



**Humanities Texas** advances heritage, culture, and education. As the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), we conduct and support public programs in history, literature, philosophy, and the other humanities disciplines. These programs strengthen Texas communities by cultivating the knowledge and judgment that representative democracy demands of its citizens.

## WHAT DOES HUMANITIES TEXAS DO?

- Conducts **teacher institutes and workshops** to support humanities instruction in Texas schools.
- Presents **awards** recognizing Texas teachers' outstanding contributions to humanities education.
- Develops and circulates humanities **curriculum resources** to teachers throughout the state and nation.
- Facilitates **Texas Storytime**, a literacy program for pre-K and kindergarten students and their families.
- Organizes **Veterans' Voices**, a reading and discussion program for veterans, military families, and civilians.
- Creates and circulates **traveling exhibitions** on historical, literary, and cultural topics.
- Administers a competitive **grants program** to support humanities projects and events.
- Produces **Texas Originals**, a radio series profiling individuals who have had a profound influence on Texas history and culture.
- Maintains a content-rich **website** with a broad array of humanities resources, including our monthly e-newsletter.

## TEACHER INSTITUTES AND WORKSHOPS

With support from NEH, the State of Texas, and private funders, Humanities Texas partners with the state's leading universities and cultural organizations to **conduct institutes and workshops** supporting Texas classroom teachers' intellectual and professional development. These programs—which are free of cost to teachers and their schools—offer teachers the opportunity to work closely with prominent humanities scholars exploring topics at the heart of the state's social studies and language arts curricula. Targeting early-career teachers in areas with low student achievement on state assessments, our programs emphasize content-intensive training. Faculty lead document-based workshops, training teachers in the use of these primary sources in the classroom. Attendees earn Continuing Professional Education credits toward the renewal of their professional certification and receive a wealth of instructional materials.

## OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARDS

Each year, Humanities Texas recognizes fifteen outstanding humanities teachers across the state. Recipients in all award categories receive a \$5,000 cash award with an additional \$500 for their respective schools to purchase humanities-based instructional materials.

- Twelve teachers are selected to receive the ***Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award***, which recognizes exemplary K-12 teachers of language arts, social studies, foreign languages, and other humanities subjects.
- One teacher is selected to receive the ***Linden Heck Howell Outstanding Teaching of Texas History Award***, which recognizes exemplary teachers of Texas history courses.
- Two teachers are selected to receive the ***Award for Outstanding Early-Career Teaching***. This award recognizes exemplary contributions of humanities teachers who have completed three or fewer years of teaching.
- One of the fifteen award winners is selected to receive the ***Julius Glickman Educational Leadership Award***, which recognizes exceptional leadership in the educational field.

## CURRICULUM RESOURCES

Humanities Texas supports excellence in humanities education by circulating **high-quality curriculum resources** to teachers throughout the state and nation. Recently developed resources include *A President's Vision*, which examines the aspirations of notable U.S. presidents and the programs and initiatives that advanced each man's vision, and our online Digital Repository, which includes historical documents, works of art, video recordings of public lectures, episodes of our *Texas Originals* radio program, and countless other resources. In 2020, we will publish online a suite of engaging curriculum materials supporting instruction in Latino American history.

## **TEXAS STORYTIME**

Since 2017, Humanities Texas has partnered with schools and libraries across the state for *Texas Storytime*, a literacy initiative that instills a love of reading in and builds strong reading habits among pre-K and kindergarten students and their families. *Texas Storytime* engages those not regularly attending library programs, cultivates a culture of reading, and achieves higher levels of involvement among parents, teachers, and community members. The program features age-appropriate books that advance an understanding and appreciation of Texas's diverse cultures. Presentations by local storytellers support the developing literacy skills of young children by modeling reading practices that can be replicated at home and increasing family members' confidence in and enthusiasm for reading.

## **VETERANS' VOICES**

*Veterans' Voices* is a reading and discussion program that brings veterans, military families, and members of the public together to read aloud from classical and contemporary literary texts about war, military service, and the return to civilian life. Experienced discussion leaders facilitate conversations, exploring how the texts relate to the participants' experiences and allowing for meaningful reflection on combat and civic responsibility. The program offers both veteran and civilian participants the opportunity to better understand their individual and shared experiences by engaging with the humanities in a collaborative setting.

## **EXHIBITIONS**

The Humanities Texas **exhibitions program** circulates more than sixty traveling exhibitions on a variety of topics, including Martin Luther King Jr., the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence, the Dust Bowl, and the art of El Greco. Humanities Texas exhibitions are designed to appeal to institutions of all sizes and budgets, from small community centers with volunteer support to museums with curatorial staff. The program offers multiple exhibition formats, high-quality content and supplementary materials, easy installation, and low rental fees.

## **GRANTS**

Working in partnership with NEH, Humanities Texas provides financial support to nonprofit organizations and institutions for humanities programs aimed at public audiences.

- **Mini-grants** fund up to \$1,500 of the costs associated with public programs. These small grants are particularly appropriate for funding a speaker and/or renting a traveling exhibition.
- **Community project grants** fund comprehensive public programs such as lectures, seminars, and conferences; book and film discussions; interpretive exhibitions and materials; town forums and civic discussions; and teacher workshops.
- **Media project grants** fund film, radio, or interactive programming related to the humanities.

## **TEXAS ORIGINALS**

Produced in partnership with Houston Public Media, *Texas Originals* is a radio series profiling individuals whose life and achievements have had a profound influence upon Texas history and culture. The program airs on stations throughout Texas and is available via iTunes and on the Humanities Texas website.

