Soul of the City Partnership Grant

Request for Proposals

Summary:

HumanitiesDC is seeking applications for a Humanities-driven program for young people, between 14 and 19. Grantees will execute a program and submit at least two lesson plans, in addition to working in their grant cohort to produce a best practices guide.

Soul of the City is designed to provide young people, ages 14 to 19, an opportunity to explore the role of the Humanities in asking and answering critical questions about the world. The Soul of the City grant encourages the development and execution of a high-quality, national model level, Humanities-driven, youth engagement program. This award recognizes innovative models that center the empowerment and meaningful engagement of young people through programs and projects that build civic engagement, leadership skills, and employ social emotional learning, engaged scholarship, and experiential learning.

Awarded since 2014, Soul of the City grants, provide communities, neighborhood organizations, churches, and educational organizations the opportunity to work with young people. Our 2019 Soul of the City funding cycle seeks grant partners who will create programming and curriculum that represent exemplary models for Humanities-driven scholarship and youth engagement.

Programs should:

- Use the Humanities to introduce young Washingtonians, ages 14-19, to the city's local, national, and international dimensions
- Use humanities disciplines, concepts, ideas and methods to help participants understand themselves and the human experience.
- Provide tools to encourage youth participants to improve themselves and the world in which they live.
- Produce confident, service-oriented leaders with increased communication and critical thinking skills.

Grant proposals should clearly outline how the proposed program will address the above. Each grantee will work with HumanitiesDC to produce a short best-practices guide in partnership with the other funded projects. Grantees will also submit at least two lesson plans and an explanation of how their project modeled engaged scholarship, experiential learning, and social emotional learning. These materials will be made available to the public via the DC Digital Museum.

According to Humanities Indicators, a project of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, the humanities and institutions which support the humanities:

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Strive to promote the intellectual development and lifelong education of citizens
Respond to the need, in a democracy, for programs that help citizens more fully understand their nation's government, history, culture, and principles
Promote citizen reflection on ways of responding to the world.

At the completion of each Soul of the City program students should have a clear, cogent, and rich understanding of the humanities. Students should also be able to identify potential career options, leadership, or community activities that they might pursue and support through the humanities.

Award Amount:

Applicants may request up to $20,000.

Project Period:

This opportunity is for projects conducted between September 15, 2019 and September 15, 2020.

What are we looking for?

Educational Philosophy
The Humanities represent a broad range of fields, many of which are interdisciplinary. Teaching through the Humanities allows for rigorous, engaging, and innovative scholarship that enhances the educational experiences of students. The Humanities as a field is dedicated to investigating what makes us human and how we experience the human condition. To that end, we are dedicated to creating environments where young learners are encouraged to think deeply and critically, take ownership of their own learning, and explore the world around them.

At the core of these beliefs is a passion for the importance of **experiential learning** and the role teaching plays in opening a student's perspective and experience. We recognize that learning is an ongoing process. Humanities DC, recognizes the vital role educators, facilitators, and instructors play in guiding students as they explore new terrains and connect to new ideas. As such, we acknowledge how crucial pedagogy is to creating affirming spaces in which students are appropriately challenged, given spaces to grow, and most importantly guided toward the production of first-rate Humanities work.

HumanitiesDC strives to incorporate four key learning methodologies into our pedagogy:

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1. Social-emotional learning
2. Action-research approaches
3. Project-based learning
4. Dialogue-based engagement

Our pedagogical commitments are grounded in the concept that learning happens for students in diverse ways. Learning is determined not only by the content of a curriculum, but also by the environment in which it occurs and how it is delivered.

Pedagogical Approach

Social Emotional Learning[1]

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process by which learners acquire and effectively apply knowledge from their coursework. Social emotional learning helps students develop critical thinking and other skills that are necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. A social emotional learning approach is based on the concept that the best learning emerges in supportive, firm, and creative teacher student relationships. SEL is based on the idea that students thrive in engaging, meaningful, and challenging learning environments.

