

Office of Challenge  
Programs

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October 27, 2022

# CLIMATE SMART HUMANITIES ORGANIZATIONS

# AGENDA

- About the Climate Smart Humanities Organizations Program
- What are Action and Adaptation Plans
- Project Development
- Applying for a Challenge Grant
- Review Criteria and Review Process
- Application Tips and Resources



CLIMATE SMART  
HUMANITIES  
ORGANIZATIONS

# Climate Smart Humanities Organizations

Office of Challenge Programs

As energy costs rise and natural disasters become more frequent, humanities organizations - such as museums, libraries, archives, historic sites, and colleges and universities - face an enormous task: to anticipate operational, physical, and financial impacts of climate-related events on their institutions, while also reducing their own impact on the environment. Climate Smart Humanities Organizations supports these efforts by offering federal matching funds for comprehensive organizational assessments that lead to strategic climate action and adaptation plans.

Through the Climate Smart program, your humanities organization can undertake activities such as energy audits, risk assessments, and meetings with consultants. The resulting climate smart plan helps you establish goals and prioritize actions that reduce your organization's impacts **on** the environment through mitigation and vulnerability **from** extreme events through adaptation. Together, mitigation and adaptation can inform a robust road map that addresses climate challenges, protects assets, and facilitates collaboration between internal and external stakeholders. Strategic planning for climate change is an essential part of sustaining humanities organizations' operations and activities—becoming climate smart.

## Grant Snapshot

Maximum award amount: \$300,000

Matching required: Yes, 1:1 non-federal, third-party gifts must be raised by July 31, 2024

Open to: Organizations

Expected output: Climate action and adaptation planning document

Period of performance: Up to 24 months

**Application available: October 20, 2022**

**Optional draft due: November 29, 2022**

**Deadline: January 17, 2023**

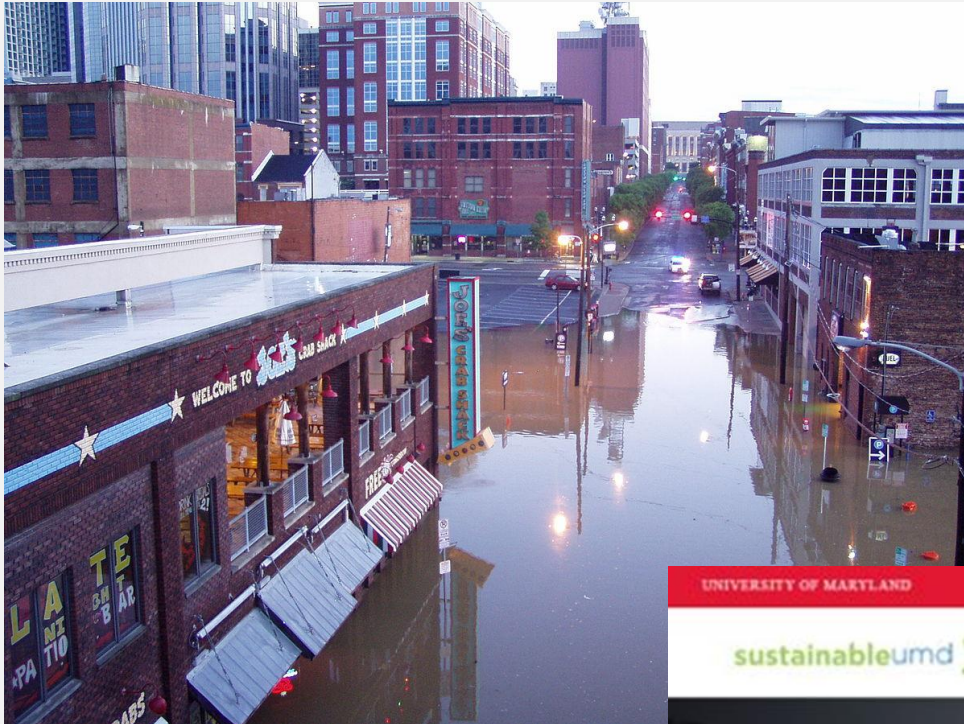
**Expected notification date: August 15, 2023**

**Project start date: October 1, 2023**

Contact the Office of Challenge Programs Team  
(202) 606-8309  
[challenge@neh.gov](mailto:challenge@neh.gov)

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

# CLIMATE SMART HUMANITIES ORGANIZATIONS: A NEW NEH CHALLENGE PROGRAM



# CLIMATE-INFORMED STRATEGIC PLANNING



## THE CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY'S CLIMATE ACTION CONTRIBUTION

About The Charles H. Wright Museum Of African American History's Climate Efforts



**PRESIDENT'S  
COMMISSION ON  
CARBON NEUTRALITY**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



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# CLIMATE-INFORMED STRATEGIC PLANNING



