Agenda

1. Grant Opportunities at NEH
2. Strategies for Application Writing
3. Mock Peer Review Panel
The Humanities

According to the 1965 National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act:

The term 'humanities' includes, but is not limited to, the study of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.

http://www.neh.gov/whoweare/overview.html
About the NEH

http://www.neh.gov/
http://www.neh.gov/whoweare/LeachBio.html

• Ninth Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities: Jim Leach, nominated by President Barack Obama on July 9, 2009, and confirmed by the Senate in early August, Leach began his four-year term as NEH Chairman on August 12, 2009. He previously served 30 years representing southeastern Iowa in the U.S. House of Representatives, and founded the Congressional Humanities Caucus.

• National Council for the Humanities: 26 presidentially appointed personalities in the humanities.

• Staff
How NEH spends your money
(Fiscal Year 2009)

We The People
$15,800,000

Federal/State Partnership
$35,000,000

Division of Preservation
$16,000,000

Division of Education
$14,500,000

Division of Public Programs
$14,500,000

Division of Research
$14,500,000

Office of Challenge Grants
$9,300,000 Matching

Office of Digital Humanities
$4,000,000

National Endowment for the Humanities
$155,000,000
Bridging Cultures

Planning and Implementation Grants for Academic Forums and Program Development Workshops on one of two humanities themes: “Civility and Democracy” or “The Muslim World and the Humanities.”

Bridging Cultures Team
202-606-8337
bridgingcultures@neh.gov

June 1, 2010 for projects beginning August 1, 2010
Institution-building grants to improve humanities programs, carry out long-term plans for strengthening basic resources, and enhance financial stability. One award at a time.

Examples:
- In 2008, Kenyon College was awarded a $210,000 grant for a Center for the Study of American Democracy
- In 2000, OSU was awarded a $416,449 Challenge Grant to reconfigure the World Media and Culture Center and its endowment for fellows.
- In 1990, Ohio Dominican University was awarded a $180,000 grant for endowing faculty development for humanities general education.

Steve Ross, Director
(202) 606-8309
Challenge@neh.gov
Division of Education

Grants strengthen teaching and learning through new or revised curricula and materials, collaborative study, seminars, and institutes.

William Rice, Director
(202) 606-8500
Education@neh.gov

Course Development - Enduring Questions – November 12
Landmark Workshops for HS and Community College – March 16
Humanities Initiatives – June 15
Summer Seminars and Institutes – March 2
Between 1975-2009, OSU held 51 awards from the Division of Education
Some examples:

➢ In 1999, OSU was awarded $144,101 to conduct an Institute for School Teachers on Women’s Rights and Citizenship (Susan M. Hartmann)

➢ In 1991, OSU was awarded $639,768 to conduct an Arabic Language and Culture Summer Institute for Secondary School Teachers (Frederic Cadora)

➢ In 1995, OSU was awarded $230,000 to conduct an Institute for Colleges and University Teachers on African Literature and Modern Experience (Abiola Irele)

➢ In 2008, OSU was awarded $198,669 to conduct a summer seminar for College Teachers on the reformation of the book 1450-1650 (James Bracken)

➢ In 2006, OSU was awarded $200,000 to conduct an Institute for Colleges and University Teachers on Brazilian Literature and Culture (Lucia H. Costigan)

➢ In 2000, OSU was awarded $165,000 to develop a CD ROM of Oral Literature on Southern African Praise Poetry (Lupenga Mphande)

➢ In 2007, OSU was awarded $110,183 to conduct a summer seminar for school teachers on religion in English history and literature and $309,853 for three summer seminars on the English Reformation in 1996, 1998 and 2002 (John N. King)

➢ In 2006, OSU was awarded $200,000 to conduct an Institute for School Teachers on Women’s Rights and Citizenship (Susan M. Hartmann)

➢ In 1999, OSU was awarded $144,101 to conduct an Institute for School Teachers on Women’s Rights and Citizenship (Susan M. Hartmann)

➢ In 1991, OSU was awarded $639,768 to conduct an Arabic Language and Culture Summer Institute for Secondary School Teachers (Frederic Cadora)

➢ In 1995, OSU was awarded $230,000 to conduct an Institute for Colleges and University Teachers on African Literature and Modern Experience (Abiola Irele)
Division of Preservation and Access

Grants to preserve archival holdings (including digitization); enhance access to materials; train preservationists; and produce reference works for scholarly research, education, and public programming.

Nadina Gardner, Director
(202) 606-8570
Preservation@neh.gov
Between 1980-2009 OSU received 12 awards from the Preservation & Access Program. Some examples:

Between 1988 and 1994 OSU’s Geoffrey D. Smith was awarded four grants -- and a total of $544,711 -- for a bibliography of American fiction.

In 2001, OSU was awarded $4,408 for a preservation assistance grant to rehouse a millinery collection from 1820 to 1990.

In 2003, OSU was awarded $106,722 for an encyclopedia of the Midwest (Christian Zacher).
Division of Public Programs

Grants for the presentation of the humanities for large and diverse public audiences. Grants typically support radio and television documentaries, exhibitions and interpretation of historic sites, reading and discussion series, lectures, symposia, and after school programs.

Tom Phelps, Director
(202) 606-8270
PublicPgms@neh.gov
Examples:

- Capital University was awarded two implementation grants “NEH on the Road”: *Lee & Grant*; and *Carnaval* (both Cassandra Lee Tellier) ($1,000 each)

- OSU won a small grant to libraries award in 2007 for *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World - A Traveling Exhibition for Libraries* (David A. Lincove) ($1,000)

- OSU won a grant in 1989 for planning of an exhibition of images of *Christopher Columbus in the fine and popular arts*. (Christian Zacher) ($37,100)
Division of Research

Grants support individuals and teams of scholars pursuing advanced research in the humanities that will contribute to scholarly knowledge or to the general public's understanding of the humanities.

Jane Aikin, Director
(202) 606-8200
Research@neh.gov
Between 1980 and 2009 OSU had 126 grants from the Research Division. Some examples:

- Most recently, fellowships were awarded in 2009 to Barbara Ann Hanawalt (Medieval Studies), *Civic Order and Dispute Resolution in 14th- and 15th-Century London*; and to Neil Tenant Wellesley (Philosophy), *Rational Belief Revision*.
- OSU won a **collaborative grant** in 2004, for a book project on *Rational Sentimentalism* written by Justin D'Arms and Daniel Jacobson ($74,761).
Other Examples:

- Kenyon College received 70 grants from NEH, more than half of them from the Division of Research (42). Most recently, Lewis Hyde won a fellowship for a study on intellectual property in 2008 and Mortimer M Guiney won a summer stipend for research on the crisis of French Literary Pedagogy from 1905 to the present.

- Ashland University won a total of four grants from NEH, including a Summer stipend in 1981 for a study on Early Patristic Psychology and Eastern Orthodox Ethnicisty in the US (Archimand Chrysostomos).

- Capital University won a total of four grants from NEH, including a Summer Stipend in 1990 for a study on the migration of Blacks to Los Angeles from 1930 to 1955 (Paul Spickard).

- Ohio Dominican University won four NEH grants, three from the Division of Education and one Challenge Grant, none from the Division of Research.

- Ohio State University – Newark Branch was awarded one fellowship in 1987 for a project on Logic, Computation and Ontology (Stewart D. Shapiro).
Office of Digital Humanities

Encourages innovations in the digital humanities through research that brings new approaches or documents best practices; creation of digital tools for preserving, analyzing, and making accessible digital resources; and examination of the philosophical implications and impact of emerging technologies.

Example: H. Lewis Ulman of OSU was given a Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant in 2008 for Integrating Multimedia, Distributed Electronic Textual Editions into Library Collections ($35,925)

Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants – March 23

for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities – February 17
Office of Federal/State Partnership

Ohio Humanities Council
471 E. Broad Street - Suite 1620
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3857
http://www.ohiohumanities.org/
614-461-7802

Gale E. Peterson
Executive Director
Questions?
Strategies for Successful Application Writing
Evaluation Criteria

Evaluators are asked to apply the following five criteria when judging the quality of applications:

① The intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.
② The quality or promise of quality of the applicant’s work as an interpreter of the humanities.
③ The quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project and the applicant’s clarity of expression.
④ The feasibility of the proposed plan of work, including, when appropriate, the soundness of the dissemination and access plans.
⑤ The likelihood that the applicant will complete the project.
Improve your chances of success

- Get a “why” or “why-not” letter with verbatim comments made by the panelists.
- Ask the staff to comment on a draft application.
- Become a panelist or reviewer.
- Read applications for your institution.
- Panelists will only know you’re applying again if you tell them; bitter words about a previous submission usually distract from your argument and take up space.
NEH Mock Peer Review Panel

Application 1: “Inventing Lima: The Making of an Early Modern Colonial Capital, 1535-1710”

Application 2: “Moliere and the French Revolution”

Application 3: “The Poetry Wars of the Early Republic”
A Few Points about Panels

• We use panels for all grant competitions (some “mail out” and some “convening”).
• We change panels each year. Panelists are not allowed to serve on panels in consecutive years.
• We sort applications into groups by topic and discipline. In doing so, we take the applicant’s selected discipline into account but might move it.
• We work to put applications onto panels where each will receive the most sympathetic and generous reading.
• The size of panels varies depending on program and the distribution of topics in any set of applications. A typical size is 30-40.
Some common misconceptions about peer review

- The same panelist kills my application year after year.
- Only elite schools are funded because panelists come from elite schools (old boy’s network).
- Panelists don’t understand my field.
- Panelists don’t appreciate my past work.
- I don’t know anyone at NEH, so I will never get funded.
- My application won’t get funded because NEH doesn’t fund cutting-edge approaches or work in my field.
- I’m too junior to get funded.
- It’s too early in my project.
Claudia Kinkela
Senior Program Officer
NEH Division of Research
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 318
Washington, D.C. 20506
CKinkela@neh.gov
202-606-8203