Public Humanities Program Grants
2026 Grant Guidelines

Stetson University, Burrow Press (Volusia). Author, Melanie Farmer, in conversation with Chrissy Kolaya. Photo: Jared Silvia.

Award Amount: Up to $10,000

Fall 2026 Deadline

June 3, 2026	Required Letters of Interest (LOI) due by 12pm (EST)
Week of July 6	LOI decisions emailed to all applicants
August 5	Final applications due by 12pm (EST) for approved LOIs
Week of Sept. 28	Funding decisions emailed to all applicants
Oct. 1, 2026–Oct. 1, 2027	Grant period (12 months)

Program Period

Programming may begin no sooner than six weeks after the grant period start date and must be completed by the grant period ending date. Grant expenditures for program planning and development may begin as soon as the grant period start date.

Questions: grants@flahum.org

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Florida HUMANITIES

Updated March 2026

Overview

Public Humanities Program Grants support projects that preserve, promote, and share the history, literature, cultures, and personal stories that offer Floridians a better understanding of themselves, their communities, and their state. These projects aim to create opportunities for bringing people together to not only reflect on our history and heritage but also our current cultural and civic life.

Grant funding may be utilized to support the design and implementation of programming presented through a variety of formats. Previously funded projects have included:

- public lecture series, panel discussions, and community forums grounded in the humanities
- facilitated reading and discussion groups
- exhibitions with complementary humanities-based public programming
- oral history or story collection projects that share community histories through public programming or digital archives
- films with post-screening facilitated discussion
- humanities-based media projects such as podcasts, mobile apps, short films, and radio programming
- living history presentations and demonstrations of traditional arts
- interpretation at historic sites
- scholar-led walking tours

Central to all projects is the involvement of humanities scholarship and subject-area expertise to create programming that meets the needs and interests of a defined public audience. Projects that foster collaboration between multiple community partners are highly encouraged.

Merfolk Media Alliance (Pinellas). Merfolk Media Alliance films at Weedon Island.

Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from Florida-based nonprofit organizations, state or local governments or one of their agencies, and federally recognized Native American tribal governments. Eligible applicants must have both a verifiable Unique Entity ID (available through SAM.gov) and Federal ID number (FEIN available from the IRS). The FEIN will be used to verify the organization's nonprofit and financial status using GuideStar.

Applications will not be accepted from:

- individuals, for-profit organizations, foreign governments/ organizations
- organizations applying through a fiscal sponsor

Organizations that are requesting support for a recurring event or program that has previously been funded by Florida Humanities, must demonstrate how their proposed programming is reaching new or expanded audiences or addressing new or different themes/topics.

New for 2026 – Colleges and Universities

Due to current funding limitations, we are not able to accept direct applications from colleges and universities or their various departments for Public Humanities Program Grants. However, we strongly encourage academic personnel interested in conducting public programming outside their campus community to partner with an eligible non-profit organization to submit an application for support. The nonprofit organization must be the applicant organization, be integrally involved in the development and implementation of the proposed programming, and be responsible for all grant management and reporting including the expenditure of all awarded funds.

Friends of James Weldon Johnson Park (Duval). "In the Midst" hiphop dance artists.

Funding Priorities

Applications from the following types of organizations and/or types of projects will be prioritized for support:

- small to mid-sized organizations with preference given to those with an annual operating budget of less than $500,000
- first time applicants and those who have never received funding from Florida Humanities
- organizations located in a Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO) or an economically distressed community
- projects designed for underserved audiences or communities
- projects that consider appropriate accessibility accommodations when planning their programming
- projects that are free and open to the general public

How many projects are funded?

Florida Humanities receives numerous requests for each of its grant programs annually and unfortunately we are unable to fund every project requesting support. This action is not a direct reflection of the value of your program to your organization or your community. We simply have limited resources to fund a select number of projects that are most aligned with our current funding priorities and eligibility requirements. In 2023 – 2024 we funded an average of **37%** of all applications received for our competitive program grants.

2026 Area of Interest —America's 250th

America is a nation of diverse ethnicities, stories, and perspectives. Every town has a fascinating story to tell of the people who are woven into their cultural heritage. In recognition of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Florida Humanities is interested in Public Humanities Program proposals that include community activities designed to mark the country's Semiquincentennial in 2026. Ideas and resources for Semiquincentennial programming may be found through the following organizations:

American Association for State and Local History — Download a free copy of their *Making History at 250* field guide and browse a number of publications, webinars, blog posts, and other resources to help your community prepare for the Semiquincentennial

America250— Learn more about the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission and their efforts to create programs that inspire Americans to renew and strengthen our democracy and celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary.

