Dialogues on the Experience of War Grant Program
NEH Division of Education Programs Webinar for GRC Members
August 22, 2017
What are the Humanities?

- History
- Classics
- Literature
- Philosophy
- Art History
Dialogues on the Experience of War: A Standing Together Program

Deadline: November 2, 2017
Up to $100,000
Duration: 12-36 months
An institution can apply for up to three grants
Division of Education

Grants strengthen teaching and learning through new or revised curricula and courses, collaborative study, seminars, and institutes.
Dialogues on the Experience of War: Humanities Discussion Programs

Humanities-based discussion programs on the experience of war

- Preparatory program for NEH Discussion Leaders
- Following the preparatory program, convening of at least two discussion programs conducted by NEH Discussion Leaders

"War" by Sakari Suzuki, Library of Congress
Eligible Organizations

- Colleges and universities
- Veterans’ centers
- Libraries
- Museums
- Cultural centers
- Other community venues
What are some possible Dialogues projects?

• A college English department and a campus veterans center jointly design and prepare student veterans to lead public discussion groups for veterans in the community.

• A museum or a theater company prepares local veterans and affiliated scholars to co-lead a discussion series with local veterans in conjunction with exhibition visits or theatrical performances and readings of classical and modern literature and memoir.

• A state humanities council works with a local VA hospital to host a reading and film discussion series for veterans and hospital staff.

Dialogues Program Resources Page:
https://www.neh.gov/grants/education/dialogues-the-experience-war
Discussion Group Participants

- Primary audience: U.S. military veterans
- Others can be included as appropriate to the project: men and women in active service, military families, and interested members of the public.
Discussion Programs: Historical Scope

- Projects must consider at least two historically distinct conflicts
- One must come from the earliest wars through World War I
- The second must come from the wars after the First World War
Discussion Programs: Humanities Sources

• Discussions must be focused on humanities sources in history, literature, philosophy, the visual arts, and film
• These sources should also include writings and other testimonials by those who have served
• They should come from at least two distinct genres (such as fiction and historical writings, or memoirs and artworks, or philosophy and film)
• See Potential Resources for examples of possible humanities sources
What are Possible Humanities Genres?

• Literature: novels, short stories, poetry, drama, memoir
• Historical writings: essays, speeches, historical documents
• Visual Arts: painting, photography, sculpture, ceramics
• Film: fictional features, documentaries
• Philosophical writings
• Performing arts: theater productions, dance, music
NEH Discussion Leaders Preparatory Program

- Close study of humanities sources
- Modeling and practice in the art of leading discussions of humanities sources
- Developing awareness of backgrounds and perspectives of veterans
- Development of a network of discussion leaders
Preparatory Program Staff

• Humanities scholars and professionals
• Staff members at the host institution
• Military veterans and/or active duty service men and women
• Professionals who specialize in working with veterans
Preparatory Program: NEH Discussion Leaders

• Trained to lead humanities-based discussion groups
• Recruited by the grantee organizations
• After the training, will lead discussion groups
Resources

**NEH Web site**

**Guidelines**

**Program Officers**

**Other NEH Programs Supporting Veterans**

**State Humanities Councils**

**Standing Together Related Projects in Education**
Stages of Review

1. Peer Review Panel
2. NEH Staff
3. National Council
4. Chairman
Grant Writing Tips

Prepare

• Read the guidelines
• Consult resources
• Talk to program officers
Make your case

• Start with the criteria
• Show the project’s intellectual significance
• Make work plan explicit, and show it’s doable
• Demonstrate likely impact
V. Application Review

Evaluators are asked to apply the following criteria when judging the quality of applications:

1. Intellectual quality

   - Does the proposed discussion program effectively address significant themes and draw on intellectually rich humanities sources relating to war and military service?
   - Does the program cover at least two wars from the designated time periods?
   - Does the program include humanities sources from at least two distinct genres?
   - Are multiple viewpoints and intellectual balance evident in the themes, questions, and sources to be considered?
   - Are the proposed preparatory activities for NEH Discussion Leaders grounded in themes and sources that are convincingly related to the discussion programs themselves?
   - Is the proposal clear, free of academic jargon, and accessible to nonspecialists?

2. Feasibility

   - Does the proposal provide a well-defined structure and syllabus for the preparatory program for NEH Discussion Leaders?
   - Are the key personnel in charge of the preparatory program qualified by background and relevant experience?
   - Does the proposed preparatory program include useful activities and resources for modeling and practicing discussions of humanities sources?
   - Is the preparatory program likely to increase the NEH Discussion Leaders’ knowledge of the diverse backgrounds and experiences of veterans and other members of the military?
   - Is the recruitment and selection process for the NEH Discussion Leaders well designed?
Think About Your Audience

- Accessible and clear
- Avoid jargon
- Address the criteria
- Show reviewers you know what you’re doing
• Gather supporting materials
• Send in Preliminary Sketch by Sep12 and get comments
• Proofread!
• Ask for comments and reapply
Questions?

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