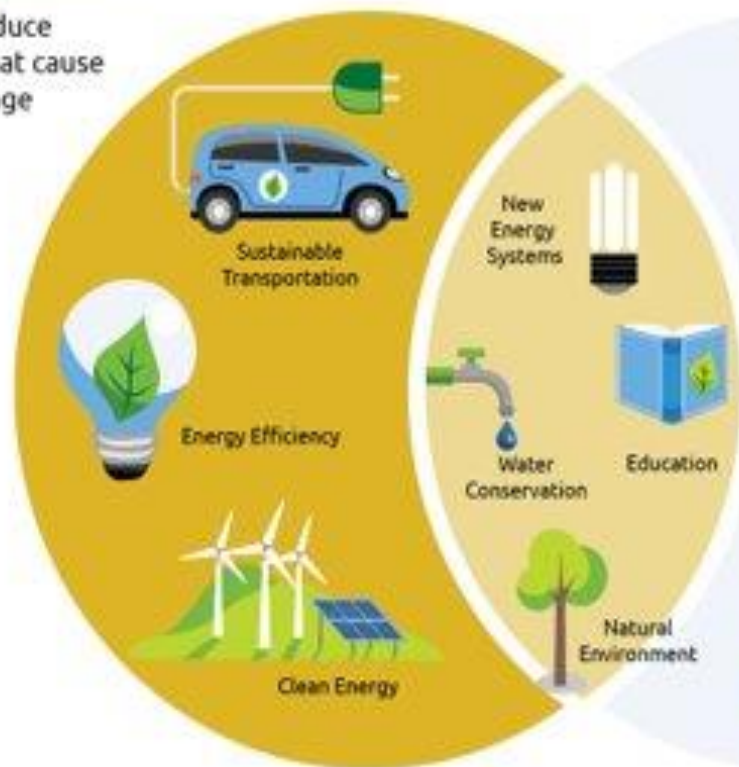
# CLIMATE-INFORMED STRATEGIC PLANNING: OUTCOMES



# MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

## Mitigation

Action to reduce emissions that cause climate change



## Adaptation

Action to manage the risks of climate change impacts



Disaster Management  
& Business Continuity



Infrastructure  
Upgrades



Flood Protection

New  
Energy  
Systems



Education



Water  
Conservation



Natural  
Environment



Sustainable  
Transportation



Energy Efficiency



Clean Energy



# MITIGATION

Comprehensive energy audits of an organization's building(s), land use, utilities, operations, and facilities

Calculating the organization's carbon footprint, including energy sources, transportation, material use, and supplies

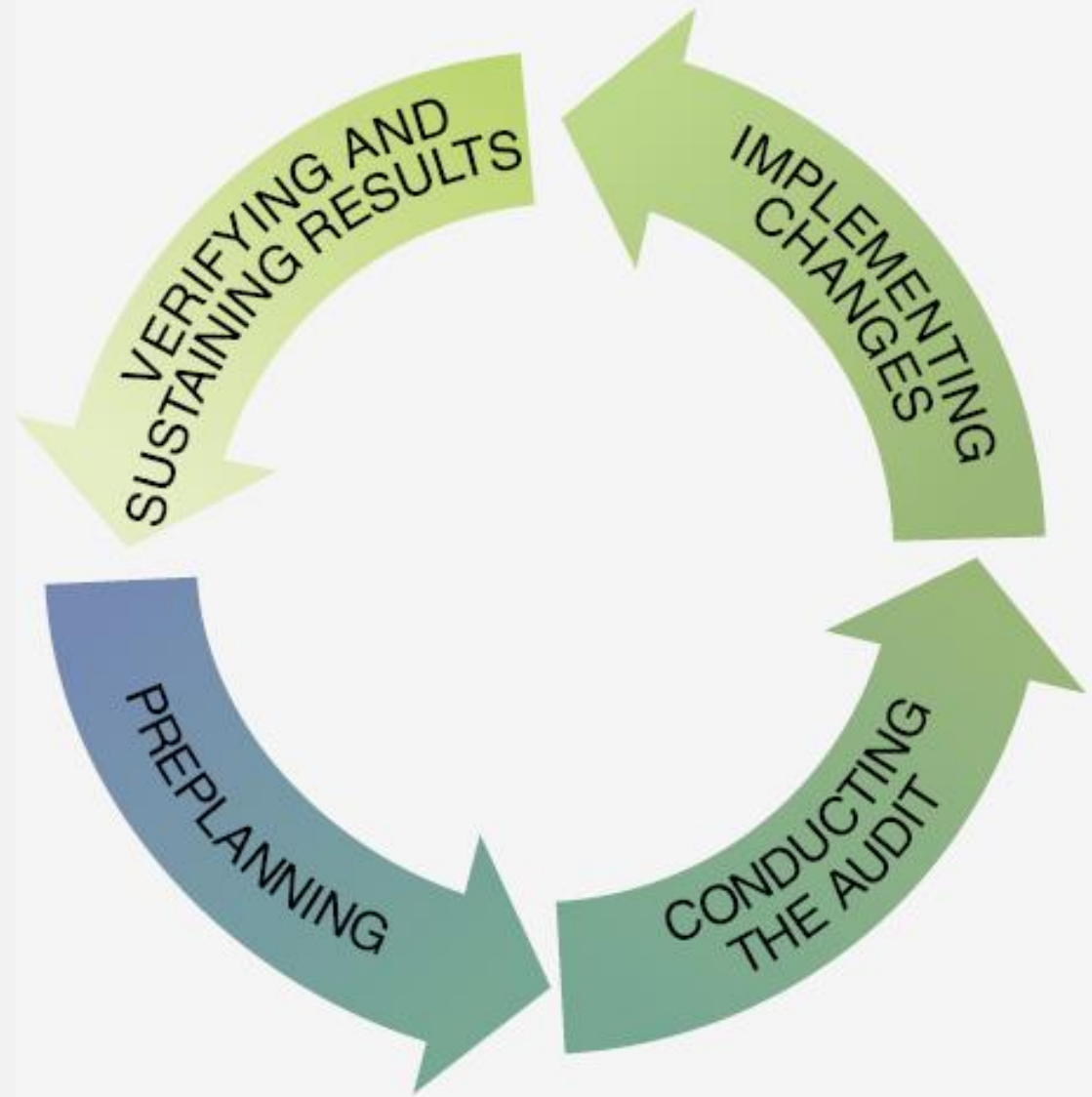
Testing of existing HVAC, natural gas, water, and other systems to improve efficiency