American Academy of Arts & Sciences—Download a free copy of *Our Common Purpose*, a report created by the bipartisan Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship for recommendations on how to strengthen America's civic culture and create a more resilient democracy.

Naturalization ceremony, Washington, D.C. 2015. Courtesy National Archives

What We Don't Fund

Public Humanities Program Grants do not support:

- general operating expenses and core organizational functions such as fundraising and institutional advancement
- marketing and outreach (print or digital), including websites, primarily used for organizational promotion
- capital or facilities improvements
- expenses directly related to the creation of works of visual or performing art (i.e. paintings, murals, sculptures, theater, and dance performances). While Public Humanities Program grants do not support artistic performances or artmaking activities, they can support analytical programming that uses the disciplines of the humanities to consider the historical or cultural significance of the arts through such activities as pre- and post-performance discussion programs, expert-led exhibit tours, and other forms of public interpretation and engagement.
- regranting or sub-awards
- scholarships, prizes, or gifts
- activities and projects primarily intended to advance a specific policy goal or political agenda or to influence legislation (advocacy)
- humanitarian or social service projects
- research and/or planning activities with no related public programming during the grant period
- creative or scholarly work by individuals including research, residencies, and travel
- professional development programs, trainings, conferences, or other activities for academic, professional, or membership organizations
- print or digital publications that do not directly complement public programming
- projects with youth as the primary audience that do not also include meaningful opportunities for engagement with a broader public audience
- alcohol, food, and other entertainment-related expenses

Florida Humanities' grant recipients must also comply with all federal regulations including additional unallowable costs as defined in 2 CFR 200 Subpart E – Cost Principles.

Pioneer Florida Museum Association (Pasco). Florida's Seminole Wars: A Living History Event.

Defining the Humanities and Public Humanities Programming

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) offers the following definition of the humanities:

"The humanities explore, interpret, and preserve the diversity of human cultures, ideas, practices and experiences, past and present. They are the languages, religions, laws, philosophies, and customs that make us distinct. They are our history and our cultures, the ideas and movements that have shaped societies throughout time."

The humanities allow us to study human culture through various academic disciplines. These disciplines include: history, literature, linguistics, law, philosophy, archaeology, language, comparative religion, and ethics. They may also include, but are not limited to, other disciplines such as folklore, gender and religious studies, cultural anthropology, art history, film studies, and musicology.

Public humanities programs make these academic disciplines accessible to diverse audiences through a variety of delivery methods. Successful program formats are reflective of the subject matter to be explored, the mission and expertise of the presenting organization, and the interests and needs of the intended audience(s). All proposed projects must have interactive components and may be presented through traditional in-person programs or through digital or virtual formats.

309 Punk Project (Escambia). Ivette Spradlin on scene with a Bolex 16mm camera as cinematographer for Sriwhana Spong's surrealist art film. Photo: Ricardo Lamuuri Robinson.

Your Programming

Grant funding may be utilized to support the design and implementation of programming presented through a variety of formats. Examples of successful projects previously funded by Florida Humanities include:

