ◆ **Humanities scholars** ordinarily hold an M.A., Ph.D. or other graduate degree in a humanities discipline. The project director may be identified as the humanities scholar if he/she meets the criteria.
- ◆ **Tradition Bearers** are elders and/or leaders who are respected by their community for their traditional knowledge.

GRANT BUDGET

Grant Request Funds

This is the funding request that you are asking for from the Forum. Forum funds cannot be used for expenses incurred prior to the grant award. In the Grant Request Budget section of the application please indicate how potential funds from the Forum would be spent on the project.

Cost Share

The Forum requires a 1 to 1 cost share. This is the shared support for your project beyond your request for Forum grant funds. Cost share cannot be retroactive before the grant award. It includes:

1. *In-kind* support: i.e. staff/volunteer unpaid time; donated materials used to plan, promote, or carry out the project; donated office space and equipment; travel; donated services and materials and other non-cash donations;
2. *Cash* support: Non-federal cash contribution specifically designated for the project from other funding sources beyond the Forum.

The requested grant funds from the Forum *must be matched or exceeded* by the cost-share to the project. Institutions that have a federally established rate may include indirect costs as matching funds. No indirect or overhead costs will be paid with Forum funds.

The Forum **strongly encourages** grant applicants to seek broad community support with a substantial investment in the project in both cash and in-kind donations. Proposals that successfully demonstrate shared support and community interest are generally stronger than those proposals that do not.

Grant Funds for long-term, multiple cycle General Grant Projects

In order to encourage applicants and a diversity of projects, the Forum may decide not to fund long-term projects. If the Forum decides to fund such projects, funding will be granted no more than three consecutive times for the same project. Applicants of long-term projects must submit new applications for each phase of the project for which they seek Forum support and each phase must involve a different component. Funding of long-term projects may be less than three times for the same project in order to fund new projects and new applicants.

Forum grant funding can provide NO MORE THAN HALF the TOTAL COST of a project.

Please keep this in mind when requesting grant funds.

For example, a \$1000 grant request requires at least \$1000 in cost share, either cash or in-kind.

PROJECT CATEGORIES

Each grant project will fit into one of the five project categories. If your project falls into multiple categories, please select one that best fits your project. Grant projects will need to meet the specific criteria described below for the category you select. The five project categories include Media, Oral History, Public Meetings/Exhibits, Research, and Planning.

Media: projects involving non-profit radio, television, film, print, and other media

Treatment: Provide a summary treatment of the proposed program and a timeline for completion. Make clear which phases of the project are being proposed for funding and what other funding is anticipated.

Audience: Describe the audience and how the production is designed for it. Also, please address secondary audiences, such as future researchers, and describe how raw materials and final products will be archived for their use.

Distribution: Outline a plan for public distribution of the final product(s). Explain where the product(s) will be broadcast, shown, published, or distributed.

Special Assistance: Media projects that employ professional performers and related or supporting professional personnel must provide written assurance that: 1) these employees will be paid not less than the prevailing minimum compensation for persons employed on similar activities; and 2) no part of any project or production will be performed or engaged in under working conditions that are unsanitary or hazardous to the health and safety of the employee(s) involved.

Cataloging/ Archiving: Explain how materials, tapes, transcriptions, or other final products developed in the project will be indexed, cataloged, and stored. Describe how and where these products will be archived and who will have access to these materials. Explain how information about this resource will be made public.

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Oral History: projects that identify persons who possess a living memory of history and traditions that may be unique to an area or culture

Identification: Explain who will be interviewed and why.

Methods of Production: Describe what equipment and formats will be used. This knowledge can be preserved through methods such as audio recordings, video tapes, transcriptions, and CD/DVD disks.

Cataloging/ Archiving: Explain how materials, tapes, transcriptions, or other final products developed in the project will be indexed, catalogued, and stored. Describe how and where these products will be archived and who will have access to these materials. Explain how information about this resource will be made public.

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Public Meetings and Exhibits: projects including public meetings, seminars, discussion groups, workshops, symposia, exhibits, and conferences which address issues from the perspective of the humanities.

Audience: Identify the prospective participants in the event.

Publicity: Describe how both specific audiences and the general public will be informed of the event and encouraged to participate. In addition, explain your plan for publicity.

Exhibits: If an exhibit is involved, describe what makes it appropriate to the event. Describe the exhibit and its history, source, permission for use, physical accommodation, and format.

Cataloging/ Archiving: Explain how materials, tapes, transcriptions, or other final products developed in the project will be indexed, catalogued, and stored. Describe how and where these products will be archived and who will have access to these materials. Explain how information about this resource will be made public.

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Research: The National Endowment for the Humanities defines research in the traditional sense as “careful, systematic, patient study and investigation in some field of knowledge, undertaken to discover or establish facts or principles.”

