wingspan

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

humanities

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is Wingspan? What is the grant program's intended purpose?

Wingspan is a new grant program developed by PA Humanities with support from Spring Point Partners. Designed to support **BIPOC-led and serving or rural organizations** doing community-based humanities work, the program draws its inspiration from the diverse organizations that make Pennsylvania thrive. Its mission is to help Pennsylvania's humanities organizations soar and expand their possibilities by providing new resources, amplifying their voices, and cultivating additional space for creativity and connection. The development of Wingspan was informed by adrienne maree brown's [Emergent Strategy](#) – and our own emergent learning process. We will apply these practices with leaders across the state so they can extend their reach - spread their wings! - and work collectively to bring more equity to the humanities.

2. Who is eligible to apply?

The fund is specifically for BIPOC-led and serving organizations or rural organizations doing equitable and community-based humanities work. Organizations must have an operating budget of $1.5 million or under and be based in Pennsylvania. The grant provides flexible support to eligible humanities and cultural organizations that are interested in reimagining, reinventing and re-envisioning their role in equitable humanities work that explores, documents and celebrates the human experience.

3. How much can an organization apply for? What can the funding be used for?

The fund provides grants of $100,000 over two years released in installments of $50,000 per year (2023 and 2024). Funds are designed to be flexible and can be used for programming, operating expenses, marketing and communications, staff development and capacity-building. In addition to receiving funding, grantees will join PA Humanities' special Wingspan Learning Community to build connections and capacity.

4. Are there any restrictions on how funds can be used?

Funding is designed to be flexible. However, they CAN NOT be used for:
- Projects or activities that are strictly performance in nature. Arts organizations are encouraged to apply if they fit the criteria, but they must have a humanities component to their work.
- Capital campaigns
- Strictly bricks and mortar projects
- Purchase of alcohol

If you are interested in discussing how you would use the grant funding before you submit your application, contact Jen Danifo at jdanifo@pahumanities.org.

5. What does 'BIPOC' mean?

BIPOC stands for 'Black, Indigenous and People of Color.' We recognize that language used to describe race and ethnicity is imperfect and can work counter to the multi-faceted identities

individuals hold. Our definition of "BIPOC" is meant to be as inclusive as possible; it includes but is not limited to the following racial and ethnic identities: Asian, South Asian, or Asian American; Black, African, or a part of Africa's Global Diaspora; Latino/a, Latine/x, Hispanic or Afro-Latino/a; Multi-racial, multi-ethnic, bi-racial; Native American, American Indian, or Indigenous; Pacific Islander, Samoan, or Hawaiian Native; and Persian, Arab, Middle Eastern, or North African.

6. **What do you mean by 'BIPOC-led and serving organizations'?**

BIPOC-led and serving organizations have a mission and programming that is explicitly centered on a community or communities of color, and where the board, staff and collaborators include a significant representation of that community. A BIPOC-led or serving organization is defined by the following characteristics:
- Organization was found by and for BIPOC communities
- Primary mission, intentions, and practices are by, for, and about the stories, heritages, histories, cultures and experiences of BIPOC communities.
- Organization is led by a person of color, and staff is reflective of the community served
- Strong representation of BIPOC individuals serve on the board
- Serves primarily BIPOC residents, at least 51% of overall total audience/engagement.
- Organization is located in a community that is primarily BIPOC

7. **Can you explain a little more about what is considered to be a "rural" organization?**

The organization or group itself must primarily operate in an area that meets the rural definition as outlined by the Center for Rural PA. Visit the Center's website to determine your status. The organization must also serve primarily rural residents: 51% or more of overall audience or engagement.

8. **The guidelines state that you are interested in funding both BIPOC-led and serving organizations or rural organizations that do equitable humanities work. What does this mean?**

More than just providing the same resources and programs for all community members, equity - unlike equality - is focused on understanding the needs and interests of our diverse communities, audiences or beneficiaries and working to provide humanities work, projects or programs that reflect their unique experiences and support their growth.

9. **What are the "humanities"?**

PA Humanities defines the humanities as more than just subjects of study in an academic setting. To us, the humanities cultivate understanding and connection through the sharing of human experiences. They are a practice for *anyone, anywhere* interested in reflecting on, celebrating and building knowledge about the human experience. Storytelling, historical perspectives, personal interpretation, critical thinking and deliberative conversations are the tools and methods we recognize and use to practice the humanities (in any subject). Equipped with these resources, individuals can document their own culture by better understanding their

past and present and shape their future. The practice of the humanities results in transformative insights, heightened empathy and a deeper knowledge of ourselves and our world.

