

Maryland Humanities SHINE Grants

General Operating Support Grants Guidelines

On **August 18, 2022**, Maryland Humanities will begin accepting grant applications for its **Strengthening Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity (SHINE)** Grant fund. This program will provide **50 General Operating Support grants of \$10,000 each**, to nonprofit organizations that provide humanities programming throughout the state of Maryland.

General Information

- No matching funds are required to receive these funds.
- Organizations may use the funds to cover any form of general operating expense. This includes, but is not limited to, expenses such as salaries and professional development, rent, utilities, supplies, programs, and equipment.

Timeline

No later than two weeks prior to the formal opening of the grant application, a preview of the application and evaluation criteria will be made available on our website.

Application Opens: August 18, 2022

Application Closes: September 15, 2022, 11:59pm EST

Applicants will be notified of the status of their application on or before **November 1, 2022**.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a Maryland Humanities SHINE grant, an organization must:

- offer humanities-based programming as a significant part of its work. Eligible non-profits include museums, historic sites, preservation and historical societies, and community & cultural organizations with a significant **humanities** focus.
- be designated as a nonprofit organization and maintain good standing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- be physically located in Maryland and have Maryland residents as its primary constituents
- have a maximum total annual operating budget of \$500,000 or less.

The following organizations are *not* eligible to apply for funding:

- Organizations with a general operating budget that exceeds \$500,000
- Organizations whose mission or focus is the creation or performance of art
- Any government entity, including federal, state, or local agencies
- All academic institutions, including universities, colleges, community colleges, academic departments, or K-12 schools
- Public libraries

Funding Priorities

- Organizations that center diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion (DEAI) principles within their mission and throughout their programming

Definition of these Terms From [The American Alliance of Museums](#)

Diversity is all the ways that people are different and the same at the individual and group levels. Even when people appear the same, they are different. Organizational diversity requires examining and questioning the makeup of a group to ensure that multiple perspectives are represented.

Inclusion refers to the intentional, ongoing effort to ensure that diverse individuals fully participate in all aspects of organizational work, including decision-making processes. It also refers to the ways that diverse participants are valued as respected members of an organization and/or community.

Equity is the fair and just treatment of all members of a community. Equity requires commitment to strategic priorities, resources, respect, and civility, as well as ongoing action and assessment of progress toward achieving specified goals.

Accessibility is giving equitable access to everyone along the continuum of human ability and experience. Accessibility encompasses the broader meanings of compliance and refers to how organizations make space for the characteristics that each person brings.

- Organizations that serve geographic areas that have historically been underserved by Maryland Humanities
- Organizations that serve audiences that have been traditionally underserved by the humanities, which include but are not limited to: Veterans, Rural Populations, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), Low-income Individuals, Currently and Formerly Incarcerated Persons, LGBTQ+ Individuals, Currently or Formerly Unhoused People, and/or Disabled People

Documentation Needed to Apply

- **Nonprofit Employer Identification Number (EIN)**

At the time of submission, all organizations must provide their nonprofit Employer Identification Number, or EIN. This number is utilized to evaluate that the applying organization is in good standing and maintains its nonprofit status.

- **Maryland Humanities Projected Operating Budget Form**

All organizations must provide a copy of their most recent annual operating budget. If your organization does not have a standardized operating budget, you can utilize the Maryland Humanities budget template (available in the application). This form can also be found within our grants interface portal.

How To Apply

All applications for this grant will be completed through our grant interface. You can access the grant interface at this [link](#). **Applications will open on August 18 and close on September 15, 2022, at 11:59pm.**

Have Questions?

Please contact Camilla Sandoval, Program Coordinator, Grants & Community Engagement, at csandoval@mdhumanities.org.