Installation of energy, waste, or carbon footprint monitoring and sub-metering equipment to measure consumption



## RESOURCES FOR MITIGATION ASSESSMENTS

- Reach out to your local energy company to see what kind of services they offer
- Explore the Department of Energy's Energy Star Portfolio Manager: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), or Environmental Protection Agency's Greenhouse Gas Inventory tool: <https://www.epa.gov/climateleadership>
- Consider an ASHRAE level 1, 2, or 3 energy audit
- Search for local climate action plans published by your state, municipality, or other government organizations



# YOUR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- Evaluating alternative energy sources, such as solar, geothermal, wind, or hydrogen fuel cells as long term cost-efficient and sustainable options
- Identifying building improvements that would result in increased operational efficiencies and lower energy use
- Landscape improvements, such as reforestation or native groundcover, to support better environmental conditions and offset carbon producing-activities
- Encouraging lower-carbon transportation options for visitors, staff, and operations such as bicycle and pedestrian access, public transportation, and ride sharing
- Establishing organizational recycling, composting, reuse, and water reduction plans



# ADAPTATION

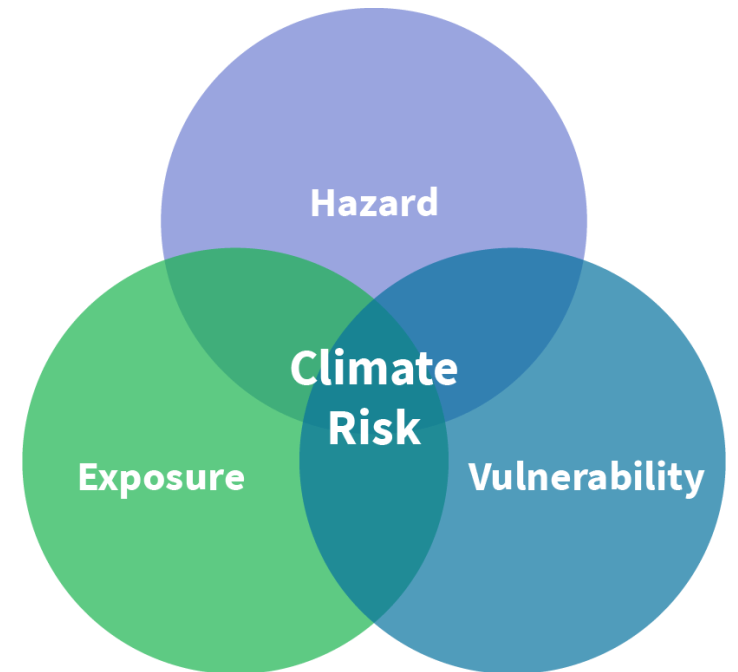
Examining location-specific risks associated with sea level rise, extreme weather, flooding, or wildfire

Assessing buildings and grounds to determine capacity to withstand current and future climatic events

Evaluating the impact of changing environmental conditions on programs and operations, such as timing and location of events, operating hours, and seasonal programming

Collecting data to record trends in temperature, weather, or other climate-related events over time and modeling future scenarios

Assessing current emergency and continuity of operation plans to align with climate smart strategic planning and support the humanities mission of the organization



# RESOURCES FOR RISK AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

- Explore the U.S. Climate Resilience toolkit to assess current and future local hazards: <https://resilience.climate.gov/>
- Seek out planning resources for your institution type, for example, dPlan for cultural and civic institutions: <http://dplan.org>, or the National Park Service's Primer on Disaster Preparedness, Management, and Response: <https://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/primer/primintro.html>
- Connect with local first responders and emergency managers to learn about local resources and partnership opportunities



# YOUR CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN

- Developing conceptual plans to retrofit, relocate, or strengthen existing buildings, systems, and landscaping
- Considering climate smart water management, such as reduction of impervious surfaces, and water recycling/reuse efforts that capture rainfall and mitigate water damage to humanities-centered buildings, collections, and programming
- Establishing emergency and continuity of operation plans and training for staff, volunteers, and visitors
- Development of mutual aid networks of related humanities organizations in a geographic area
- Establishing community partnerships that support the organization's adaptation and resilience efforts



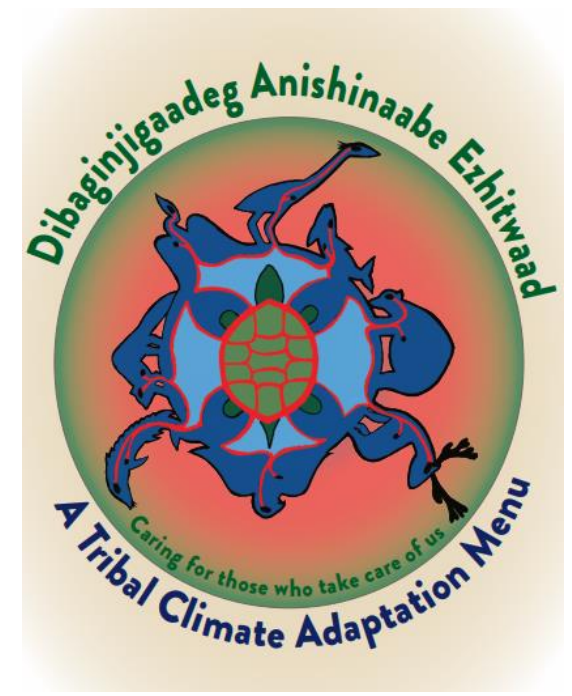
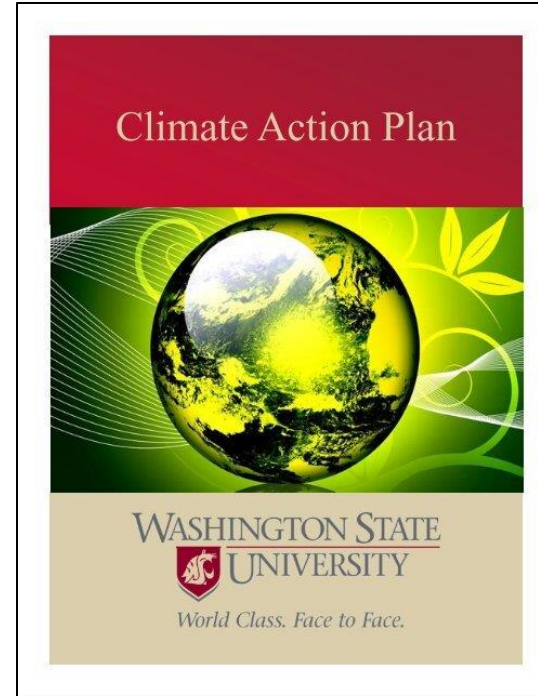
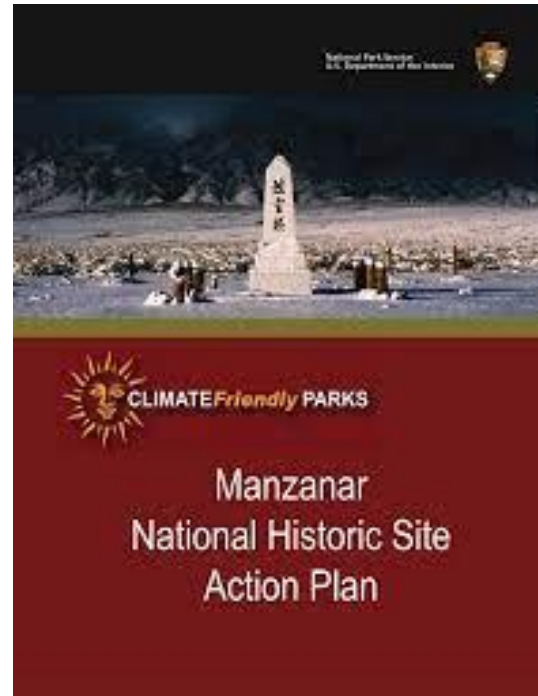
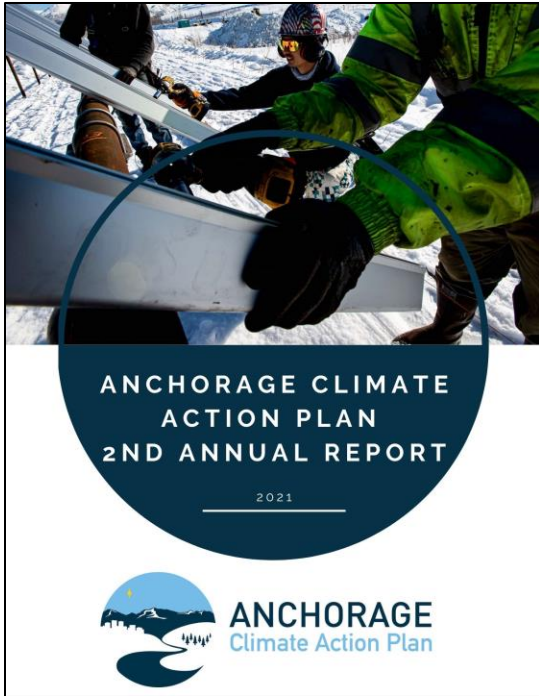
## Blackfeet Climate Change Adaptation Plan

BLACKFEET NATION

April 2018

[blackfeetclimatechange.com](http://blackfeetclimatechange.com)





# YOUR CLIMATE SMART STRATEGIC PLAN

# CONSORTIUMS

- All members must be in the humanities
- Might share resources, training, and develop plans to work together beyond the grant period
- One lead organization should submit the application, but members should submit letters of commitment and brief institutional profiles
- Applications should be from humanities organizations, not a larger group proposing to offer training







## HUMANITIES ORGANIZATIONS

Under Section 3(a) of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, “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 the 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.”

# ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- U.S. nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status
- Accredited public and 501(c)(3) higher education institutions
- State and local governmental agencies
- Federally recognized Native American tribal governments
- Must work wholly in the humanities



## MATCHING REQUIREMENTS

- In order to receive federal matching funds, recipients must raise \$1 of non-federal, third-party funds for every \$1 requested from NEH
- Your total project budget should include the funds requested from NEH plus the required match, so if your total project budget is \$100,000, you would request \$50,000 from NEH and you would be responsible for raising \$50,000
- Your request should take into consideration project activities, number of participating organizations, and fundraising capabilities.



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# HOW DO YOU FUNDRAISE FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING?

- Engage your board and community
- Look for local grants and private foundations
- You are not required to have all gifts raised at the time of the application
- All gifts must be raised by July 31, 2024
- Refer to Matching Federal Funds Guidelines:  
<https://www.neh.gov/grants/manage/federal-matching-funds-guidelines>



# DEVELOPING YOUR APPLICATION

- Read the NOFO on the NEH website
- Involve the whole team in the planning and grant writing process.
- Include detailed information about long-term strategic planning, fundraising efforts, previous projects, and how the outcomes and deliverables will benefit your institution, humanities research, and/or the public.

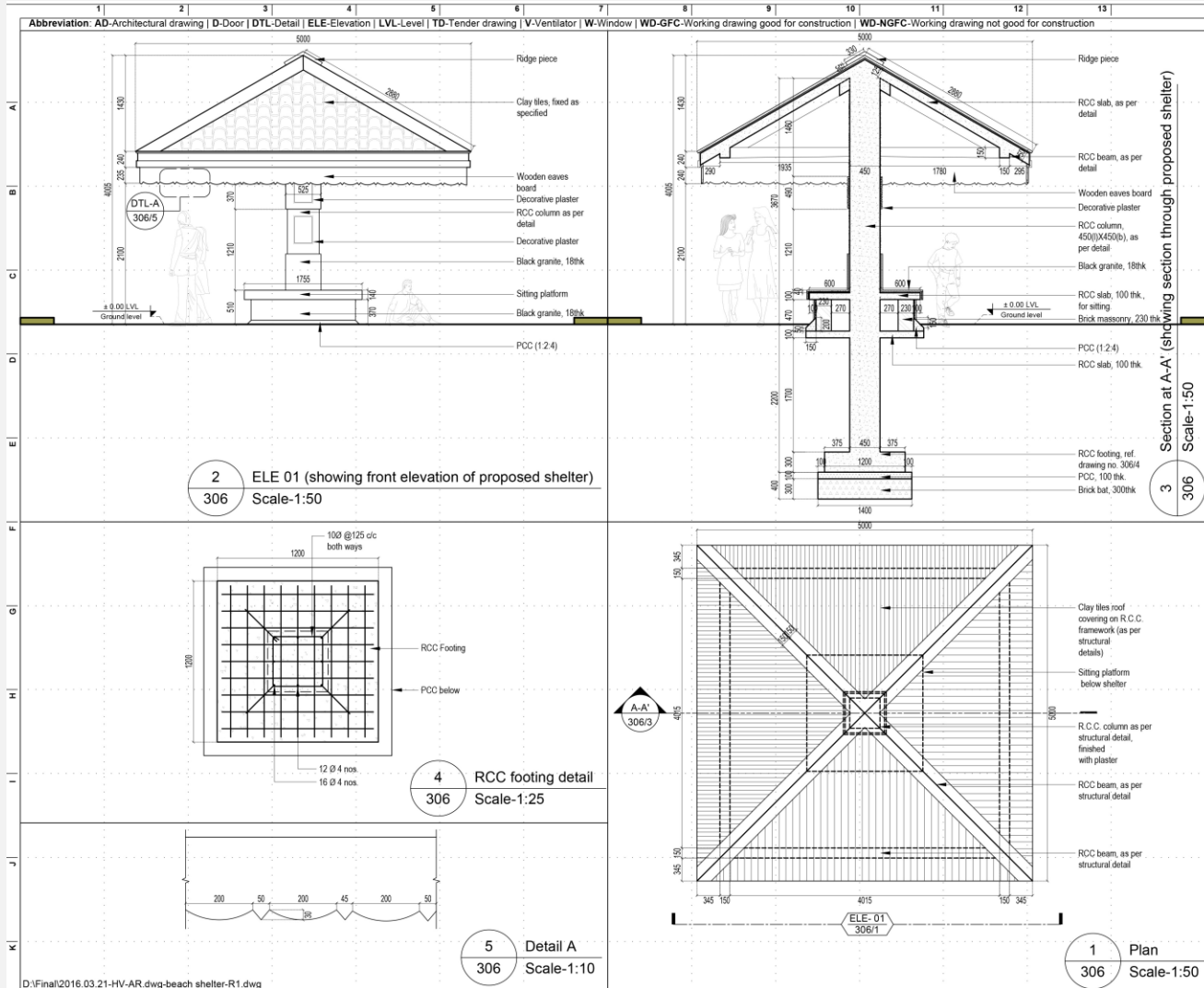


# PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

- Consider the assessments and activities your team wants to undertake during the two-year grant period
- What types of consultants, equipment, and time will be required for each assessment? How will it inform the final strategic plan?
- Who is responsible for managing each part of the process, and what other stakeholders might need to be consulted?



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# UNALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES

- Prepare applications for tax credits or other forms of financing
- Advanced design that precludes the consideration of other alternatives
- Activities that would trigger Section 106 or NEPA
- Projects that are not comprehensive in their planning or do not result in climate action or adaptation plans for humanities organizations

## ALL APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE:

Project narrative (10 pages)

