

INCOMMON GRANTS CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Grant Amount: Up to \$5,000

Timeline

Application deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round 1: Feb. 28, 2021 (11:30 p.m. EST) Round 2: Aug. 31, 2021 (11:30 p.m. EDT)
Notification	Approximately six weeks after the application deadline
Date projects may begin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round 1: May 1, 2021 Round 2: Nov. 1, 2021
Date projects must be completed	Within one year of notification
Additional details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This grant requires at least a 50 percent cash/in-kind match. We plan to award 8 to 10 INcommon Grants in 2021. Funding is provided by Indiana Humanities (through the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency) and the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

At Indiana Humanities, we know that access to public humanities programs is essential. The humanities help to engage Hoosiers, inform them and inspire them. They stoke curiosity, promote dialogue and allow people to better understand the diverse and complex world in which they live. They're a vital component of thriving communities, enhancing quality of life and promoting economic development.

In particular, we believe that the humanities can serve as a tool to spark in-depth conversation, insight and consideration of others' points of view on the persistent social, economic, cultural and racial issues that divide our communities. With this in mind, we're offering **INcommon Grants** to Indiana organizations, so that they can develop and implement public programs that use the humanities to look at the longer histories driving contemporary debates around immigration, gentrification, incarceration, policing, institutional racism, the legacies of segregation in housing and education, and more.

What We Support

As the INcommon name suggests, we're eager to support proposals that demonstrate how the tools and methods of the humanities are a resource for dialogue, understanding and the stitching together of our social

and civic fabric. We know these histories can be difficult to talk about. We believe the humanities can create a space for people to come together to learn, consider different points of view, model respectful disagreement and discover shared values.

We welcome diverse projects from across Indiana, addressing different themes and using a variety of public humanities formats. INcommon Grants can be used to support new or ongoing public humanities programs that align to the key themes outlined below. Such projects may include reading series and civic reflection discussions; public lectures or panels; film screenings and discussions; or the creation of exhibits, web projects, walking tours or documentary films.

We will give high priority to projects that include community discussion and conversation at the heart of their proposed activities. Successful proposals will include input from humanities scholars, including as advisers or facilitators.

Key Questions

- What are the historical roots that help explain why some people and communities, especially people and communities of color, are marginalized socially, culturally and economically?
- What insights do great writers and poets give us into the experience of being marginalized because of race and/or ethnicity in different times and places in American history?
- What role have activists, civic leaders, educators and community members played in pushing for change as well as helping Americans find common ground?
- How can humanities texts (poems, essays, novels, films and more) as well as humanities methods (shared reading, conversation, scholar talks and community history projects) create space for meaningful discussion about the legacies of race and ethnicity in the United States?
- How are the humanities, especially with our appreciation of complexity and nuance, uniquely suited to help communities consider conflicting points of view and work toward discovering shared values?

Inspirations

Humanities organizations large and small from all around the country have created programs that invite the public to think, read and talk about the legacy of race and ethnicity in American life. Here are a few projects that have inspired us:

- [People + Property](#), a discussion program and publication exploring housing inequities in Indianapolis, which Indiana Humanities funded in a previous round of INcommon Grants.
- [Attucks: The School that Opened a City](#), a documentary film, funded in part by an Indiana Humanities grant, that shares the story of segregation and community in Indianapolis.
- [Powerful Conversations on Race](#), a community-discussion series hosted by Spirit & Place (and also supported with an INcommon Grant) that invites participants to share in facilitated critical conversations on both historical and contemporary issues surrounding race.
- [Living the Legacy](#), a series of presentations and discussions that explored the history and impact of redlining in Indianapolis. The Indiana Historical Society developed the project with the support of an INcommon Grant.

