



PA HUMANITIES DISCOVERY PROJECT

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the PA Humanities Discovery Project?

The PA Humanities Discover Project is a research effort conducted jointly by PA Humanities and Drexel University's Westphal College of Media, Arts, and Design. We seek to map, network, and celebrate the wonderfully rich humanities landscape across the state. Our goals are to:

- Understand who across the state is building community using the humanities (even if they wouldn't necessarily call it that);
- Understand how cultural and humanities practices are used by people in their professional or volunteer work;
- Build a learning community to share best practices and stories of impact to influence advocacy and fundraising.

Who should participate in the survey?

This project seeks to provide a comprehensive and inclusive view of the cultural and humanities landscape in Pennsylvania. We invite individuals who do this work to participate in our survey. This includes but is not limited to artists, historians, designers, storytellers, educators, healers, community organizers and entrepreneurs - those who seek to provide pathways for communities to learn, discuss and think critically about their lives, their histories and the world around them.

What do you mean by “humanities”?

The humanities include both the academic disciplines typically used in traditional definitions *and* the broader ways people come to understand and connect through the sharing of human experiences. Storytelling, historical perspectives, personal interpretation, creativity, and deliberative conversations are the tools that the humanities provide everyday people. Equipped with these resources, communities can document their own culture, build on their assets, and move forward in shaping their homes. The results are transformative insights into ourselves and our world, inspiring us to work together for a more equitable society.

Why should I participate in the survey?

In short, to give voice to the work you do so that we can advocate collectively for new and continued resources. We seek to demonstrate the humanities' value to funders - many of which

have moved away from funding arts and culture. By participating, you'll have the opportunity to highlight your work to a statewide and national audience. Finally, by participating you'll receive special invitations to participant-only networking/learning opportunities and project-related public forums with peers who believe this work is vital to our communities' health and vitality.

What kinds of questions will I be asked?

The survey covers three main areas: your work, your partners and your community. We are interested in understanding what you do, how you describe it and why it matters as well as how it impacts the individuals who participate. In an effort to understand how your identity may influence the ways in which you work, you will also be asked a series of demographic questions.

How will this data be used?

Survey responses will be included in a report which will be shared statewide and nationally with all others interested in culture and the humanities. Please note, unless otherwise indicated by you, your individual responses will be kept *STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL*. Participants will be able to access copies of this final report as well.

How long will the survey take me?

The survey should take you about 20 minutes to complete.

Can I see the questions ahead of time?

Yes, we've posted a full list of the survey questions in PDF form on the [PA Humanities Discovery Project landing page](#).

Will my answers be shared publicly?

Your answers will be kept strictly confidential and will only be used in the analysis of the survey. You will be asked to opt-in to take the survey, which means that your answers will go into our final report. This report, which excludes any identifying information, will be available publicly online and will be shared with all participating individuals.

Can I save my answers and come back to them later?

Yes, you can save your answers. However, we strongly recommend taking a look at the questions before taking the survey.

Do I need to take the survey more than once if I received it from multiple sources?

No, there is no need to complete the survey more than once.

Who is funding this project?

Funding comes from the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Who can I reach out to if I have more questions?

For general questions about the survey content, please contact Nick Crosson (ncrosson@pahumanities.org) at PA Humanities. For technical questions about accessing and navigating the survey, contact Andrew Zitcer (awz25@drexel.edu) at Drexel University's Westphal College of Media Arts & Design.

