

Frequently Asked Questions

“What are the humanities?”

When Congress established the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#), and subsequently the LEH, it defined the humanities to include the following disciplines:

- History
- Philosophy
- Literature
- Foreign languages (classical and modern)
- Linguistics
- Comparative religion
- Ethics
- Archaeology
- Jurisprudence
- Art history
- Theory and criticism
- Philosophical and historical approaches to social sciences

These fields are differentiated from the quantitative social sciences and the arts (visual, performing or creative). However, the social sciences and the arts can interface with the humanities in terms of method or content. For example, political theory and cultural anthropology and geography are considered humanities disciplines. So are folklore and certain interdisciplinary fields such as American, ethnic and women’s studies.

What role does a humanities scholar play?

Given the central role played by humanities disciplines in all LEH projects, humanities scholars should figure prominently in any LEH-funded project—as project planners, speakers, panelists, resource persons, and evaluators. If a grant applicant is not trained in, or professionally involved with the humanities, the first step for developing a program should be to engage an appropriate scholar as project advisor. If prospective applicants need assistance in locating humanities scholars, there are at least two avenues open. They can (1) discuss their needs with an appropriate dean or humanities department head at a nearby college or university, or (2) contact the staff of the LEH directly.

What types of audiences should LEH-funded projects reach?

Programs must be designed to address the out-of-school public rather than exclusively the scholarly community. The LEH encourages research and publishing project proposals to include a public component as well. LEH aims to reach all areas of the state and support organizations of all sizes and communities of benefit. Projects may be designed to reach special audiences, such as incarcerated populations, underserved communities, and veterans. If your project falls within this category, make sure to detail how your work will also impact the broader public.

Representatives of the community must be involved in all phases of a project to complement the presence of the humanities scholars. The LEH encourages advance planning with community groups and consultation with LEH staff on outreach strategies. To avoid advocacy and bias, programs sponsored by the LEH must provide for a balance of viewpoints, especially those projects dealing with controversial contemporary issues. For example, a project addressing the First Amendment’s

relation to religion in public schools should provide subject matter for both sides of the issue.

Is nonprofit status a condition of funding?

The LEH awards grants to nonprofit groups, organizations and institutions operating in the state of Louisiana. However, the LEH will accept applications from ad hoc groups formed for the purpose of planning and implementing humanities programs. In some cases individuals may apply after consultation with LEH staff.

What is cost share?

Cost share is the amount of funding provided by non-LEH sources. This support may be either in actual cash or in the form of in-kind contributions including volunteer time, contributed equipment and supplies, contributed facilities, and indirect costs.

What costs are not eligible for LEH grant funds?

Within the actual budget, LEH grant funds, as a rule, cannot be used for the following purposes:

- Food, entertainment or liquor costs
- Expenses incurred prior to the grant award date
- Equipment purchases
- Paid Advertising
- Indirect costs (overhead) of sponsoring organizations
- Expenses incurred prior to the grant award date
- Creative and performing arts (theater, dance, music, opera, etc.)
- Research, writing, and publication of material targeted exclusively or primarily for a scholarly audience
- Scholarships and fellowships
- Course work for academic credit, except for teacher institutes
- Museum or library acquisitions
- Construction or renovation (capital improvements projects)
- Social or political action
- Archival materials without a public component
- Institutional staffing or any other form of operational support

How are grant applications evaluated?

LEH Staff reviews all grant applications submitted through the LEH online application portal. The online application closes at 11:59 p.m. on the day of the specified deadline. No exceptions are made. The staff issues recommendations to the LEH Grants Review Committee. The committee approves or rejects applications based on the project's humanities content, the development and dissemination of new scholarship about Louisiana, the involvement of humanities scholars, audience and outreach, geographical diversity, community involvement and partnerships, synergies with other LEH programs, and applicant's track record for completion of prior projects. See guidelines for specific grant tracks for additional requirements.

What final reports and evaluation are required for funded projects?

All grants require a Project Director's Final Report and Final Budget. All programs must include a plan for evaluating the outcomes of the project, including method and timeframe for evaluation. Sponsoring organizations are obliged to provide an objective assessment of whether program activities fulfill or do not fulfill the original intent of the project as articulated in the

grant proposal. Programs may include an outside independent evaluator to provide an objective assessment. The evaluation narratives supplement the quantitative data gathered from the audience. See guidelines for specific grant tracks for additional requirements.

What role does LEH staff play?

The LEH staff is available to review preliminary proposals, suggest humanities scholars and outreach strategies, review preliminary budgets, and advise on LEH guidelines.