- **Reef Environmental Education Foundation** (Monroe) received $10,000 to support "Blue Humanities: Community Conversations of Marine Conversation", a four-part lecture series and outdoor interpretive signage that explored the human role in the past, present, and future of marine conservation. Funding supported scholar honoraria and travel costs, signage research, fabrication, and installation.
- **Jacksonville Historical Society** (Duval) received $10,000 to support the production and installation of new informational kiosks along the Highway 17 North Heritage Trail and a five-part lecture series focused on the history and contributions of significant African Americans in North Florida history. Funding supported research, design and fabrication of signage, travel costs, and program promotion.
- **Broward Public Library Foundation** (Broward) received $8,100 to support a thirteen-part speaker series to commemorate the library system's 50th anniversary. Programming spanned topics such as Florida history, cultural heritage, and creative writing. Funding supported scholar honoraria and travel costs and the purchase of complementary non-fiction titles for the library's circulating collection.
- **Reflections of Manatee** (Manatee) received $7,000 to support the installation of "The Battle for Freedom: United States Colored Troops and the Occupation of Manatee" exhibit, a complementary living history event, and two public lectures on the Civil War in Manatee County. Funding supported scholar honoraria and travel, program publicity, and a portion of exhibit research and fabrication.
- **Caribbean American Cultural Group** (St. Lucie) received $6,500 to support a one-day Dr. Martin Luther King memorial event celebrating his teachings and legacy with a keynote lecture and community presentations. Funding supported the keynote honorarium and travel, program publicity, and A/V equipment rental.
- **Crealde School of Art** (Orange) received $9,500 to support "Juneteenth Celebration in Hannibal Square: Knowing, Remembering, and Shifting the Narrative", a one-day remembrance of the ending of slavery in the United States. Programming included a panel discussion about the role of women in the preservation of Black history and a traveling exhibition about Rosewood. Funding supported scholar honoraria and travel and program publicity.
- **Pioneer Florida Museum & Village** (Pasco) received $7,000 to support "Florida Territory- A Living History Event Depicting Florida History prior to 1845", a two-day event featuring living history re-enactors, lecturers, authors, and hands-on demonstrations with members of the Seminole tribe. Funding supported scholar honoraria, event videography, and program publicity.
- **Ybor City Museum Society** (Hillsborough) received $10,000 to support "Fernando's Footsteps: A Tale of Tampa's Invisible Immigrants", an exhibit and programming that explored Spanish immigration to Tampa and the United States from 1864 to 1984 through lectures, exhibit tours, and a documentary film screening. Funding supported scholar travel, videography, program publicity, and a portion of exhibit design and fabrication.
- **Key West Art and Historical Society** (Monroe) received $10,000 to support a lecture and community conversation series for the exhibit "If there is no struggle, there is no progress" about the history, culture, and legacy of Bahama Village in Key West with a focus on Bahamian and Black communities. Funding supported scholar honoraria and travel, venue rental, videography, program publicity, and exhibition installation.
- **Friends of the Florida Maritime Museum** (Manatee) received $10,000 to support an oral history project about the commercial fishing industry in Cortez. The project included professionally filmed oral history interviews with fishing workers, outdoor heritage signage, a digital exhibit, and public programs with project scholars. Funding supported scholar honoraria and travel and program publicity.

Your Audience

All projects should begin with a clear identification of the intended audience(s) and why they are important to your organization. Competitive proposals will offer programming that appropriately expands your organization's reach while meeting the community's needs and interests. If programming is designed for a specific audience (i.e. veterans, youth, seniors, families), an explanation must be provided regarding why that particular audience is the focus for program engagement and how the overall project will directly benefit that audience.

Florida Humanities is particularly interested in projects that reach **underserved audiences or communities**. Underserved audiences may be broadly defined as those whose access to the humanities are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics or disability.

Accessibility

To ensure our grant-funded programs and resources are more accessible to all, Florida Humanities encourages applicants to consider appropriate accessibility accommodations when planning their programming. Grant applicants may request funding for accessibility resources that direct relate to the proposed programming. These may include large print program materials, creation of materials in languages other than English or in Braille, sign language interpretation for live events, Spanish or other language interpretation, creation of closed captioning or subtitles, transcriptions for podcasts or other audio programming, and rental or purchase of assistive listening devices. Accessibility funding may not be used for costs associated with making a facility permanently more accessible. **Requested funding for accessibility may not exceed $1,000.**

Writers Alliance of Gainesville (Alachua). Sunshine State Book Festival.

Your Project Team

The Project Team is comprised of individuals working collaboratively to design and implement the proposed project. Central to the team are scholars and subject-area experts who ensure the humanities are fundamental to the creation and delivery of programming that meets the needs and interests of a defined public audience(s).

Humanities expertise can be represented by a variety of individuals including:

- college faculty who have an advanced degree in a humanities field and have experience conducting public programming beyond the campus community
- public humanists and practitioners such as local historians, museum professionals, or librarians that are not affiliated with an academic institution but whose work is aligned with a specific humanities discipline or field of study
- community leaders and culture bearers such as tribal elders whose standing in the community, personal knowledge, or collective life experiences qualify them as an expert on the themes and topics included in the proposed programming

All applicants are required to identify a **Project Director** who will be primarily responsible for the successful implementation of the overall project.

Depending on the size and scope of your organization and project, the number of additional **team members** may vary greatly. Team members should represent a variety of perspectives and areas of expertise and may come from both the applicant organization as well as from the outside community. They may include advisors, presenters, researchers, editors, technology experts, educators, and other individuals whose relevant skills and knowledge will directly contribute to the successful planning and delivery of all project activities. One person may also serve multiple roles in your project.

Florida International University – Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab (Miami-Dade). "Black Beauty as an Act of Resistance: The Story of Sunlight Beauty Academy" exhibition.

How to Apply

Before You Start

All grant requests must be submitted through Florida Humanities' online grants system – floridahumanities.org/apply.

- **Create a Florida Humanities online account**

  If you are a first time applicant, you will need to create an account at floridahumanities.org/apply before submitting an application. Prior applicants must utilize their existing online account. Not sure if your organization has an account? Please contact **grants@flahum.org** well in advance of the deadline for assistance.

