



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

DIVISION OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS

SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

Deadline: August 14, 2019 (for projects beginning May 1, 2020)

The Division of Public Programs accepts applications for the Short Documentaries program at two deadlines a year: in January and August.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 45.164

Funding Opportunity Number: 20190814-TT

OMB Control Number 3136-0134, Expiration Date: 06/30/2021

If after reading this document you have questions about this program, contact the staff of NEH's Division of Public Programs at 202-606-8269 or publicpgms@neh.gov. Applicants who are deaf or hard of hearing can contact NEH via Federal Relay (TTY users) at 800-877-8399.

Executive Summary

Funding Opportunity Title:	Short Documentaries
Funding Opportunity Number:	20190814-TT
Federal Assistance Listing Number (CFDA):	45.164
Application Due Date:	August 14, 2019, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time
Estimated Number and Type of Award(s):	9 grants
Estimated Award Amount or Funding Range:	Up to \$60,000 for a single film Up to \$250,000 for a series of films
Cost Sharing/Match Required:	No
Period of Performance:	Earliest start date is May 1, 2020 for a six to twenty-four month period of performance
Eligible Applicants:	U.S. nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, state and local governmental agencies, federally recognized Native American tribal governments, and institutions of higher education.
Program Resource Page:	https://www.neh.gov/grants/public/short-documentaries

The Short Documentaries program supports documentary films up to 30 minutes that engage audiences with humanities ideas in appealing ways. The program aims to extend the humanities to new audiences through the medium of short documentary films. Films must be grounded in humanities scholarship. The Short Documentaries program can support single films or a series of thematically-related short films addressing significant figures, events, or ideas. Programs may be intended for regional or national distribution, via broadcast, festivals, and/or online distribution.

The Short Documentaries program is authorized by 20 USC §956 *et seq.* Awards are subject to [2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards](#).

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I. Program Description

The Short Documentaries program supports the production and distribution of documentary films up to 30 minutes that engage audiences with humanities ideas in appealing ways. The program aims to extend the humanities to new audiences through the medium of short documentary films. Films must be grounded in humanities scholarship in disciplines such as history, art history, literature, religious studies, philosophy, or anthropology. You can find a more detailed description of the humanities [here](#). The Short Documentaries program supports production of single films or series of thematically-related short films addressing significant figures, events, or ideas. Programs should be intended for regional or national distribution, via broadcast, festivals, and/or online distribution.

Applications must present clear central ideas in the humanities and must demonstrate a solid command of the humanities scholarship on their subject. Applicants must have consulted with a team of scholarly advisers to develop the intellectual ideas that the program will explore. The scholars must represent fields relevant to the subject matter, have a strong record of research and scholarship in the humanities, and offer diverse perspectives and approaches. Projects must also demonstrate an approach that is thoughtful, balanced, and analytical.

Short Documentaries may explore any humanities topic. In addition to funding films on national and global topics and events, we anticipate funding projects that use humanities scholarship to explore regional stories within a broader humanities context. Examples of subjects that could be explored in this program include:

- military history
- regional Native American histories
- portraits of regional artists, folk artists, or artists tied to an exhibition
- humanistic biographies of regional authors
- biographies of civic leaders and other figures whose stories illuminate broader humanities themes regarding civic education
- significant local or regional historical events that resonated nationally or internationally
- behind-the-scenes explorations of museum collections
- historical vignettes on regional businesses and industries
- explorations of America's founding principles
- histories of significant social and intellectual movements

All proposed projects should:

employ appealing formats that will engage the general public in learning

- build on sound humanities scholarship
- deepen public understanding of significant humanities questions
- approach a subject analytically, presenting a variety of perspectives
- involve humanities scholars in all phases of development and production
- involve appropriate media professionals

Organizations seeking support for longer films should apply to [Media Projects: Development Grants](#) or [Media Projects: Production Grants](#). **These two grant programs are separate from Short Documentaries.**

Media Projects: Development Grants enable media producers to collaborate with scholars

to develop humanities content and to prepare programs for production. See the notice of funding opportunity for [Development Grants](#).

Media Projects: Production Grants support the production and distribution of documentary films, television programs, radio programs, and podcasts. See the notice of funding opportunity for [Production Grants](#).

The Division of Public Programs supports standalone digital projects through a separate program, [Digital Projects for the Public](#).

If your primary project activity is the production of short film or video for digital distribution, you should apply to this program, Short Documentaries, rather than Digital Projects for the Public.

Contact the Division of Public Programs (202-606-8269 or publicpgms@neh.gov) if you have questions as to which program best fits your project. Program staff is also available to discuss your project with you and to address your questions about the application.