- [Black and Blue: A Conversation on Policing and Race](#), a Think and Drink event created by Humanities Washington.
- [Created Equal](#), a film-and-discussion series exploring the civil rights movement.
- [Latinos in Rural America](#), an exhibit and oral-history project designed to broaden knowledge, engagement and understanding of the Latino/a experience in rural Ohio.
- [Prison Public Memory Project](#), which uses history, art and new-media technologies to engage communities in conversation about the complex role of prisons in our society.
- [Reading Frederick Douglass Together](#), an innovative community-reading program created by Mass Humanities that uses Douglass’s seminal speech “What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?” to open up provocative conversations on race and citizenship.
- [Violence and Belonging: The 14th Amendment and American Literature](#), a reading-and-discussion series from the Maine Humanities Council exploring issues of diversity, identity and inequality.

Eligibility

To be eligible for an INcommon Grant, you must apply on behalf of an Indiana-based tax-exempt organization. Schools, public libraries, churches, community organizations and government entities are eligible; 501(c)3 status is not required. We will not award INcommon Grants to individuals or for-profit entities. Also, note that we will not give an organization more than one INcommon Grant per calendar year.

Requirements

Your proposal must meet the following requirements in order to be considered. Our review committee will use these to evaluate, rate and rank your application.

Your project must:

1. **Contain a strong focus on the humanities.** When considering which humanities-related projects to fund, we use guidelines provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities. According to the NEH, the humanities include activities in the following disciplines:
 - Literature
 - Language
 - History
 - Philosophy
 - Archaeology
 - Comparative religion
 - Law
 - Ethics
 - Theory, history and criticism of the performing and visual arts
 - Social sciences that have humanistic content and/or humanistic method

We’re especially interested in projects that align with our goals and help us carry out our mission. To learn more about what we do and what’s important to us, visit www.indianahumanities.org. If you question whether your project falls into the humanities disciplines that we support, please contact us.

A point of clarification about the arts:

Indiana Humanities does not support arts-related projects, especially around the creation/display of visual art (drawing, painting, sculpture, etc.) or the performance of art (drama, dance, music, etc.). If your project involves these activities, we encourage you to seek guidance from the Indiana Arts Commission or your

local arts council. In general, we do not award grants for writing workshops or other creative literary programs unless they include considerable opportunity for public reading and discussion. As noted above, we will consider projects that focus on art history and criticism (e.g., a discussion program in which a qualified and engaging scholar explores artistic themes and/or helps put works in context), but funding for these projects is rare. Our advice: If your project includes arts components, reach out to us for guidance before applying.

- 2. Include humanities scholars in planning and implementation.** Humanities scholars are those with particular training or experience qualifying them as professionals in one or more of the academic disciplines of the humanities. Scholars may have advanced degrees (MA or PhD) in a humanities field of study and/or regular appointments at an institution of higher learning, or they may have developed a high level of expertise through immersion in a particular cultural tradition. Artists or authors are not humanities scholars unless they also fulfill these criteria.

We recognize that this requirement raises concerns for many applicants, so if you have questions about including a qualified scholar as part of your project, please contact us for guidance.

- 3. Be intended for a public audience.** Although you may design and market your program for a target audience, you must ensure that it is open to the public at large. Our review committees assess the public nature of all proposed programs and evaluate how factors such as timing and location will impact audience attraction. Note that we do consider programs delivered in schools and prisons to be public, and in these cases you may offer them to select audiences (i.e., you don't have to open them to the broader public).

Please note: You may charge admission to an event funded with an Indiana Humanities grant, but the admission should be nominal (we recommend no more than the cost of a movie ticket). We will not fund a project if we feel the cost of admission will prevent it from being a truly public event. For this reason, we typically do not support conferences or workshops that charge significant registration fees, unless the grant goes toward an activity (e.g., a keynote address) that is open to the public at a free or reduced rate.

