

NEH/MARYLAND HUMANITIES VISIT DAY NOTES

OCTOBER 26, 2018

Tips from the Professionals:

- You are encouraged to call the Program Officers to discuss your projects.
- Calling is better than email.
- When developing a program, match it to a grant.
- You can't get a grant if you don't apply.
- Significance—think about who the audience is for the project.
- Most Program Officers will review your draft if they receive it at least a month in advance of the deadline. Statistically, you will have better odds of success if you request a draft review.
- Consider serving on a review board to learn more about the process and successful applications
- Be aware of University overhead when developing proposals, consider partnerships with other 501c3s or other state organizations.
- Give talking points, energy and excitement in the proposal for reviewers to latch on to and advocate for among reviewers.
- Review previous NEH awardees for examples of successful proposals. Sample narratives are available on the NEH website. Pay attention to fiscal sponsors.
- Read the criteria and guidelines and make sure your proposal fits within those parameters.
- Write for a general audience, don't assume reviewers are in your discipline. Make the case.
- Always have someone else read and review a proposal before submitting.
- Individuals can receive multiple grants or fellowships but not for the same project.
- Each NEH grant lists the program statistics for funding success on their website.
- NEH Office of Digital Humanities offers summer institute training workshops, which UMD could consider hosting.
- If you apply for a grant and don't get it, call and ask for feedback, rework the project and apply again. You can request the panelist feedback and comments. Often, proposals get funded on their third or fourth try.
- Maryland Humanities lists the eligible expenses on their website. Review those when preparing a budget.
- Maryland Humanities funds about 33% of requests.

Marilyn Hatza, Program Officer

[Maryland Humanities Grants and Strategic Partnerships](#)

Grants support public programming (no individual research) with the humanities at its heart -- innovative programs that spark dialogue, strive to engage new audiences, and stimulate the thoughtful exchange of ideas. Programs can include lectures, new media projects, reading and discussion programs, seminars, interpretive exhibits, local and living histories, spoken word programs, etc. Major Grants (\$10,000) deadlines in spring and fall and Mini Grants (\$1200) deadlines in March, July and November.

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Deborah Hurtt, Senior Program Officer

[NEH Division of Education Programs](#)

The Division supports humanities education (K-16) through primarily curriculum development and professional development opportunities. Reading and discussion programs and also creative, integrative, collaborative curricular projects between the humanities and other fields.

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David Weinstein, Senior Program Officer

[NEH Division of Public Programs](#)

The division supports a wide range of public humanities programming that reaches large and diverse public audiences and make use of a variety of formats—historic sites, television and radio productions, exhibitions, podcasts, short videos, websites, mobile apps, etc. (They are “NICE”: National scope; Interpretive; Collaborative; Engaging)

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Daniel Sack, Program Officer

[NEH Division of Research Programs](#)

The Division supports research that advances knowledge and understanding of the humanities. Through twelve annual funding opportunities, awards are made to scholars working on research projects of significance to specific humanities fields and to the humanities as a whole.

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Brett Bobley, Chief Information Officer

[NEH Office of Digital Humanities](#)

The Office offers grant programs that address how digital technology has changed our world. This would include projects that explore how to harness new technology for humanities research as well as those that study digital culture from a humanistic perspective.

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