Resources: Explain what sources and/or individuals will be consulted. Explain these resources (texts, cultural customs or practices, people, etc.) and their significance to the research project

Methodology: Explain how the research will be conducted. If a dictionary is proposed, for example, explain the compilation and design process. If documentation of cultural practices is the focus, explain how information relating to those practices will be gathered and used. Provide a detailed timeline for conducting the project.

Outcome and Audience: Describe what form the research product will take, identify the intended audience, and show how the research product is designed to meet the needs of that audience. Explain where the product(s) will be housed and who will have access.

Overall Significance: Describe what contribution the research will make to the humanities and how it is different from other research in its area. Summarize the importance of the research.

Cataloging/ Archiving: Explain how materials, tapes, transcriptions, or other final products developed in the project will be indexed, catalogued, and stored. Describe how and where these products will be archived and who will have access to these materials. Explain how information about this resource will be made public.

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Planning: Available to help grantees meet with organizations interested in developing a proposal in the future for submission to the Forum and/or other funding sources. These grants are appropriate in cases where preparing a proposal involves complexities requiring special expertise.

Concept: Describe your preliminary conceptual vision of the project.

Planning Need: Explain why a planning grant is appropriate to the project.

Expertise: Specify whose expertise is needed and why.

PROJECT EVALUATION

A proposal must include a clear plan describing the methods to be utilized to evaluate the results of the project and measure success. The scope of the evaluation should cover:

A. Goals and objectives: Examine the extent to which the project's stated goals were served and their objectives achieved.

B. Humanities content: Analyze how the disciplines, methods, and approaches of the humanities were employed, the extent to which they influenced the project, and how they might have been utilized more effectively.

C. Action and Outcome(s): Describe how the actions taken to complete the project (planning, publicity, activities, evaluation) were accomplished. Describe the information, knowledge, products and resources that arose from this project and describe means taken to preserve and/or disseminate these outcomes beyond the immediate scope of the project.

D. Replication: Evaluate whether others should consider undertaking a similar project. If possible, indicate whether the project director or other project personnel (as well as yourself) are willing to be a resource for others.

E. Audience response: If appropriate, describe and analyze the response of the audience (readers, listeners, viewers, etc.) to the project. Were questionnaires or other means employed to solicit feedback and, if so, what was learned? Please relate any spontaneous comments or other unsolicited responses.

F. Strengths and weaknesses: Comment on both strong and weak points of the project and how, given the benefit of hindsight, it might have been improved. If the project were conducted again, what could be done differently to strengthen it, avoid mistakes, save time, or use resources more effectively? (Generally it is as important to know what went right with a project as what went wrong.)

PREPARING YOUR PROPOSAL

Please go to our web-based application system. The site can be found through our website <http://www.akhf.org> or found directly at <http://akhf.cgweb.org/>.

For applicants using the web-based system for the first time, a user profile will need to be completed. Please remember your username and password as it will need to be used for all current and future Alaska Humanities Forum applications.

Completing a User Profile:

The User Profile should be completed by the person writing the grant application and completing any grant reports (usually the project director). The established username and password will need to be used every time access to current or future applications is desired. The User Profile will only need to be completed the first time entering the system.

After logging in to the system:

After logging into the system, please select the Current Programs and Applications button on the left hand side of the screen. Then select the General Grant Program from those available by clicking "**Start Application**" below the program description. **Please be sure to select the**

General Grant Program as there may be more than one program accepting applications at one time.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Any supplemental materials can be uploaded to the application or sent to the Grants Officer via email (grants@akhf.org) or regular mail (see address page 1). Supplemental materials should arrive in the office by the grant deadline for inclusion with the grant application. Such materials include:

- ◆ resume of project director (required) and resumes for significant project staff (recommended);
 - ◆ letters of support from project partners in the community (recommended); and
 - ◆ any supplemental materials to support the application, i.e. writing samples, or previous products that demonstrate the quality of work (recommended).
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FORUM REVIEW AND ACTION

The Alaska Humanities Forum Board makes the final decision about grant awards selected from proposals submitted in open competition. Proposals are closely reviewed by the board grants committee and with committee recommendations, considered by the full board.

Every grant applicant is sent an acknowledgment of the receipt of their grant application by the Forum.

Every grant applicant is sent an official notice of the board's decision. If a grant has been approved, a Letter of Agreement and associated materials are sent to the sponsoring organization, with copies to the Project Director. The Letter of Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions of the grant. Signing the Letter of Agreement obligates the grantee to conduct the project as described in the proposal and to accept the conditions outlined in the Letter and these Guidelines.

A response to a proposal for a general grant will be made within two months after the deadline date.

The board has limited resources, which means that worthy projects cannot always be funded or funded in the full amount requested.

The board may:

- 1. Approve a grant to the project without changes;**
- 2. Offer a grant with stipulated changes;**
- 3. Offer a grant that is less money than requested;**
- 4. Or decline funding altogether.**

Successful applicants have 60 days to accept and sign their grant award letters and return them to the Forum. With the receipt of the signed award letter, the grant is "activated."