- 4. Be presented at a site that is accessible according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).** If the site is not ADA accessible, you must demonstrate how you will make reasonable accommodations.
- 5. Include a plan for execution.** You must demonstrate that you have the capacity to execute the project you propose. No matter how strong an idea is, we won't fund it if we don't have confidence that you can successfully implement it. In your application, be sure to provide sufficient detail as you describe your project ideas and goals. Tell us exactly what you're going to do and how you'll do it. Be thoughtful and clear about your timeline. Identify your project team members and scholars, describe their roles and show how they'll contribute to your project's success.
- 6. Not exceed \$5,000 in requested funding.** You may apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 (though of course you may also ask for less). When we award a grant, we look closely at budgets to evaluate where applicants are proposing to spend grant funds. In some cases, we may offer only partial funding (and we're doing so increasingly as our grants become more competitive).
- 7. Demonstrate at least a 50 percent match in cash or in-kind contributions from your organization or other sources** (e.g., if you request \$5,000, you must show at least \$2,500 of matching support). Matching funds must come from nonfederal sources and ideally will demonstrate a level of community support for the project. We report to the National Endowment for the Humanities data on how much

private investment our grants leverage, so we encourage you to be thoughtful about calculating your match and to provide an accurate valuation of what you and your donors/collaborators will bring to the table. You'll find more information about the match in the "Budget" section in Appendix A below.

- 8. Begin after the project start date indicated on page 1 of these guidelines (May 1, 2021, for round 1 and Nov. 1, 2021, for round 2).** While you may begin planning your project in advance, the public programming should not take place before the start date that we list. In other words, we won't fund your program if part or all of it has already occurred before we make our decision and notify you.
- 9. Be completed within a year of the award date.** If awarded a grant, you must complete project activities within one year of receiving notification (with a final report due 90 days after close). If you'll need longer than a year to complete your project, please let us know before you submit your application; we may allow more time for compelling reasons.

Restrictions

Indiana Humanities will not award grants for any of the following purposes:

- General operating expenses (i.e., our grants must support the development and implementation of specific public humanities programs)
- Activities that promote a particular political, religious or ideological point of view
- Advocacy of a particular program of social or political action
- Support of specific public policies or legislation
- Lobbying
- Fundraising
- Endowment contributions
- Regranting of funds
- Purchase of land or facilities, construction or renovation
- Property or major equipment purchases (in other words, funds should not be used exclusively for equipment purchases; we may consider funding equipment, however, if it's a portion of the grant request and will support the overall goal of providing public humanities programming)
- Archival acquisitions
- Programming that falls outside of the humanities, including the creation or performance of art (see further explanation in the Requirements section above)
- Social services
- Prizes, awards or scholarships
- Publication of books
- Foreign travel
- Alcoholic beverages

- Entertainment (unless it's a key educational component of the program—for example, musicians for a program on Indiana's jazz heritage)

Application, Review and Notification

You must submit your proposal using Indiana Humanities' online application system. Instructions for using the system are at www.indianahumanities.org/grants. Please note that first-time applicants will have to register.

More information about applying (including a list of narrative questions) is included in Appendix A below.

An independent review committee will evaluate each proposal based on the extent to which the project aligns to the guidelines presented in this document. In particular, committee members will evaluate the richness of the humanities content and clear contributions of humanities scholars; the approach the project takes toward exploring the INcommon themes; the feasibility of the methods and the organization's capacity to execute the project; the strength of the idea and the statement of need; and the clarity and reasonableness of the budget. The committee will also take into consideration other factors such as the diversity of the applicant organization and its audience, the project's alignment to Indiana Humanities' mission and community support. **To help you better understand the factors that go into our assessment, we have attached the INcommon Grant scoring rubric in Appendix C.**

The review process will take approximately six weeks, and once we know the status of your proposal, we'll notify the project director listed on your application. The project director is responsible for informing other team members.

We'll award an organization only one INcommon Grant per calendar year. If you apply for a grant and don't receive it, you may rework your proposal (we encourage you to consult with us on ways that you might improve it) and submit it in the following round.

