

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RESEARCH PROJECT: EXPLORING INDIANA'S URBAN, SUBURBAN AND RURAL CONNECTIONS AND DIVISIONS

RFP announced: Feb. 19, 2018

RFP deadline: March 9, 2018 (5 p.m.)

Selection made: March 20, 2018

Research conducted: April 1 – June 1, 2018

Mid-term evaluation due to funder: May 20, 2018

Full research analyzed: June 30, 2018

OVERVIEW

Indiana Humanities will implement a two-year thematic initiative in 2019 and 2020 with a variety of programs and grants that engage Hoosiers with the humanities. Though we're still in the process of framing the theme, we know it will explore urban-suburban-rural dynamics (e.g., differences, divides, tensions, misperceptions, similarities). Really, what we want to look at is the relationship between Hoosiers across geographic lines, considering how the futures of urban, rural and suburban Hoosiers are linked, as well as uncover the current state of relations and the longer history of how Hoosiers and Americans have thought about this relationship.

Before we build programs around the theme, though, we'd like to better understand those dynamics and invest in research that explores how our geographic boundaries affect us. In Indiana, due a variety of historical and present-day factors, other kinds of difference—racial, religious, political, economic, social/cultural—can almost always be mapped alongside urban-rural lines.

RESEARCH QUESTION

We seek ways to make our work relevant, impactful, meaningful, and when appropriate, fun. Thanks to a funder, we have a unique opportunity to perform significant research to help us build programs that accomplish those goals. We expect to work closely with our researchers to develop questions and methods to collect that relevant data, but here are our essential questions we'd like to explore:

- What would urban, rural and suburban Hoosiers agree are *shared challenges*? Do they perceive any *shared opportunities*?
- What would urban, rural and suburban Hoosiers identify as *differences* among themselves?
- What kinds of *thoughtful decisions* do Hoosiers think need to be made about our shared challenges?
- What kinds of humanities interventions or solutions can help Hoosiers make more *thoughtful decisions*?

At this early stage, we think the questions and the urban-rural theme suggest some combination of the following program formats, though we'll use this research to test our hypothesis and iterate solutions:

- Dialogue-based programs

- Shared reading and discussion
- Traveling exhibit
- Photography project
- Community forums
- Facilitation training (webinar or workshop) for leading conversations about urban, rural, suburban differences and commonalities that could be used across our programs in 2019-2020. Anyone could join (required for program facilitators) and people could be inspired to develop their own programs using grants or stipends from Indiana Humanities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Funding for this research comes from the Kettering Foundation, which is supporting a number of humanities councils across the country in order to answer this set of questions:

What can we—our communities, our states, our nation—do to decrease the likelihood that real and significant differences and divides damage our capacity to live and work well together?

- How can humanities councils work with citizens, communities, and each other to invite and explore different perspectives on shared challenges?
- How can we work together across differences to make thoughtful decisions about how to address these problems?

BUDGET AND TIMELINE

Budget: \$10,000

To be paid in three installments; \$5,000 upon both parties signing Memorandum of Understanding, \$2,500 upon delivery of mid-term evaluation and \$2,500 at the completion of the project.

Budget includes all costs associated with project, including travel.

A rough timeline for this project is:

- March 2018: Identify facilitator/researcher/evaluator to conduct and guide data collection. Work together to identify qualitative and quantitative strategy.
- April-May 2018: Qualitative and/or quantitative data collected from urban, rural and suburban Hoosiers to identify *differences* and *shared challenges*, as well as *thoughtful decisions*.
- May 20, 2018: Evaluator provides early analysis of research (due to funder).
- June 2018: Evaluator provides full analysis of quantitative and/or qualitative data.
- June-July 2018: Using knowledge gained from research Indiana Humanities staff outline possible program formats and begin to identify needs for texts, scholars, additional funding and/or partners. During this time, our communications and program staff will also refine language to describe the 2019-2020 theme, based on our research findings.
- August 2018: Share program ideas with small group discussion participants and typical program partners (librarians, educators, civic leaders, etc.) for feedback.
- September-December 2018: Program development for 2019-2020 theme. Training for “facilitator corps” that can be used in 2019-2020 programs. Fundraising and development to support 2019-2020 programs.
- January 2019: Launch urban-rural thematic initiative.

TO APPLY

Interested companies or individuals should submit a proposal to Kristen Fuhs Wells (kwells@indianahumanities.org) by March 9, 2018 at 5 p.m. The proposal should be no longer than 5 pages and submitted by PDF. It should include the following:

- Background of company and statement of interest.
- Description of how you will approach the project, including possible questions or methods of data collection and the format of the full analysis.
- Timeline and defined deliverables associated with dates showing how you will complete work by June 30, 2018 date.
- List of project team and their roles, including any vendors or subcontractors and how they will be involved.
- A list of at least three references.
- Links or PDFs of previous work conducted as part of an addendum, which can exceed the 5-page limit.

Beginning on March 12 the selection committee will review the proposal, follow up with references and hold in-person or phone interviews as necessary. A selection will be made and all applicants will be notified by March 20 at 5 p.m.

QUESTIONS?

Questions can be submitted by email to info@indianahumanities.org until March 1, 2018. An FAQ document addressing all questions will be posted online at IndianaHumanities.org/ResearchRFP by March 5, 2018.