Work plan

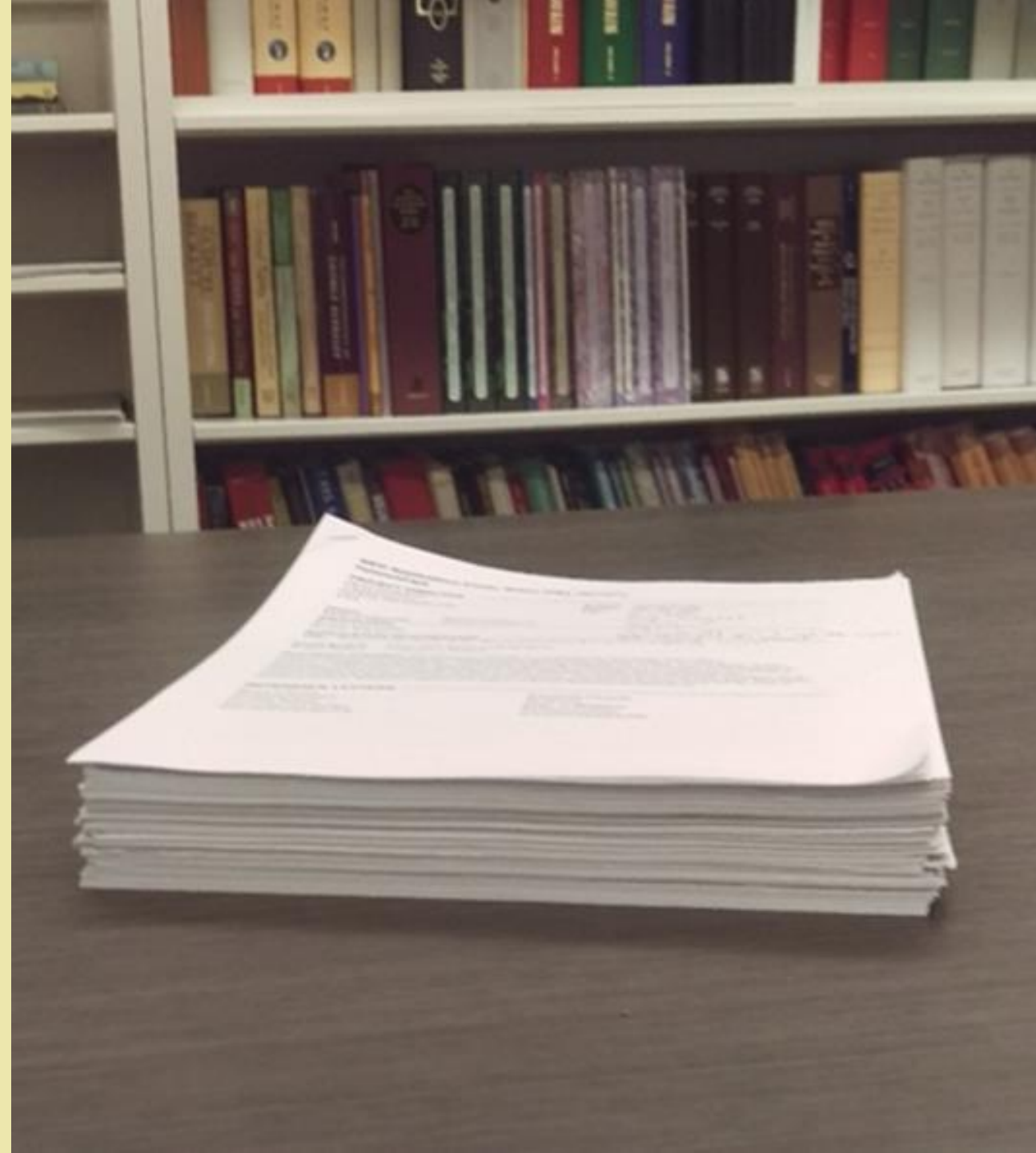
Research and related budget

Institutional profile

Resumes for key personnel

Letters of commitment or support

**Pay close attention to page limits, formatting, and required attachments. Applications that do not meet the stated guidelines may be declared ineligible.**





# APPLICATION SUBMISSION: GRANTS.GOV

GRANTS.GOV > View Opportunity

## VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY



20230117-CLI  
Climate Smart Humanities Organizations  
National Endowment for the Humanities

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SYNOPSIS

VERSION HISTORY

RELATED DOCUMENTS

PACKAGE

[Print Synopsis Details](#)

### General Information

Document Type:	Grants Notice	Version:	Synopsis 2
Funding Opportunity Number:	20230117-CLI	Posted Date:	Oct 20, 2022
Funding Opportunity Title:	Climate Smart Humanities Organizations	Last Updated Date:	Oct 21, 2022
Opportunity Category:	Discretionary	Original Closing Date for Applications:	Jan 17, 2023
Opportunity Category Explanation:		Current Closing Date for Applications:	Jan 17, 2023
Funding Instrument Type:	Grant	Archive Date:	
Category of Funding Activity:	Humanities (see "Cultural Affairs" in CFDA)	Estimated Total Program Funding:	\$6,000,000
Category Explanation:		Award Ceiling:	\$300,000
Expected Number of Awards:	25	Award Floor:	\$1
CFDA Number(s):	45.130 -- Promotion of the Humanities Challenge Grants		
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:	Yes		

- Ensure your SAM.gov and Grants.gov registrations and passwords are current. NEH will not grant deadline extensions for lack of registration. Registration in all systems, including SAM.gov and Grants.gov, may take up to 1 month to complete.
- Submit your application as early as possible and confirm submission on Grants.gov. NEH cannot accept late applications or add materials after the deadline.

## How to Complete the Supplementary Cover Sheet

### 3. Project Funding

What to include:

Outright Funds

Enter \$0. Challenge Grants do not include outright funds.

Federal Match

Enter the total amount of Challenge funds requested from NEH.

