



GRANT GUIDELINES & APPLICATION FORM

Rain Poetry Grant Guidelines

Introduction

After successful projects in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Johnstown, and Reading, PA Humanities is offering Pennsylvania nonprofits and community groups the opportunity to apply for special funding to develop their own Rain Poetry project.

Selected organizations/groups will receive up to **\$5,000** in funding, access to the new **Rain Poetry Toolkit** to help them develop their project, and up to **five hours of coaching** from PA Humanities staff. Applicants must be based in Pennsylvania and work with youth ages 8 -18.

Rain Poetry

Launched in 2023 as part of PA Humanities' 50th anniversary, Rain Poetry is a public art and humanities initiative that brings youth poetry to life in community spaces. Inspired by Boston's *Raining Poetry*, PA Humanities adapted the idea for Philadelphia youth, drawing on decades of experience with programs like Youth-led Humanities, PA Heart & Soul, and Chester Made. Since its debut, Rain Poetry has yielded more than 30 workshops, engaged over 300 youth ages 8-18, and produced over 300 original poems.

The program has two goals:

- Engage youth ages 8 -18 in poetry and humanities activities that strengthen literacy, creativity, and social-emotional skills.
- Build community by cultivating pride and connection through the humanities and placemaking.

Through workshops led by poets/teaching artists, youth write original haiku poems on themes like growth, community, or neighborhood pride. Their words are transformed into water-activated art installed on sidewalks, and revealed at a Community Celebration where families and neighbors gather to honor their voices.

Interested in learning more about the origins of Rain Poetry and projects in cities across PA? Visit the Rain Poetry webpage [here](#).

Overview of the Grant Opportunity

The Rain Poetry grant supports nonprofits and community groups in developing their own projects, *which must follow the original Rain Poetry framework as outlined in the Toolkit*. Elements that must be present include:

- 1-2 youth poetry workshops led by a teaching artist/poet
- Selection and installation of poems in a public space
- A Community Reveal Celebration to share the work with the broader community

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to read our Rain Poetry Toolkit for a thorough overview of the project and its elements. You can access the toolkit [here](#).

Grantees will receive:

- Up to \$5,000 in funding (to be matched with in-kind or cash support)
- The Rain Poetry Toolkit, branding materials, and sample lesson plan
- Up to 5 hours of coaching with program staff on poetry workshop development, installation, and celebration planning

Grantees are expected to complete a post-grant evaluation and document their projects with photos or video as well as keep PA Humanities informed about project progress and events, especially the Community Reveal.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to nonprofits and community groups in Pennsylvania that work with youth ages 8 -18. Applicants should demonstrate experience or capacity in humanities, placemaking, or creative youth programming. If you have questions about eligibility, please contact program staff at programs@pahumanities.org.

How to Apply

Applications open **October 15, 2025**, and will be accepted until **Thursday, December 4**. If awarded, Rain Poetry projects **must be completed** by December 31, 2026.

Steps to Apply:

1. Review the Rain Poetry Toolkit to understand the elements of the program.
2. Review the guidelines to confirm eligibility and view requirements.
3. Visit our website www.pahumanities.org and click the link for “Grant Portal” in the upper right hand corner or copy and paste this direct link: <https://programs.pahumanities.org/s/> into your browser.
4. Register your organization in the PA Humanities grant portal (allow 2–3 days for processing) if you are new, or if you are a returning user, sign in.
5. Once you are registered/signed in, choose “Rain Poetry” from the program list and click the link to begin your application.

To learn more about the project, our toolkit and the application process, join us for the Rain Poetry Informational Webinar on Thursday, November 6 at 12:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Click [here](#) to sign up.

Application Form

Below are the questions you will find in the online application form. Note: Applicants can complete the narrative portion of the application in written or video form.

I. Applicant & Organization Information

Application Contact:

Applying/Lead Organization:

Applying/Lead Organization Address:

Website:

Tax ID:

UEI:

Organization's Mission:

Organization/Financial Profile

Fiscal Sponsor Organization (if applicable)

Fiscal Sponsor Name:

Fiscal Sponsor Email:

Fiscal Year End Date:

Prior Fiscal Year Operating Budget:

Is there anything else you'd like us to know about your finances?

Narrative Questions

**Note: Applicants can submit written narrative responses or opt to submit a 15 minute video answering all of the questions below.*

1. Project Description (250 words)

Please describe your project and how you plan to incorporate the elements of Rain Poetry. Be sure to include: your intended audience, project leadership, community partners, and planned locations for workshops or events.

2. Intended Impact (250 words)

Explain why you want to bring Rain Poetry to your community. What impact do you hope to have on participants and on the community as a whole?

3. Programming & Experience (250 words)

Describe your organization's work and programming. Share any relevant experience you and your partners have with projects similar to Rain Poetry.

4. Optional (100 words)

Is there anything else you want us to know?

Support Materials

Applicants can upload any of the following materials to support their application:

- Letter of support from fiscal sponsor (if applicable, required)
- Letter of support from community partners
- Program samples (pictures/videos, descriptions, flyers, posters)

Review and Selection

A small review committee made up of staff, board and past program hosts will review applications. Reviewers are looking for projects that demonstrate strong community engagement, clear alignment with the goals of Rain Poetry, and demonstrated capacity to successfully carry out the proposed activities. Funding decisions will be made based on the overall strength of responses to these questions, as well as the potential for meaningful impact in the community. Because PA Humanities is a statewide organization, we also consider geographic representation when reviewing grant applications.

Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by the end of December 2025.

Questions

Program staff is here for questions and guidance. Don't hesitate to reach out to us at programs@pahumanities.org.

About PA Humanities

PA Humanities is an independent nonprofit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and part of a network of 56 state humanities councils nationwide. Our mission is to champion the humanities as a means to spark civic engagement, build community, educate, and inspire. Learn more at www.pahumanities.org.