Levels of Funding

Short Documentaries makes awards of up to \$60,000 for a single film. Applicants may also request funding to support a series of related short films at up to \$60,000 per film, not to exceed a total request of \$250,000.

To be ready to apply for a Short Documentaries award, you should have:

- completed research on your subject, including archival work and preliminary interviews
- involved scholars in creating and interpreting the project's content
- completed the project's script(s) and detailed treatment(s)
- designed your plans for distribution, outreach, and partnerships

Short Documentaries awards may support:

- meeting with scholars
- script refinement
- shooting and editing of short films
- distribution of completed film(s)
- creation or enhancement of resources, including websites or other digital components, related to the proposed short film(s)
- outreach activities and public engagement related to the proposed short film(s)

Short Documentaries awards may not support:

- fictional films, including dramatic adaptations of literary works
- projects that will satisfy requirements for educational degrees or formal professional training
- projects intended primarily for students in formal learning environments (though projects may include components that can be used in classrooms)
- general operations, renovation, restoration, rehabilitation, or construction of station or production facilities

- creation, preservation or cataloging of archival materials and collections, including the creation of online archives and oral history archives
- promotion of a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view
- advocacy for a particular program of social or political action
- support of specific public policies or legislation
- lobbying; or
- projects that fall outside of the humanities; the creation or performance of art; creative writing, memoirs, and creative nonfiction; and empirically based social science research or policy studies

NEH funds may not be used to support obscene, libelous, indecent, or defamatory content (including hate speech, personal attacks, or material constituting harassment).

Application Resources

The Division of Public Programs encourages applicants to work with program officers from the outset of the application process. You may submit drafts or contact us with questions. Drafts, which are optional, must be submitted by July 3, 2019. A response cannot be guaranteed if drafts arrive after this date.

While staff comments are not part of the formal review process and have no bearing on the final outcome of the proposal, previous applicants have found them helpful. If you choose to submit a draft proposal, send it as a Word attachment to publicpgms@neh.gov.

Since this is a new program, samples of successful Short Documentaries narratives are not available. However, you can review sample narratives from the related Media Projects, on the [Development Grants program resource page](#) or the [Production Grants program resource page](#).

NEH areas of interest

NEH is interested in advancing humanities-related work in the areas described below. All applications will, however, be given equal consideration in accordance with the program's review criteria.

“A More Perfect Union:” NEH Special Initiative Advancing Civic Education and Celebrating the Nation’s 250th Anniversary

As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, NEH encourages projects that promote a deeper understanding of American history and culture and that advance civics education and knowledge of our core principles of government. The agency-wide “A More Perfect Union” initiative will help Americans better understand the world’s oldest constitutional democracy and how our founding ideals are met in a modern, pluralistic society.

NEH welcomes consideration of diverse topics in American history, from Native American culture to rural life to the rise of the industrial city, from the Civil War to the Cold War to the Civil Rights movement, etc. We also seek projects that examine foundational documents in U.S. history, as well as projects that examine historical objects, places, traditions, events, and individuals who collectively shaped our states and nation. Applications that focus on the contributions of under-represented communities are highly encouraged.

Providing access to NEH-funded products

As a taxpayer-supported federal agency, NEH endeavors to make the products of its awards

available to the broadest possible audience. Our goal is for scholars, educators, students, and the American public to have ready and easy access to the wide range of NEH award products. All other considerations being equal, NEH gives preference to those projects that provide free access to the public. Detailed guidance on access and dissemination matters can be found in the “Distribution expectations and rights” section below.

NEH recipients must follow the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which is designed to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. For more information consult [Design for Accessibility: A Cultural Administrator's Handbook](#).

Copyright information

NEH recipients may copyright any work that is subject to copyright and was developed, or for which ownership was produced, under an award. In accordance with [2 CFR 200.315 \(b\)](#), NEH reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the work for federal purposes, and to authorize others to do so.

Acknowledgment of NEH support

NEH requires crediting for any program based on or incorporating the materials created with these awards, including any works derived from those materials. Consult the [Acknowledgment and Publicity Requirements for NEH Awards](#) and [Publicizing Your Project](#) pages on the NEH website for guidance on credits and promotion.

Distribution expectations and rights

Once production is completed, NEH expects that film(s) will be distributed to broad public audiences. Applicants are expected to address their distribution plans in section H of the narrative, “Distribution plan and audiences.” Recipients whose distribution plans change during the period of performance should seek approval from NEH before finalizing new distribution arrangements, as described in the terms and conditions of their award. Following the period of performance, NEH requests that recipients voluntarily keep the agency informed of further distribution arrangements that may develop.

The complete film(s) may be streamed for a limited time on the NEH website.