Social emotional learning can help students cultivate the following skills:

- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Recognize emotions and responses in self and others
- Regulate and analyze strong emotions – positive or negative
- Recognize individual strengths and areas of growth
- Ability to listen and communicate accurately and clearly
- Take the perspective of others into consideration
- Establish positive and realistic goals
- Work cooperatively and effectively in groups

To practice SEL, a program should:

- Create opportunities for lively student participation
- Promote close reading and analysis of text(s)

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[1] Definition based on Social Emotional Learning overview developed by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning. Retrieved from: http://www.casel.org/social-and-emotional-learning/

- Incorporate current and contemporary issues into the curriculum
- Employ multiple learning styles
- Provide students with opportunities for dialogue
- Build opportunities for reflection into the curriculum

Interactive Learning

Interactive Learning (IL) focuses on student engagement and participation in the curriculum. As a pedagogical approach, IL encourages students to apply knowledge and concepts to real life situations. IL avoids passive learning scenarios (lectures) and instead focuses on helping participants develop their own knowledge and connections to what they are learning. As such, interactive learning:

- Promotes discussion and dialogue
- Uses project-based activities to further learning
- Scaffolds lesson plans in order to incorporate a range of learning styles – tactile, kinesthetic, visual, and auditory.

Community partnerships

HumanitiesDC was founded in 1980 as the DC Community Humanities Council, and our commitment to encouraging grassroots scholarship has been a continued to be a part of our grantmaking. All proposed grant projects must demonstrate both how the community will benefit from the project and be actively involved in its creation. Rigorous scholarship is an important part of any funded proposal, but the best applications will propose projects that create partnerships between academia and the public.

Strong scholar involvement

One of the goals of HumanitiesDC's partnership grant programs is to encourage productive relationships between humanities scholars and the public. All proposed projects must specify a scholar, and how that person will guide the project throughout the grant cycle. Typical scholars have an advanced degree in the humanities discipline most closely related to the proposed project and many have university affiliations, but an appropriate scholar does not always need these credentials. In every case, applicants must demonstrate the scholar has the appropriate expertise to serve in that role on the project and that the identified scholar has committed to working on the project throughout the grant cycle.

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Educational Product with Lasting Value

Ultimately, every applicant, even those proposing public events or exhibits, must commit to producing a tangible educational product that can be archived in HumanitiesDC's DC Digital Museum. This product is the primary expected result of all awarded grants and a crucial part of HumanitiesDC's goal of building an online repository of films, publications, and other materials related to the humanities in Washington. In many ways, the delivery of a well-researched, original, and eminently useful final product at the end of the grant cycle is what determines the success of the grant.

Eagerness to work closely with HDC Grants Officers

HumanitiesDC grants officers strive to establish strong partnership-level relationships with their assigned grantee cohort. In the HumanitiesDC cohort model, Grants Officers work closely with grantees with regular check-in and information-sharing meetings, professional development and capacity-building workshops, and networking opportunities. Grants officers work with HumanitiesDC's communications staff to promote grantee events and activities, and to seek press coverage for every funded project. Finally, grants officers provide capacity-building and technical assistance, serving as a sounding-board, giving advice and feedback on project activities and, ultimately, taking delivery of the final educational product. In addition to an overall final product description, the grant application will also require:

- A description of collaboration and community involvement
- A list of the project team members and their roles
- A marketing and evaluation strategy and plan
- An audience impact statement
- A budget and budget narrative.

How to Apply:

Visit the Soul of the City Grants section of our website at https://www.wdchumanities.org/sotc to review the grant qualifications, terms and conditions. Please pay careful attention to the section outlining social emotional learning and experiential learning. When you are finished, click Apply Now at the bottom of the page to begin your application.

Deadline:

All proposals must be received by Wednesday, July 29, 2019 at 11:59pm.