Administration

If we award you a grant, Indiana Humanities will send the project director an agreement and information outlining the requirements for administering the grant.

Among other things, you'll need to:

- Sign and return a copy of the agreement. **This is a standard agreement and is nonnegotiable.** We reserve the right to cancel the agreement if you make significant changes to your project scope, purpose, activities, personnel, budget or timeline without obtaining our permission.
- Provide us with your organization's DUNS (Data Universal Number System) number. Indiana Humanities' grants are funded through the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency, and as a "subrecipient" of federal funds you must follow federal regulations, including registering for and providing us with a DUNS number. We'll ask for the DUNS number on the application, and if you have one, please provide it. If you don't have one, you can leave the field blank (it's not required), but know that if you receive a grant, you'll need to register and provide a DUNS number on the agreement.

- If you're not sure if you have a DUNS number, visit <https://iupdate.dnb.com/iUpdate/companylookup.htm> to look up your organization. You can then follow the steps to verify your number or to apply for one.
 - If you prefer to obtain a DUNS number via phone, you'll find the phone numbers you need at https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/pages/reqDuns_phone.jsp.
- Send letters to your congressional delegation announcing the receipt of the grant.
 - Submit to Indiana Humanities a listing of grant-funded events/activities.
 - Comply with state and federal nondiscriminatory statutes.
 - Report significant changes in the project to Indiana Humanities prior to their execution.
 - Acknowledge Indiana Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Central Indiana Community Foundation/Indianapolis Foundation as stipulated in the grant agreement.
 - Submit an expenditure and evaluation report at the conclusion of the project.
 - Retain auditable records of grant funds and local donations of cash and in-kind contributions and services (for three years).

Note that Indiana Humanities will pay up to 90 percent of the award in advance (after we receive the signed agreement and congressional letters). We'll pay the remaining 10 percent after we receive the final expenditure and evaluation report.

Application Support

We're available to support you as you prepare your application, and we especially encourage you to reach out if you have concerns about whether your idea would be eligible for funding. (If you have doubts, we prefer that you seek advice before you take the time to complete the application.) We can also offer guidance as you prepare your budget, identify your humanities scholars and fill out your application. For help, please contact:

George Hanlin, Director of Grants
Indiana Humanities
1500 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis, IN 46202
ghanlin@indianahumanities.org
317.616.9784

Appendix A—Additional Information about Applying

A well-prepared application influences the grant-review process. To achieve a superior rating, proposals must meet the published criteria, clearly describe the end product and include a workable plan, have a consistent and accurate budget with itemized expenses and demonstrate community need for the proposed programming. The following outlines the sections you'll find on the online application form with some guidance for each.

Part 1: Overview

This provides us with the basic information we need about your organization. The following definitions/tips offer some guidance.

- *Project Title:* The name you've given your project. Make it brief, self-explanatory and appealing.
- *Sponsoring Organization:* The tax-exempt group assuming full responsibility for the grant and to whom the grant check should be payable.
- *Sponsoring Organization Official:* A person who is legally empowered to sign the application on behalf of the organization—usually the president, executive director or chair. College and university applicants should obtain the approval of their administrative officials (office of research, sponsored programs, etc.).
- *Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN):* Also referred to as the Federal Tax Identification Number (TIN), this is a unique nine-digit number that the Internal Revenue Service assigns to organizations.
- *Data Universal Number System (DUNS) Number:* This is an identification number that the U.S. Office of Management and Budget requires of all organizations receiving federal funds. If your organization doesn't have one at the time of application, you may leave this field blank, but know that you'll need to register for and provide us with a DUNS number if you receive a grant. (More information is in the Administration section above.)
- *Project Director:* The person who will serve as the administrative contact for Indiana Humanities. We'll send all grant-related correspondence to the project director, so the person you list should be aware of the application and be prepared to serve. The addresses you list (both email address and U.S. postal address) should be the location where the project director wishes to receive paperwork. Note that you must submit the project director's resume or CV as part of the application.
- *Contact for E-Payment Setup:* If you receive a grant, we prefer to pay funds electronically rather than via check. If you're willing to consider electronic payment, please provide the name and email address of the person to whom we should send setup instructions.
- *Project Cosponsor(s):* Groups that will play important roles but are not the actual recipients of the grant. Enter "none" if you do not have a cosponsor.