- **Unique Entity ID and SAM.gov**

  All applicants must have a verifiable Unique Entity ID through the System for Award Management (SAM.gov). The Unique Entity ID is a 12-character alphanumeric ID that replaced the DUNS number in 2022. Organizations are NOT required to have a full SAM.gov registration in order to apply for funding. Instructions for getting a Unique Entity ID can be found at https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration.

STEP ONE: REQUIRED Letter of Interest

This funding opportunity requires the initial submission of a Letter of Interest (LOI) in Florida Humanities' online grants system. LOIs request basic information about your organization, your proposed project activities, and estimated funding request. Review of this preliminary information ensures your organization meets our general eligibility requirements and your project is clearly aligned with our funding priorities before being invited to complete a full application.

Applicants must respond to the following questions in the LOI:

1. Mission of the Organization and Relationship to the Humanities. Briefly describe the mission of your organization and how the humanities are central to your ongoing activities.
2. Proposed Programming. Provide a concise overview of the proposed project including all public events, materials, or programs that will be created. Your description should briefly note program topics, formats, and general timing for the proposed activities. Will your project include community activities designed to mark the country's Semiquincentennial in 2026 (not required)?
3. Audience. For whom is this project designed? What community needs or interests does the programming address? Note if this project is specifically designed for underserved audiences or communities.
4. Request Amount. Give your best estimate for the amount of funding you intend to request up to $10,000. This amount may change by the time you submit your final application.
5. Requested Funds Description. Share a brief description of the expenses you expect to include in your request.

LOIs are reviewed by an evaluation team comprised of Florida Humanities staff and board members. **Please note that Florida Humanities does not provide evaluation feedback for denied LOIs.**

STEP TWO: Staff Consultation and Completion of Final Application

Applicants with an approved Letter of Interest will be given access to a final application in their online account. Applicants may request a brief phone or Zoom consultation with Florida Humanities' grants staff to discuss completion of their final application and project budget. Due to the high volume of anticipated applications, staff is unable to review or provide feedback on application drafts.

Application Narrative

All applicants are required to respond to the following narrative questions in the final application:

1. Mission of the Organization and Relationship to the Humanities

Describe the role the humanities play in your organization and how they are realized in your mission and ongoing activities. If the humanities are not central to the work of your organization, explain how the overall project will strengthen current or future public humanities work offered by your organization. Detail any prior Florida Humanities grant-funded projects.

2. Audience

Describe your organization's current audience(s). Explain how the proposed programming will advance your audience reach and impact. If you propose to target a particular audience, explain why you have identified that particular audience and what specific need(s) within the community this project addresses. Florida Humanities is particularly interested in projects that reach underserved audiences or communities as well as projects that utilize appropriate accessibility accommodations when planning their programming. Provide an estimate of the total number of individuals to be served by this project.

3. Proposed Programming

Provide a detailed description of all public events, materials, or programs that will be created by your project. Include the primary themes and topics to be addressed and how the project is firmly rooted in the humanities. Your description should clearly define all program topics, format(s), locations, and a timeline for completion of all activities from planning to implementation and project evaluation.

- **America's 250th** - If your project addresses America's 250th (not required), explain how the proposed programming will provide opportunities for the public to learn about and reflect upon our nation's past including the many diverse peoples who contributed to the American story as well as your local history.

4. Fees

Florida Humanities gives preference to programming and resources that are free to the public. If applicable, detail any regular entry fees to your organization's facilities and any fees that may be charged for the proposed programming. If fees are charged, clearly explain all efforts to mitigate those costs for those for whom fees may pose a challenge or barrier for participation.

5. Project Team

List all members of your Project Team beginning with the Project Director. Include all individuals integral to the planning and implementation of your project as well as all scholars and program presenters. For each individual, provide no more than a three sentence description of their exact role in the project, their content area of expertise or other pertinent skills, and any relevant organizational affiliation(s).

6. Community Partners

Identify any key organizational partners you expect to work with on the proposed project. This may include staffing/volunteer support, financial support (cash or inkind), assistance with delivery of programming or promotional activities, or development of program content. Letters of support from community partners are highly encouraged and should be included in the Support Documents section of your application.

7. Marketing and Promotion

Describe all methods to be used to promote this project to the general public and/or to the targeted audience(s) identified above. Include specific media outlets (i.e. print, broadcast, social) and estimated reach for each.

8. Project Evaluation

What methods and tools will you use to assess the reach and impact of your project? How will you use the collected information to inform future programming?

9. Project Impact

Why is this project important to the identified audience(s)? How will it advance or strengthen your organization's mission and work in the public humanities?