10. I am an arts organization/library/academic institution/governmental entity, am I eligible?

First and foremost, this opportunity is open to organizations and groups that are doing equitable and inclusive humanities work in collaboration with and reflective of the community or audience being served. You must demonstrate that you are practicing and using the humanities in your work in order to be the right fit for this grant. It is important to note that we **do not fund** artistic performances, humanitarian work, arts and crafts, wellness, education, and social services *that do not integrate the practices of the humanities.*

11. My group is not a 501(c)(3). Can I use a fiscal sponsor to apply for this grant?

Yes, this grant opportunity is open to groups or organizations working collaboratively with fiscal sponsors. Fiscal sponsors must play an active role with the funded group and not just act as a pass-through entity.

12. I don't see instructions on requesting a grant amount. Is that right?

This is a special grant opportunity that provides $100,000 (in two $50,000 installments over two years) to selected organizations and groups. The application does not require that you request a specific funding amount. However, we do ask that in the application the organization or group outlines how they would use the funds in as much detail as possible. **Selected organizations will be required to submit a proposed budget for each installment before funding is released.**

13. Is a match required for this grant?

No match is required for this opportunity. However, organizations that can match are encouraged to do so.

14. I have never received a grant from PA Humanities before. Can I apply?

Yes, we welcome new grantees. Just please be sure to check the grants' eligibility and requirements to determine alignment between this opportunity and your work.

15. What is the deadline for this grant? When will I hear if I received the award?

The application deadline for our Wingspan grants is September 29, 2023. Organizations will be notified of funding decisions by October 31, 2023.

16. If I am awarded a Wingspan grant, when can my organization expect our first installment of funds?

Once all grant paperwork is signed and received by PA Humanities, disbursement of funds typically takes about 2-3 weeks. It is recommended that, if possible, organizations enable electronic funds transfer to expedite this process. PA Humanities will ask for banking information during the grant contracting process to ensure funds are distributed in a timely manner. We expect the first disbursement of funding to be released in November 2023.

17. Is there a particular start date for using funds? When must funds be used by?

Start date of funding is the date of the grant contract. Please also note that funds cannot be applied to any activities that happen before the contract start date. Funds must be expended by December 31, 2025.

18. How do I access the grant application?

Organizations must use PA Humanities' grant application portal to apply for this opportunity which can be accessed through our website. Before completing the application, you will have to complete a 2-step registration process. This process can take up to 2-3 business days and must be completed before you can get into the system to complete your application. We recommend completing registration as soon as possible.

19. Can I save my application and come back to it?

Yes, the grant application portal allows applicants to save and return to applications in process.

20. I see that my organization or group can answer narrative questions using video. Can you explain that process?

New for this grant program, PA Humanities invites organizations or groups to submit video responses to the narrative application questions. The video should be no longer than 15 minutes total with good audio and video quality. We are not requesting this be done in any specific application or format just that applicants provide a link to the video in the online application portal. For questions or troubleshooting, please contact Jen Danifo at jdanifo@pahumanities.org.

21. Are there reporting requirements?

Yes, grantees will be asked to complete Learning Reports during the course of the project period. PA Humanities will provide instructions and materials in the contracting packet.

22. I am an organization doing community-based humanities work, but do not meet the criteria for BIPOC-led and serving nor am I a rural organization. Does that mean I am not eligible?

Unfortunately, you are not eligible. PA Humanities is developing additional grant and programmatic opportunities for our 50th anniversary, which will run through 2024. Visit our website to join our mailing list to get up-to-date information on these opportunities.

23. What is the Wingspan Learning Community?

The Wingspan Learning Community is the only peer learning community of its kind in the state. Based on the principles and elements of Emergent Strategy, this community is designed to support grantees by offering peer-to-peer learning, coaching and a community with which to grow and learn. Organizations that receive funding become a part of the learning community, which will meet regularly during the course of the grant.

24. What is expected of staff that participates in the Wingspan Learning Community?

Each grantee must identify an individual to take part in the Learning Community. Participation by grantees is mandatory. The community will meet virtually approximately six (6) times, starting fall/winter 2023. A full schedule of meetings will be developed in collaboration with grantees to ensure robust participation. Each meeting will focus on a topic identified in collaboration with grantees. The community will feature peer-to-peer learning opportunities as well as special guests and speakers. The larger community will be broken down into smaller peer groups to offer focused-in connections, coaching and support.

25. Who do I contact if I have questions?
PA Humanities staff are happy to provide guidance during the application process. Please direct questions about the goals of the grant program, eligibility and funding to Jen Danifo at jdanifo@pahumanities.org. Questions about accessing the grant portal and registering your organization in the system should be directed to programs@pahumanities.org.