Part 2: Project Summary

The project summary offers our reviewers a quick overview of your project. **In no more than two or three sentences per question** you should:

- Describe your project. What public programming/product will it produce?
- Describe the audience it will reach.

- Outline when it will take place. (For example, if it's an exhibition, when will it run? If it's a brochure, when will you publish and distribute it?)
- Indicate where it will take place/be distributed.

You'll see that in this section we also ask questions about whether your programs will be presented at sites that are accessible according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and whether you'll be charging admission. Depending on your responses, you may need to provide further explanation.

Part 3: Narrative Questions

These questions allow you to provide more detailed information about your project's purpose, audience, connection to the humanities, implementation and evaluation. The online system allows you to start your application, save it and come back to it later, but just to be safe, you might want to type your answers in a word-processing program, save them, then copy and paste them into the online form.

These are the questions you'll need to answer:

- What is your project idea? If it's an exhibition, what's it about? If it's an event, what will take place? In other words, give a thorough description to help reviewers imagine how the project will unfold.
- What are the goals of your project and what do you expect will happen as a result of your work? In particular, how do the goals and outcomes of your project align to the themes and ideas outlined in the call for applications for the INcommon Grants?
- What is your organization's mission, and how does this project help you achieve it?
- Tell us about your intended audiences: Who are they? Why are they interested in participating? Considering your previous activities, how many people do you estimate the program will reach? How will they find out about the program? If your program will engage diverse audiences or reach underserved audiences, explain that here.
- Describe how the humanities are an integral part of your project. This may include how humanities disciplines, research, texts and/or methods are at the heart of your activity.
- Who are your humanities scholars, and how are they involved in the planning and implementation of your project?
- In addition to the scholars you've included, list other project team members and describe their roles.
- Special consideration will be given to projects that include discussion or conversation as part of their proposed activities. What role, if any, will these methods play in your proposed programs? What experience do your organization and/or project team members have in facilitating community dialogue around similar themes? (If not applicable, leave blank.)
- List any partner organizations who are collaborating on this project and describe their roles.
- Give a detailed timeline for the project, including the projected months for planning, implementing and evaluating/reporting.

- How do you anticipate that Covid may impact your programming? If your programming includes in-person activities, what are your plans to ensure that you deliver them safely? What is your contingency plan should you have to cancel them?
- Describe your evaluation plan. How will you know whether you've successfully accomplished your goals?

Part 4: Budget

Here you'll provide a line-item budget for the project, **using the budget format in Appendix B as a guide**. We've included at www.indianahumanities.org/grants a template you can download and complete; you may also create a spreadsheet (e.g., Microsoft Excel) as long as it has the same columns and categories.

Please note the following:

- The column titled "Grant Funds" should reflect how you'll use the funding that you're requesting from Indiana Humanities and the Central Indiana Community Foundation.
- The column titled "Cost Share—Cash" should reflect cash for project expenses that comes from your organization or your donors and collaborators. You may count in this column the time that paid staff will spend on the project.
- The column titled "Cost Share—In-Kind" should reflect the dollar value of support given to the project instead of money. Examples include volunteer time, use of donated meeting space or donated supplies. Compute the in-kind value according to the actual pay scale of persons engaged in comparable work, the actual rental value for the room or the actual purchase value of the supplies.
- Your match (cash and in-kind) must be at least 50 percent of your requested grant funds.
- You cannot use federal dollars for cost-share purposes.
- Line items for alcoholic beverages, whether from Indiana Humanities grant funds or cost-share funds, are prohibited. These items should not appear anywhere in your budget.
- You cannot use grant funds for entertainment, unless it's an essential part of the programming (see further explanation in the Restrictions section above).
- You should keep reimbursement for airfare, hotel and per diem at reasonable rates; you should reimburse mileage at no more than the current IRS standard rate. Note that grant funds cannot be used for international travel.
- You may apply up to 10 percent of grant funds toward indirect costs, unless your organization is allowed a higher rate through a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) with the federal government. If your organization has a NICRA, you must submit a current copy along with your application when requesting grant funds for indirect costs.
- You should be specific and clear about how you're spending grant dollars and meeting your match. If any budget items need an explanation, you should provide it in the Notes column. Remember that clarity of budget is one factor on which we evaluate your proposal.

Part 5: Required Attachments

- The online application requires you to attach resumes or CVs (no longer than two pages each) for the project director and scholars. Remember, the project director is the person whose name appears in the first section of the application and who serves as the primary contact between Indiana Humanities and the grantee organization. This person is also chiefly in charge of implementation and final reporting for the grant.
- Attach two or three letters of support from cosponsors, experts and/or interested community groups. These letters should vouch for the value of your program and its potential impact on the community. They should come from people who are well positioned to make the case and not too closely tied to your organization. (A letter of recommendation from a past participant or a potential beneficiary of the program is more effective than a letter from your board chair, a staff member or one of the team members designing or delivering the program.) If you're partnering with an organization to deliver a program, it's also helpful to include a letter demonstrating that group's commitment and support.
- Please note that the attachment sections don't allow you to upload multiple documents—you must merge all of your items into one document and upload it. (For example, in the section that asks for resumes, you won't be able to upload four individual resumes—you'll have to combine each of the four resumes into one document and upload that single document.)

Appendix B—Sample Budget

Use the following sample budget as a guide for laying out and itemizing your own budget. You may create your budget in either a Word document or spreadsheet as long you use the same columns and categories as in the sample. Note that this is a general example and not specific to the INcommon Grant.

Category	<i>Indiana Humanities Funds</i>	<i>Cost Share—Cash</i>	<i>Cost Share—In-Kind</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>Administration</i> (list all persons, titles, hours, and rates of pay)		Jane Smith, program director 50 hrs. @ \$20/hr. = \$1,000 John Jones, executive director 25 hrs. @ \$30/hr. = \$750	Two volunteers 40 hrs. total @ \$15/hr. = \$600	
<i>Program Personnel</i> (list all non-administrative persons and stipends or rates of pay)	Susan Wilson, speaker = \$500 honorarium Jim Brown, speaker = \$500 honorarium Sarah Jackson, speaker = \$2,000 honorarium		Speaking fee discount offered by Sarah Jackson = \$2,000	Sarah Jackson will serve as keynote speaker; she will cut her normal fees in half, so we're counting the \$2,000 discount as in-kind.
<i>Travel and Per Diem</i> (list mileage, airfare, lodging, per diem, etc.)	Wilson mileage from Indianapolis, 320 miles RT x \$.58/mile = \$186 Brown mileage from Chicago, 84 miles RT x \$.58/mile = \$49 Jackson flight from Boston = \$354 Jackson hotel (one night) = \$128 Jackson car rental = \$73 Jackson per diem, two days @ \$50/day = \$100			
<i>Supplies</i> (list expenses for any supplies)		Supplies for program (paper, envelopes, name tags) = \$77		
<i>Printing and Postage</i> (list expenses for any printing and postage)		Printing for flyers and brochures = \$375 Mailing of brochures = \$159	Discount for printing of flyers and brochures = \$200	Printing company is giving us a discount, so we're counting that as in-kind.
<i>Space Rental</i> (list expenses related to office and meeting space)			Public library meeting room for three days, \$75/day = \$225	
<i>Other</i> (list all items not included above)		AV rental for three events, \$100 per event = \$300		
TOTALS	\$3,890	\$2,661	\$3,025	

Appendix C—INcommon Grant Scoring Rubric

Our grant review committee uses the following scoring rubric to evaluate proposals.

