



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

DIVISION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS

LANDMARKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What qualifies as a landmark for this program?

A landmark is a specific location in the United States or its territories that has significance for our history and culture. A landmark may be a recognized historical monument or group of monuments, such as a presidential residence, a Civil War battlefield, a colonial settlement, or a site associated with a major writer, artist, or musician. A historical district or a collection of thematically related structures and sites within a local region could also qualify. If you have any questions about your proposed landmark, consult an NEH program officer, by calling 202-606-8500 or sending an e-mail message to landmarks@neh.gov.

What is the most important element of an application to direct a Landmarks workshop?

The most important element is how a project topic engages K-12 educators in humanities based experiential learning. The application should address the significance of the subject and landmark(s); the topics, questions, and readings that form the core of the intellectual conversation; the relevance and applicability for K-12 curricula; and the qualifications of the humanities faculty and educators who will lead the project.

What are the review criteria?

The review criteria are as follows: 1. intellectual significance of the proposed topic and landmark(s); 2. impact on teaching and classroom application; 3. program of study; 4. project team; 5. publicity, project website, and project impact; 6. institutional context; and 7. budget. These criteria are described in greater depth in section E1 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Our project was funded previously, and we are interested in applying again. Are we eligible to apply?

As a matter of programmatic policy, NEH will not make awards in the Landmarks of American History and Culture programs for the same project (that is, a project with essentially the same humanities topic, focus theme, and faculty team) in consecutive years. Applications submitted in consecutive years must be for projects that are substantially different from the previously awarded project. For example, institutions that led a Landmarks workshop during summer 2020 on “Emily Dickinson and the U.S. Civil War” would be eligible to apply for a summer 2021 Landmarks institute with a project that instead focuses on “Emily Dickinson and Romanticism.” Landmarks and sites may be repeated, but different humanities theme(s) for the new project are required. Project directors who are unsure about the applicability of this rule should consult with program staff. See Section C3 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Our project was funded previously, and we are planning to reapply. We intend to make substantial revisions based on participant evaluations. Must we also make other changes?

An application for a previously offered project is expected to propose appropriate revisions, but such revisions are not sufficient by themselves. The application must also include a well-defined plan to disseminate the project to an audience beyond the workshop participants. Refer to specific review criteria for previously offered projects in E1 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Are there types of projects or activities that NEH does not support?

Yes. Please review the bulleted list in section D6. Funding Restrictions of the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Should the program and specific humanities content offered in each week of the workshop be the same?

Yes. The content, presenters, site visits, activities, and readings should be substantially the same in each week.

How early or late in the summer should a workshop take place?

Because of school calendars, workshops should begin no earlier than the third week in June and end before the second week in August. At least one of the two workshops supported by the award should be held in July.

When scheduling workshops, should we have an interval between them?

Yes. Although in some cases you might need to hold the workshops in quick succession, it is preferable to give time between sessions for the workshop leaders to fine-tune the intellectual and practical aspects of the project, as needed.

Our organization intends to host a welcoming reception or a final dinner for the participants in our Landmarks workshops. May we pay for this with NEH funds?

No. A recipient may choose to host such an event with other funds, but NEH funds may not be used for social or entertainment activities. However, you may include water or light refreshments in your project budget for site visits and other project-related activities.

May an independent scholar direct a workshop?

Yes. An independent scholar may direct a workshop on a proposal submitted by an eligible institutional applicant. Eligible applicants include U.S. nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, accredited institutions of higher education, state and local governmental agencies, and federally recognized Native American tribal governments. Individuals (and foreign and for-profit entities) are not eligible to apply. See Section C. Eligibility Information in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

May non-U.S. citizens serve as directors or other personnel for NEH Landmarks workshops?

Yes. Non-U.S. citizens may be involved in NEH Landmarks workshops as directors, faculty, scholarly experts, and other project personnel. If not employed by the applicant organization, the compensation for such individuals should be entered on the Research and Related Budget under F3 Consultant Services or included in a subaward to a partnering institution under F5 . Subawards/Consortium/Contractual Costs.

May non-U.S. citizens participate in a Landmarks workshop?

Only foreign nationals who have been living in the United States or its jurisdictions for at least the three years prior to the application deadline are eligible to participate. Foreign nationals teaching abroad are not eligible to participate. See section C3. Other Eligibility Information in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

May our organization include a co-director in our proposal who is not on the faculty of the institution hosting the workshop?

Yes. In this situation, both you and the co-director would share the directorial responsibilities for the full period of the project. Your salary would be entered under Key Persons on the Research and Related Budget, and your co-director's would be entered under F3 Consultant Services or included in a subaward to a partnering institution under F5 . Subawards/Consortium/Contractual Costs.

Our institution would not be an appropriate host for a workshop, but another nearby college would be. May we hold the program there?

Yes. Contact a program officer in the Division of Education Programs (by calling 202-606-8500 or sending an e-mail message to landmarks@neh.gov) for details on how to do this.

How does NEH define “significant experience in K-12 education”? What sorts of individuals have such experience, and what role should such individuals play in our workshop?

Faculty and staff with significant experience in K-12 education have worked extensively with pre-college teachers, teaching methodologies, and curricula. Such individuals might be teacher educators, curriculum developers, school librarians, museum educators, former workshop participants, or the project director). The K-12 expert's role during the project is to facilitate the incorporation of workshop content into classroom teaching in relevant and creative ways.

How should we title our proposal? Does NEH change project titles?

Your title should be descriptive of the project, substantive, and free of specialized language. It should be easily understood by the general public. The title should not exceed 125 characters (including spaces and punctuation). NEH reserves the right to re-title funded projects that do not follow agency guidelines. Award recipients, however, are permitted to use their preferred title for any award products.

Avoid using a main title that requires clarification by the subtitle. 1) "Economies and Cultures of the Blue Ridge Mountains from 1650-1950," is clearer than "Working the Woods: Economies and Cultures of the Blue Ridge Mountains: 1650-1950." 2) When possible, include a person or place and dates to indicate a project's scope. For example, "The Artistic and Cultural Legacy of Black Mountain College, 1933-1950," is clearer than, "Black Mountain College: An Artistic and Educational Legacy." 3) Use words and phrases that are informative and specific rather than puzzling or intriguing. For example, "Cleveland as a Case Study of American Immigration and Migration from the Nineteenth through the Twentieth Centuries," is clearer than "Community Memory and Landmarks of Migration."

You should provide the project title in section 6.a. of the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance – Individual Form. This form is part of the Grants.gov application package.

May the project director also serve as the institutional grant administrator?

No. The project director may not serve as the institutional grant administrator. The role of the project director must be distinguished from that of the institutional grant administrator, who functions as the representative of the recipient organization with authority to act on the organization's behalf in matters related to the administration of the award. All financial reports and prior approval requests such as budget revisions, extensions of the period of performance, and changes in key personnel must be signed or countersigned by the institutional grant administrator. Similarly, official correspondence from NEH to a recipient (for example, an offer letter, the award document, an extension, a supplement or amendment) is addressed to the institutional grant administrator and copied to the project director. The project director is the person directly in charge of the conduct of the funded project. Because the project director's involvement in the project is normally critical to its success, the replacement of the project director or the co-director or a substantial reduction in the level of their effort (for example, an unanticipated absence for more than three months, or a 25 percent reduction in the time devoted to the project) requires prior written approval from NEH.

Are program officers available to answer questions via phone or e-mail?

Yes. Program officers can offer advice on a full range of issues, such as content, scheduling, and logistics. We strongly encourage you to contact a program officer and to follow up with a draft proposal, which must be submitted to landmarks@neh.gov by January 11, 2021. Call 202-606-8500 or send an e-mail message to landmarks@neh.gov.

Our institution is considering submitting two applications to this program. Will NEH fund only one?

Each application is evaluated on its own merits. NEH might fund both applications, one, or neither.

Our institution applied for an award last year and was unsuccessful. Will this be held against us if we apply again this year?

No. Each proposal is evaluated on its own merits.

Is there anything we can do to increase our chances for success next time?

Request a copy of the comments provided to NEH by outside evaluators during the review. You must request this material by sending an e-mail message to landmarks@neh.gov. After reading these comments, you may follow up with a telephone call or e-mail message to a program officer to discuss re-submitting your proposal.