## **E-NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE**

Our monthly **e-newsletter** offers interesting articles and updates on our activities and events around the state and nation. Our **website** includes the materials necessary to apply for and administer grants, rent exhibitions, nominate outstanding teachers for awards, and participate in our teacher programs. The site is also a content-rich resource in its own right, with extensive curriculum resources for teachers, an archive of articles from our e-newsletter, a searchable calendar of humanities events around the state, and downloadable publications.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL GOVERNANCE**

Humanities Texas is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. A private nonprofit organization founded in 1973, Humanities Texas is supported by appropriations from the U.S. Congress and the State of Texas and gifts and grants from foundations, corporations, and individuals. A volunteer board governs the organization. The Governor of Texas appoints six board members, and the board fills the other vacant seats through a statewide, open nominations process.

## **JOIN US**

Support the public humanities in Texas by joining the Friends of Humanities Texas.



## HUMANITIES TEXAS GRANTS PROGRAM

Working in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Humanities Texas provides financial support to nonprofit organizations and institutions for humanities programs aimed at public audiences in Texas.

### What are the humanities?

According to the 1965 National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, the humanities include, but are not limited to, the study of the following: "languages, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life."

### Who is eligible?

Public and private nonprofit organizations and governmental entities are eligible for Humanities Texas funding. Examples of past grant recipients include:

- two- and four-year colleges and universities
- libraries
- arts and humanities councils and institutes
- independent media groups
- churches and religious groups
- state and local governmental entities
- museums
- historical societies
- public and community radio stations
- labor organizations
- civic and social service organizations
- chambers of commerce

### What kinds of projects does Humanities Texas fund?

Funded projects take many different forms—forums, lectures, panel discussions, and conferences; teacher institutes and workshops; reading- and film-discussion groups; exhibitions; television and radio programming; film production; and interactive multimedia programming.

However, all funded programs have the following characteristics in common:

- They are firmly grounded in the humanities, and humanities scholars play an active role in their conception, design, and execution.
- They are conducted in a spirit of open and informed inquiry.
- They involve partnerships between community organizations, educational and cultural institutions, and humanities scholars.
- Finally, they are directed primarily to the general public, both adults and young people, outside of the regular school or college classroom. Programs targeting special audiences such as K–12 teachers, ethnic and community groups, or professional groups are also welcome.

### What projects are not eligible for funding?

- Theatrical performances, art exhibitions, or other such artistic presentations, unless their primary purpose is to provide a focus for humanistic inquiry
- Courses for academic credit
- Capital improvements or operating expenses
- Preservation of objects or archival materials, unless directly related to a public program
- Publications and scholarly research, unless directly related to a public program
- Projects that advocate a single point of view, ideology, or specific program of social or political action
- Projects aimed primarily at audiences outside of Texas
- Scholarships and fellowships
- Fundraisers and profit-making projects

## **How are funding decisions made?**

The Humanities Texas Board of Directors reviews applications for **major grants**; the Executive Director and staff, with the authorization of the Board, review **mini-grants**. Projects are evaluated on the basis of Humanities Texas's organizational mission and grants guidelines. Of particular importance are the quality of each project's conception and design, the strength of its humanities component, its public impact, and the extent to which it will meet the particular intellectual, cultural, or professional needs and interests of its target audience(s).

## **Humanities Texas grant formats**

- **Mini-grants** fund up to \$1,500 of the costs associated with public programs. These small grants, which are easy to apply for and administer, are particularly appropriate for funding a speaker and/or the rental of a traveling exhibition, including exhibitions provided by Humanities Texas.
- **Major grants for community projects** fund comprehensive public programs such as lectures, seminars, and conferences; book and film discussions; exhibitions; reading programs; town forums and civic discussions; and teacher professional development workshops. Programs should reflect substantial participation by both humanities scholars and members of the target audience(s).
- **Major grants for media projects** fund film, radio, television, or interactive programming related to the humanities. Applicants may request funds for any phase of the project, including scripting, development, production, post-production, and in some cases, distribution and free public screenings. Humanities scholars should play an integral role in determining the content and approach of the project.

## **Cost-share requirement**

Grants cover no more than 50% of the total project cost. Sponsoring organizations can use cash and in-kind contributions to meet their cost-share requirement. **In-kind contributions** include donated services and goods, or the use of office space, equipment, telephones, and supplies. **Cash contributions** are the actual dollars or organizational resources assigned to a project.

## **How to apply**

- All organizations are encouraged to contact HTx prior to applying for a grant.
- Grant guidelines, application forms, and model applications are available online at [www.humanitiestexas.org](http://www.humanitiestexas.org). Contact the Humanities Texas staff for hard copies of all necessary materials.
- HTx staff will read and comment upon draft applications submitted at least a month in advance of the final submission deadline.

## **Application deadlines**

<b>Major grants</b>	<b>Fall cycle</b>	<b>Spring cycle</b>
Letter of intent/draft application	August 15	February 15
Application deadline	<b>September 15</b>	<b>March 15</b>
Decision date	December 1	June 1
Project start date	January 1	July 1

<b>Mini-grants</b>	
Application deadline	Rolling
Decision date	Within 10 business days of application's arrival in HTx office.
Project start date	At least six weeks after application's arrival in HTx office.

## **Common reasons for rejecting proposals**

- insufficient humanities content
- inadequate involvement of humanities scholars
- advocacy or unbalanced presentation of contemporary public issues
- inadequate publicity or promotion plans
- budget not justified or not reasonable
- application too vague, lacking specifics
- application incomplete
- proposed activities occur prior to the beginning of the grant period

## **Questions?**

Contact the Humanities Texas grants staff, at (512) 440-1991 or [grants@humanitiestexas.org](mailto:grants@humanitiestexas.org).