Applicant Name:

Date:

Does this proposal meet the minimum guidelines (tax-exempt applicant, humanities topic/humanistic methods, public programming elements)? **Y** or **N**
 If “yes,” use the rubric below to evaluate the proposal and assign a score.

Core Components

Component	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Good	Exemplary	Points Awarded
Humanities Focus <i>20 Points</i>	The project’s connections to humanities topics and/or its use of humanistic methods are weak. The public programming components are minimal. The scholars/experts listed are not legitimate or are questionable at best. <i>0–5 points</i>	The project includes humanities elements and/or humanistic methods but they’re fairly commonplace. The project does include scholars/experts, though their role may be incidental or not well defined. This is an adequate public humanities project, but it doesn’t necessarily inspire. <i>6–10 points</i>	The project clearly focuses on humanities topics and/or includes humanistic methods. It features solid public-programming components. The scholars and their roles are clearly identified, and the scholars will likely contribute to the project’s success. <i>11–15 points</i>	The humanities content focuses on a topic that’s underrepresented or not often studied. The project may apply unique approaches. The scholars/experts are extremely qualified and fully involved. This project is likely to engage the participants in meaningful and lasting humanities activities. <i>16–20 points</i>	out of 20
Alignment to INcommon Goals <i>20 points</i>	The project doesn’t align with the grant’s goals. While it may include strong humanistic elements, the focus of the program doesn’t help participants to explore the social, economic, cultural and racial issues that divide our communities and to develop better understanding around them. <i>0–5 points</i>	The project includes some elements that help address the key questions around race and ethnicity that we’ve outlined in the grant guidelines, but they’re not very strong and likely won’t lead to meaningful conversation. With more thought and development, the project could rise to the level that we’re expecting to see with this grant. <i>6–10 points</i>	This project closely aligns with the grant’s goals, using the humanities to promote important dialogue and understanding around issues related to race and ethnicity. We expect that participants will come away with valuable insights around the questions we’ve raised in the guidelines. <i>11–15 points</i>	This is a model INcommon project. It clearly aligns with the themes outlined in our guidelines, and we’re excited to highlight this work. This is an outstanding example of how an organization can use humanities texts and methods to help participants think and talk about the legacies of race and ethnicity in our communities. <i>16–20 points</i>	out of 20
Capacity <i>15 Points</i>	The organization’s ability to carry out this project is questionable. The team does not appear qualified, the timeline is not well thought out/presented, the research/planning seems weak, and/or the organization does not have a strong track record. It does not appear that the organization has the capacity to draw an audience. The proposal is poorly developed. <i>0–3 points</i>	Given the proposal and what we know of this organization/team, it’s likely it could adequately carry out this project. The team appears qualified, and the timeline seems sound. Based on our understanding of the project and the target audience, we feel the organization is positioned to achieve its goals in terms of attendance. <i>4–7 points</i>	The organization has developed a solid proposal that inspires confidence. It has put significant thought into the planning of the project and presents a clearly defined timeline that’s achievable. The organization has a clear audience in mind for its program and a method for reaching it. This organization has a reputation for delivering. <i>8–11 points</i>	This is an organization that we can depend on to do great work. It has a reputation for excellence. It has prepared a concise and inspiring proposal with clearly outlined goals and a well-defined approach to achieving the goals. The timeline is explicitly spelled out and on target. The organization leaves no doubt that it will reach its audience. <i>12–15 points</i>	out of 15