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About HumanitiesDC:

HumanitiesDC is the State Humanities Council for Washington, DC, and one of 56 such institutions found in every state and territory of the United States, each affiliates of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Founded in 1980, our mission is to:

"…enrich the quality of life, foster intellectual stimulation, and promote cross-cultural understanding and appreciation of local history in all neighborhoods of the District through humanities programs and grants."

Qualifying Questions:

1. Is your organization or your fiscal sponsor a 501(c)3 non-profit organization or a DC non-profit organization (https://dcra.dc.gov/service/domestic-nonprofit-corporation)?
2. Are residents of Washington, DC the primary audience for the project?
3. Does the proposed project focus on executing a Humanities-driven program for young people ages 14 – 19 in Washington, DC?
4. Will the proposed project occur within the grant period (September 15, 2019 - September 15, 2020)?
5. Have all your organization's previously held HumanitiesDC grants been closed-out successfully?
6. Will the proposed project result in a final product for the DC Digital Museum archive; at least two sample lesson plans and a report explaining how the project modeled engaged scholarship, experiential learning, and social emotional learning?
7. Does your proposed project have the commitment of a Humanities scholar or educator who will guide your project through the grant cycle?

Additional Requirements and Information:

- Project directors working on each awarded partnership grant will be required to attend an initial kickoff awards ceremony on September 16, 2019.
- All projects will be supported by a member of the HDC grants team. This HDC consultant or staff member will be responsible for providing support and advice to project directors, ensuring that all project work is progressing smoothly, and organizing the grantee cohort production of a best practices workbook.
- Project directors will convene to attend HumanitiesDC workshops and to discuss production of their cohort's best practices workbook.

- Funded projects will submit at least two lesson plans and a written report explaining how their project modeled social emotional learning, experiential learning, and engaged scholarship.
- Soul of the City grants require a 1:1 match in any combination of cash or in-kind contributions.
- The grants team will schedule several required technical assistance sessions with project directors over the course of the project period.
- All partnership projects must participate in joint marketing and communications campaigns with HumanitiesDC during the grant period.

Applicants will be expected to assign individuals to the following roles:

a. Organizational Sponsor – The chief executive or presiding board member of the applying or sponsoring non-profit organization.
b. Project Director – The person who will guide the daily operations of the project.
c. Humanities Scholar – A person with strong knowledge of both the project topic and the discipline or field.
d. Project Bookkeeper – The person responsible for maintaining a record of   expenses against the grant award. This person cannot be assigned to any of the other project roles.

Terms:

- Awardees agree to document all grant expenditures and provide a final report at the end of the project period using forms provided by HumanitiesDC.
- Awarded applicants will be expected to submit three quarterly financial and performance reports and one final report by the deadlines outlined in their grant conditions.
- Any changes to the scope or budget of a partnership project must be communicated to HumanitiesDC in writing.
- Awarded applicants will sign grant conditions that constitute a legally binding contract between HumanitiesDC and the applicant's organization or fiscal sponsor. The signatory will be legally obligated to complete the project under the terms of the grant conditions.
- 100% of awarded grant funds must be applied to direct program costs. This may include salary, consulting fees, and/or honoraria for individuals working on the project, but cannot include indirect costs, overhead, rent, utilities, or administrative fees.
- Other expenses that cannot be attributed to this grant award include: food or drink of any kind, the production or materials for creative or performing arts projects, and fundraising or membership cultivation events.
- All final products generated as part of this partnership grant opportunity will be collected by HumanitiesDC for inclusion in the DC Digital Museum. Awarded grantees

will retain shared, non-exclusive copyright to retain copies, publicly distribute, and publish derivative works based on the materials they collect.
- It is the responsibility of each grantee to ensure that all submitted final products are free of copyright restrictions (though creators retain copyrights to their completed works). HumanitiesDC can make template deed of gift forms for oral history recordings available to awarded applicants.