Transforming Curriculum with NEH Humanities Connections
August 22, 2018 - AASCU GRC
What is the NEH?
A federal agency, funded by your tax dollars
Makes awards in all areas of the humanities

Strengthen teaching and learning
Facilitate research and original scholarship
Provide opportunities for lifelong learning
Preserve and provide access to cultural and educational resources
Strengthen humanities institutions
Nurture new ways to do and disseminate scholarship
Support state and local humanities engagement
What are the Humanities?

- History
- Classics
- Art History
- Philosophy
- Literature
- Literature
Including (but not limited to)

History
Literature and language
History and theory of the arts
Philosophy and ethics
Archaeology
Comparative religion
Jurisprudence
Social sciences employing humanistic methods
The Humanities Today

New methods
New modes of communication and presentation
Diverse audiences
Integration of digital technology
Interdisciplinary areas of study
Division of Education Programs

Mission:
To strengthen humanities education through support of substantive teaching at all levels of the curriculum (higher ed + K-12)

Grants:
Institutional development
Professional development
How Program Officers Help You

Answer questions about grant programs
Offer advice on preparing applications
Provide feedback on draft proposals (for many grant programs – including this one!)

—Maria Biernik/NEH
THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP FOR SUCCESS

Contact a program officer!

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By the numbers...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Funded</th>
<th>Not Funded</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30% of applicants submitting drafts were funded vs. 7% of those who did not</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27% of applicants who contacted NEH staff were funded vs. 6% of those who did not</td>
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<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20% of 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;-time applicants* submitting drafts were funded vs. 5% of those who did not</td>
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*no previous applications to Humanities Connections data from Spring 2018 Humanities Connections awards*
Humanities Connections Grants

Deadline - October
Drafts 1 month prior

Planning - up to $35,000
  project duration 12 months

Implementation - up to $100,000
  project duration 18 to 36 months
Humanities Connections Grants

Expand the role of the humanities in undergraduate education (2- and 4-year institutions)

Support curricular innovation to encourage + develop new integrative learning opportunities for students

Foster partnerships - humanities + non-humanities
- social & natural sciences
- pre-service/professional programs — business, engineering, health sciences, law, computer science, other tech-driven fields
4 Core Features

1) Integration of subject matter, perspectives, & goals of 2 or more disciplines (minimum 1 in + 1 outside the humanities)

2) Collaboration between faculty from 2 or more separate departments or schools

3) Experiential learning as an intrinsic part of the curricular plan

4) Long-term institutional support for the proposed curriculum innovation(s)
What kinds of projects have we seen?

Ethics and the professions
Medical humanities
Environmental humanities
Science, technology, and society
Business/entrepreneurship + humanities
Art history + materials science
Veterans’ studies
Digital humanities

...and more
Growing the Heart of Texas: Exploring the Role of Mexican Americans in Food Production and Rural Communities
Texas A&M University (College Station, TX)

Develop a four-course interdisciplinary minor in Hispanic Agriculture Studies - focus on the land, food, peoples, and narratives of Hispanic Texas

Integrate humanities (Spanish, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis) with agricultural sciences (soil, crops, animal husbandry, horticulture, nutrition)

Highlight Mexican American contributions to state’s demographic vitality and economic viability

Develop students’ linguistic and cultural skills through experiential learning activities
The Life, Works, and Legacy of Paul Laurence Dunbar: Interdisciplinary Curriculum Development
University of Dayton (Dayton, OH)

Plan new curriculum using the life and work of Paul Laurence Dunbar (Dayton native + African American writer) to examine significant themes in American history and culture

Revise courses in computer science, sociology, history, and music

Develop new place-based experiential learning opportunities using Dayton’s rich collection of Dunbar material objects and artifacts
Teaching Business and Labor History to Art and Design Students
Fashion Institute of Technology (New York City, NY)

Develop interdisciplinary curriculum integrating business and labor history into professional art and design study

Collaboration: professional development for art-and-design faculty conducted by history professors; joint curricular development

Dissemination via two conferences + resource website
Sample Project - Implementation

Living with the Urban Ocean
University of Massachusetts - Boston (Boston, MA)

Develop three-course cluster focused on Boston Harbor and surrounding areas - to serve as core of new Environmental Humanities minor

Co-taught by faculty in humanities (English, Native American Studies, Gender/Leadership/Public Policy) and in environmental sciences

Incorporate humanistic methods of inquiry - literary analysis, archival research, storytelling, writing and reflection, interpretive exercises

Community partners - National Park Service; MA Dep’t of Conservation & Recreation

Dissemination - campus workshops for faculty/community; conference presentation at Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences
Implementation? or Planning?

Can you show...

- unambiguous evidence of preceding planning work
- defined rationale + clear intellectual & logistical objectives, supported by institutional commitment
- high level of detail re:
  - project structure and components
  - key topics + texts/resources for specific courses
  - roles and responsibilities of individual collaborative team members

Not yet?

Apply for a planning grant!
Resources

- NEH Website: [neh.gov](http://neh.gov)
- Guidelines
- Program Officers & Staff:
  [humanitiesconnections@neh.gov](mailto:humanitiesconnections@neh.gov)
www.neh.gov

Application information

Grant database

Match your project to a program
NEH Website: neh.gov

NEH Announces $18.6 Million for 199 Humanities Projects Nationwide
Guidelines
Search for a Grant
Guidelines

https://www.neh.gov/grants
Guidelines: Program Resource Page

NEH GRANTS

GUIDELINES RESOURCES

Humanities Connections Planning Grants

Division of Education Programs
Receipt Deadline October 17, 2019 for Projects Beginning May 2019

UPDATED GUIDELINES WILL BE POSTED AT LEAST TWO MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF THE DEADLINE LISTED ABOVE.

In the meantime, please use the guidelines for the previous deadline, to get a sense of what is involved in assembling an application.

Brief Summary
ALERT from SAM.gov: If you are renewing or registering a new entity in SAM.gov, you must mail an original, signed notarized letter stating that you are the authorized Entity Administrator for the entity associated with the DUNS number before your registration will be activated. Read the FAQs to learn more about this process. Change SAM.gov recommends that

Download Application Materials
- Humanities Connections Planning Grants Guidelines (PDF)
- Humanities Connections Grants.gov Application Package

Budget Resources
- Budget Instructions, July 2016 (PDF)
- Budget Form, July 2016 (MS Excel)
- Humanities Connections Planning Grants Sample Budget (PDF)
Budget Resources

- Budget Instructions, July 2018 (PDF)
- Budget Form, July 2018 MS Excel
- Humanities Connections Planning Grants Sample Budget (PDF)
Sample Application Narratives

- **Earlham College, An Integrated Pathway for Medical Humanities (PDF)**
- **Rochester Institute of Technology, Disciplinary Perspectives on Community, Memory, and Place (PDF)**
- **University of Wisconsin, Connecting Humanities and Business Perspectives on Risk and Reward (PDF)**
Grants.gov Resources

Register for Grants.gov:
Individuals

Register for Grants.gov:
Organizations

Grants.gov Applicant Tools and Tips

Download Adobe Reader
Tips for making PDFs

What to Expect after You Submit Your Application to Grants.gov
Resources

• Program Officers & Staff: humanitiesconnections@neh.gov
NEH’s Review Process

Peer Review Panel → NEH Staff → National Council → Chairman
Grant Writing Tips

- Start early
- Read the guidelines and evaluation criteria
- Review sample narratives
- Talk to a program officer
The Proposal

Think of all the parts of the proposal as a unified argument for funding you.

The job of the proposal is to make a case.

Be strategic
Be explicit
Be clear

Your project

Narrative

Appendices
Work Plan, Bibliography, CVs, Letters of Commitment

References

— Maria Biernik/NEH
Start with the review criteria
Show your project’s intellectual significance
Provide context
Develop a clear and realistic work plan
Demonstrate likely impact
Remember Your Audience

- Write for generalists \textit{and} specialists
- Be clear \& concise
- Avoid jargon
- Give concrete details
- Address the criteria
- Make information easy to find
Budget advice

Consult budget guidelines and samples

Know what is/isn’t allowed

Talk to a program officer

Talk to your sponsored research office!
Attend to Details

• Provide everything the guidelines ask for
• Submit preliminary draft for feedback from NEH staff (month before deadline) to humanitiesconnections@neh.gov
• Proofread!
• If unsuccessful this round—ask for comments from the review panel and reapply
Contact Us

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