Case Statement/Need <i>15 Points</i>	The proposal does not make a compelling case as to why this project is important to the community, nor does it convey enthusiasm and make us want to fund the project. The person writing the proposal does not “sell” the project, and if we don’t fund it, it’s hard to see that there will be much negative impact. <i>0–3 points</i>	Based on the proposal, we can see that this project has merit. The proposal sheds some light on the value the project brings to the community and how participants will benefit. While the enthusiasm factor might not be the highest, we can tell that the project team will be engaged and committed to creating impact. <i>4–7 points</i>	The proposal makes a compelling case as to why the project is important and clearly defines the impact it will have on the community. The proposal conveys a strong sense of enthusiasm and excitement. We know that if we fund this work, the team will carry it out with a sense of purpose and will create meaningful engagement. <i>8–11 points</i>	The proposal makes clear that this a project Indiana Humanities must fund. The applicant demonstrates how the project is creative, innovative, and dynamic and how it will provide essential and impactful humanities programming to the community. The proposal leaves no doubt as to the value of the project. <i>12–15 points</i>	out of 15
Budget <i>10 Points</i>	The budget does not include details to help reviewers understand how the organization will spend grant dollars and meet its match. It doesn’t seem reasonable, it proposes to spend funds on prohibited activities, and/or the numbers don’t add up. It raises questions about the ability to execute. <i>0–2 points</i>	The budget is adequate. While it might not offer the most detail, the organization has put some thought into it, and we get a sense of how grant dollars will be spent and how the organization will meet its match. The figures seem reasonable compared to what we understand about the project. <i>3–5 points</i>	The budget is well prepared. It offers sufficient detail to help us understand how funds will be spent. The organization has been thorough with calculating cash and in-kind cost share, and we feel the budget does a good job of accurately reflecting the costs involved with the project <i>6–8 points</i>	This is a model budget. It presents a thorough accounting of how the grant dollars will be invested, and it’s clear that the applicant has spent time getting quotes, estimates, etc. The cash and in-kind cost-share calculations are detailed and reasonable. The budget’s detail inspires confidence in the project. <i>9–10 points</i>	out of 10

Additional Factors

Factor	Considerations	Points Awarded
Reaches Underserved Audiences <i>5 Points</i>	Indiana Humanities wants to be sure that we reach diverse organizations, communities and audiences, and we recognize that we have not always done so. Award up to five points if you feel that the programming proposed in this proposal would reach underserved groups (consider factors such as race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual/gender identity, socioeconomic status, rural/suburban/urban status, geographic outreach, etc.).	out of 5
Builds Capacity <i>5 Points</i>	Indiana Humanities also wants to help organizations build their capacity so that they’re better prepared to serve their communities. If you feel that the opportunity to collaborate with us on a grant-funded project will help the applicant to develop the skills of its team members; improve organizational strength; and grow its ability to develop, implement and evaluate meaningful humanities programming for the public, award up to five points. As part of your scoring, consider whether the organization is led by and serves members of underrepresented communities (e.g., BIPOC-led organizations), whether it’s at a disadvantage because it has not benefited from previous investment, and similar factors.	out of 5
Aligns to Indiana Humanities Goals <i>5 Points</i>	Indiana Humanities’ mission is to connect people, open minds and enrich lives by creating and facilitating programs that encourage Hoosiers to think, read and talk. If the proposed project supports our mission and helps us achieve it, award up to five points.	out of 5
Demonstrates Community Support <i>5 Points</i>	We want to ensure that our grant recipients are well regarded in their communities and that our grant-funded projects will have an impact, so we ask applicants to submit letters of support from other groups in their area. These should ideally come from outside organizations, not from people closely affiliated with the applicant, and should show that the applicant is a good partner, has a good track record, and is proposing a project that will be of value to the community. Based on the letters of support provided—and other information presented in the proposal—award up to five points.	out of 5
<p style="text-align: center;">Add together the points you assigned for each of the core components and factors listed above and enter the total to the right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">This is your final score.</p>		out of 100

Comments: