



Humanities and the Legacy of Race and Ethnicity in the United States

Application Opens: October 24, 2016
Application Deadline: November 21, 2016
Notification Date: December 5, 2016
Grant Period: January 1 – August 31, 2017

Background

Maryland Humanities is a nonprofit organization that creates and supports educational experiences in the humanities that inspire all Marylanders to embrace lifelong learning, exchange ideas openly, and enrich their communities.

After the death of Freddie Gray in police custody and the peaceful protests and the violence that followed in Baltimore in April 2015, Maryland Humanities conducted an environmental scan of local organizations regarding the role of the humanities in their response to and understanding of these events. These conversations revealed a lack of humanities-based programming contextualizing and responding to the events of April 2015 and their deep roots. In response, Maryland Humanities created the Humanities Fund for Baltimore grant program, supported in part with a National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman's grant, to respond to, interpret, and shed light on the events of April 2015. We provided grants to ten nonprofit organizations that were developing innovative and unique public humanities programs across the city.

The Humanities Fund for Baltimore provided new opportunities for expression, collaboration, and exchange among youth and adult populations. Funded project activities included storytelling, oral histories, documentary film-making, poetry writing, spoken-word performances, panel discussions, exhibitions, book production, and guided conversations. All projects served to demonstrate how vital the humanities can be to understanding our lives and to bringing us together to begin to grapple with and, ultimately, sow the seeds for creative solutions for systemic social problems.

The successes and challenges faced by Humanities Fund for Baltimore projects illustrate a significant need to create safe spaces for people's voices, ideas, and feelings to be expressed, heard, and respected, particularly around the impacts of structural racism and the resulting inequities in housing, education, and economic opportunities. There is also the need for sustained investment from educational organizations like Maryland Humanities that reach beyond Baltimore's city limits.

With our new grant initiative, Humanities and the Legacy of Race and Ethnicity in the United States, we will engage people of a variety of ages and ethnicities in critical conversations about the racial issues that divide our communities. Funded projects will build on vital work already being conducted throughout the state and inspire new work using the humanities. As with the Humanities Fund for Baltimore, we hope to reach untapped audiences and voices, but this time with an impact that reaches across the state.

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Maryland Humanities is accepting applications for up to \$3,000 to support public programming that promotes community discussion and deep dialogue that focuses on race relations. This grant program seeks to:

1. Support non-profit organizations to create public programs that use the humanities (especially history, literature, the law, ethics, and philosophy) to bring people together to publicly discuss racial issues that divide communities.
2. Support humanities programs that educate all ages about the history of structural racism throughout the state and the historic policies that frame the current conditions.
3. Support humanities programs that provide an examination of the relationships between communities and law enforcement authorities and an opportunity for community members to share their experience with law enforcement and representatives from the criminal justice system.

Desired outcomes:

- 1) Measurable and concrete results: Maryland Humanities will work closely with grantees to help identify the results they are planning for and help craft a plan to measure them.
- 2) Continuity across programs: We plan to gather the grantees to learn and hear from one another in an effort to build programs that will connect to produce lasting impact.
- 3) Grantees use the humanities to build on existing work or do new work.

Eligibility

Nonprofit organizations, community associations, and faith-based organizations are eligible to apply for funding.

You are eligible to apply for a grant if:

- The sponsoring applicant is a non-profit organization; individuals are not eligible to apply for grants;
- Your organization serves Maryland residents;
- The humanities are a central component of your project.

All projects must:

- Be rooted in one or more disciplines of the humanities (e.g. history, literature, the law, ethics, and philosophy);
- Engage communities impacted by structural racism statewide;
- Integrate the work and participation of humanities scholars or experts;
- Be free and open to the public;
- Occur between January 1 and August 31, 2017.

Guidelines

Funded programs will ideally gather residents of Maryland to connect with one another across lines of race, socio-economic background, and/or geographical boundaries for deep dialogue and reflection on the role and legacy of race and ethnicity in our contemporary lives. Programs will use the humanities as a lens through which to view the topics of race and class and encourage difficult discussions around inequity in housing, education, economic opportunities, and other subjects.

Projects may include lectures and panel discussions, reading and discussion groups, interpretive exhibits, media projects, oral history projects, local and living histories, and other formats that engage residents of Maryland in the humanities. The grant fund will not support book publishing, scholarly research projects, activities in the visual or performing arts, general operating expenses, the purchase of alcohol, direct social action or political advocacy, and fundraising or profit-making activities.

How to Apply

- Interested parties are required to contact Maryland Humanities to discuss the proposed project before submitting an application.
- [Click here](#) to fill out the online application form.

If you need assistance, please contact:

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