10. Additional Comments

Applicants may share brief additional information that was not asked for but they feel will provide a clearer understanding of the proposed project or audiences to be served.

Application Budget

Requests may not exceed **$10,000** and Florida Humanities funds may only be used for allowable expenses incurred during the grant period. All project costs must be reasonable and necessary to accomplish project objectives. Eligible expenses may include:

- staff salaries directly related to the design and delivery of the proposed programming
- professional fees including honoraria and stipends for humanities scholars, advisors, presenters, interviewees, technical consultants, program evaluators and other individuals integral to the project
- reasonable travel, per diem, and lodging costs directly related to program delivery for project personnel
- rental of facilities or equipment necessary for program delivery
- program documentation and delivery expenses such as videography, audio recording, and costs related to hosting virtual programs
- accessibility resources as previously described
- direct project marketing expenses
- project evaluation expenses such as the development of assessment tools
- other costs not included above but which are essential to the project development and delivery. Applicants must be very specific in identifying these costs as reasonable and necessary as well as how they were calculated.

Estimated Cost Share

A minimum 1:1 cost share (i.e. match) is required for all Florida Humanities grants. The match can be entirely in-kind, entirely cash, or a combination of the two, and can be provided by the grant recipient and/or from other collaborating partners or organizations. All estimated cost share contributions must be incurred during the grant period and used to support activities included in the approved project application. Eligible cost share should include all estimated expenses not covered by Florida Humanities funds.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs are also known as "administrative costs", "overhead" or "general operating costs". These are costs necessary for keeping your organization running on a day-to-day basis and include expenses such as insurance, rent or mortgage, utilities, and salaries and benefits associated with executive or administrative personnel who are not directly involved in your proposed project.

Florida Humanities allows organizations to include indirect costs of **up to 15% of the total requested funds** as part of your grant request or to help meet the cost share requirement. Applicants with a federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA) may elect to request their approved NICRA rate from grant funds or include as cost share. All applicants using a NICRA rate are required to upload a copy of their NICRA agreement in the support documents showing that the proper rate is being used. If you elect to use the rate of 15%, no additional documentation is needed.

Sample Budgets

Applicants with an approved LOI will be provided with a sample project budget and further guidance from Florida Humanities staff regarding eligible and ineligible expenses for Florida Humanities funding.

Supporting Documents

All applicants are ***required*** to provide the following supporting documents:

- a copy of the organization's current year operating budget
- detailed workplan for all project activities
- list of confirmed Project Team members including all scholars, advisors, and programmatic presenters
- sample evaluation tool designed for the proposed activities

A list of ***recommended*** supporting documents specific to the proposed project format(s) will be provided to all organizations with an approved LOI.

Reviewing and Submitting the Final Application

Final applications must be submitted by no later than **12pm (EST)** on the deadline date. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered under any circumstances.
We recommend submitting your application a few days prior to the deadline in the event of technical issues.

IMPORTANT: Before submitting the final application, please review your entire application by clicking on the "Application Packet" link to ensure all documents are uploaded properly. Once submitted, applicants will no longer be able to make any changes without contacting Florida Humanities staff.

STEP THREE: Application Evaluation

Proposals are evaluated competitively based on the eligibility requirements and funding priorities outlined in the current grant guidelines. An applicant's prior Florida Humanities funding history, if applicable, is also considered during the evaluation process.

All proposals are reviewed by a rotating team of humanities subject area experts, Florida Humanities staff, and Florida Humanities board members. Each evaluator assigns a scaled score to each narrative response, the project budget, and the supporting materials included in each application. Evaluators are also required to provide substantive narrative comments for each proposal. Individual scoring is followed by a virtual meeting to allow each evaluator to share their comments with the entire evaluation team before individually assigning a final score to each application. The final scores of the evaluators are averaged and ranked to determine which proposals will receive funding based on the total amount of funds available to award. Evaluators may choose to fund projects in full or in part as well as request some applicants to submit additional information to Florida Humanities before a final funding decision is made.

All funding decisions are final and will be emailed to the project director by the date noted in the grant guidelines along with detailed grant management and reporting instructions.

Evaluator feedback for both approved and denied applicants will be provided upon request.

Need Help?

Florida Humanities provides several resources for assisting applicants with submission of a Letter of Interest or a final application.

- Contact our grants team at **grants@flahum.org** well in advance of a LOI or grant deadline with any general questions regarding organizational or programmatic eligibility or for technical assistance with our online application portal.
- Subscribe to our e-news and watch our website for more information about resources designed to assist organizations with applying for a Florida Humanities grant.

Florida HUMANITIES