Total from NEH

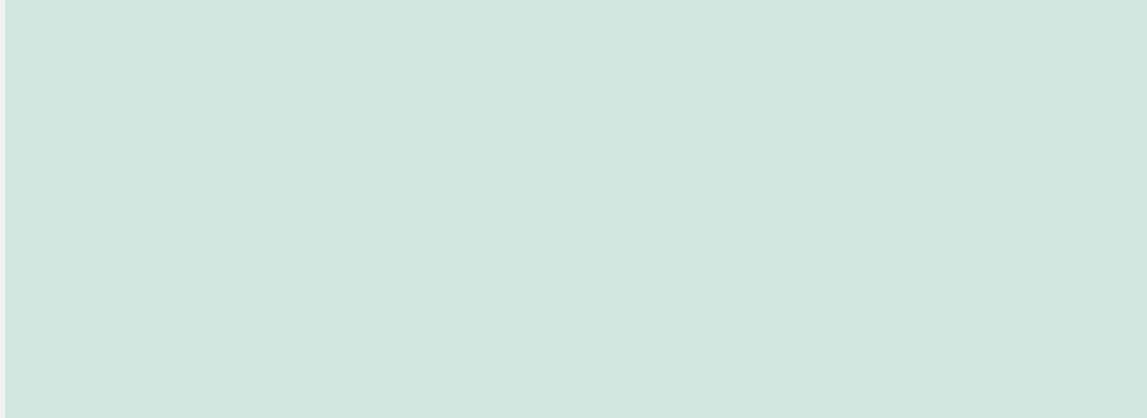
Enter the same as the total amount of Challenge funds requested from NEH

Cost Sharing

Enter the total matching funds to be raised according to the 1:1, 3:1, or 4:1 ratio

Total Project Costs

Enter the total from NEH + Cost Sharing



## How to Complete the Supplementary Cover Sheet

### 3. Project Funding

**Example:**

Outright Funds

\$0

Federal Match

\$500,000

Total from NEH

\$500,000

Cost Sharing

\$1,500,000

Total Project Costs

\$2,000,000

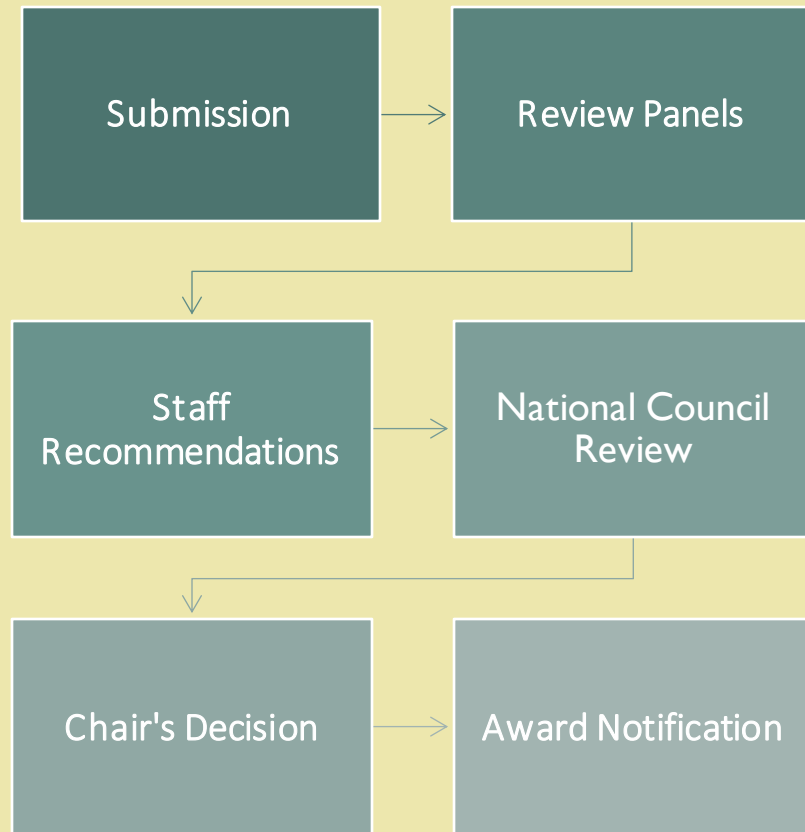


# REVIEW CRITERIA

- Humanities significance and impact
- Institutional commitment
- Quality of the plan
- Work plan and budget
- Quality of the project team
- Plan assessment, dissemination, and next steps



# NEH REVIEW PROCESS



1. NEH Staff review applications for eligibility and completeness
2. NEH uses peer review process to evaluate all eligible and complete applications
3. Peer reviewers evaluate applications according to review criteria
4. NEH staff make recommendations to the National Council on the Humanities
5. The National Council meets, then the Chair considers advice made by the review process and makes funding decisions



Reach out to a Program Officer with a short description of your project in the early stages of development



Carefully read the Notice of Funding Opportunity, FAQs, and Policy Guidance



Involve stakeholders (fundraising staff, administration, outside consultants) in the planning and grant writing process



Reach out to other institutions that have received Challenge grants



Send a draft for comments by November 29



Request panelist comments after awards are announced



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# Questions?

NEH staff are available by phone or email to answer questions and provide technical assistance!

Staff will offer feedback on draft proposals submitted to [challenge@neh.gov](mailto:challenge@neh.gov) by November 29, 2022.

[challenge@neh.gov](mailto:challenge@neh.gov)  
202-606-8309



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