For more information on NEH’s rights to funded products, please see [Article 23 of the General Terms and Conditions for Awards](#).

Program income

Recipients are required to report income directly generated by NEH-funded activities or earned by the recipient or subrecipient as a result of the award during the period of performance and for seven years following the end of the period of performance. When NEH funding of a project amounts to \$50,000 or more, and the total program income earned after the period of performance exceeds \$50,000, NEH reserves the right to make a claim to or to restrict the use of the federal share of income earned during the seven years following the period of performance. The federal share is a percentage based upon the proportion of NEH support of the total project costs. For further information, please see the [NEH Program Income Policy](#).

Award information

Awards are made for a period of performance beginning no earlier than May 1, 2020 and lasting

from six to twenty-four months. Applicants may apply for up to \$250,000 (up to \$60,000 for each short documentary in a series).

Overlapping project costs between two or more applications for federal funding and/or approved federal award budgets is not permitted.

Successful applicants will be awarded outright funds, matching funds, or a combination of the two, depending on the applicant's preference and the availability of funds.

Outright funds

Outright funds awarded by NEH are not contingent on additional funding from other sources.

Federal matching funds

When federal matching funds are requested, the applicant must raise cash contributions from nonfederal third parties and have them certified before the funds are released to the recipient (see NEH's [Federal Matching Funds Guidelines](#)). The full amount of federal matching funds may not be available for release in the first year of a multi-year period of performance. Federal matching funds are typically distributed on an annual basis over the life of the award. Funds raised to satisfy a match count toward an institution's cost share for a project (see the discussion of cost sharing below).

Cost sharing

Cost sharing consists of the cash contributions made to a project by nonfederal third parties that are used to release federal matching funds.

Applicants may use voluntary cost sharing for projects in which the total costs exceed the amount awarded by NEH. Voluntary cost sharing includes cash contributions to a project by the applicant and nonfederal third parties, as well as in-kind contributions, such as donated goods and services. Although cost sharing is not required, the program is rarely able to support the full costs of projects approved for funding.

Funding commitments

Successful applicants will be required to have commitments in place for full funding for the project from all sources before NEH funds are released and production begins.

Eligibility

U.S. nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, state and local governmental agencies, and federally recognized Native American tribal governments are eligible to apply. Eligible organizations include institutions of higher education.

Individuals and foreign and for-profit entities are not eligible to apply.

Eligible organizations are encouraged to partner with independent producers. Under this arrangement, the organization serves as the lead applicant and submits the application on behalf of the partnership. Lead applicants must not function solely as fiscal agents, but should make substantive contributions to the success of the project. If the application is funded, the eligible organization is considered the recipient of record and assumes all programmatic, financial, and legal responsibilities associated with the award. [2 CFR §200.331](#) outlines recipient responsibilities for managing and monitoring subrecipients.

NEH generally does not issue awards to other federal entities or to applicants whose projects are so closely intertwined with a federal entity that the project takes on characteristics of the federal entity's own authorized activities. This does not preclude applicants from using NEH funds from, or sites and materials controlled by, other federal entities in their projects.

Additional Eligibility Considerations

Applications must be complete, must observe the specified page limits, and must be validated by Grants.gov under the correct funding opportunity number to be considered under this notice. Late, incomplete, or ineligible applications will not be reviewed.

Applicants may not submit multiple applications for the same project at the same deadline. If an application for a project is already under review, another application for the same project cannot be accepted by this or any other NEH funding opportunity. However, applicants may submit multiple applications for separate and distinct projects. Project directors may also submit applications for two different projects at the same time. If so, project directors should explain in the applications how they would allocate their time if they received more than one award.

Applicants whose projects have received NEH support may apply for an award for a new or subsequent stage of that project. These proposals receive no special consideration and will be judged by the same criteria as others in the competition. In addition, such applicants must substantially update their proposals and must include a description of the new activities and a justification of the new budget. Such applicants must also describe how the previously funded project met its goals.

If your project received a previous NEH award and you would like to be considered for a subsequent stage of the same project, please ensure that you submit all required reports on time through the end of the review period (April 2020).

II. Preparing and Organizing your Application

Review criteria

Humanities significance

- The likely contribution of the project to public understanding of the humanities, including the significance of the subject and the humanities ideas
- The quality and relevance of the humanities scholarship informing the project
- The extent to which the project offers an analytical perspective on the themes and ideas that underlie it

Creative approach, treatment, and resources

- The audiovisual approach of the film or series
- The likelihood that the film or series will effectively convey the humanities content to a general audience in an engaging manner
- The overall audiovisual style; the treatment, archival materials, and other resources that the applicant would use in the program

Humanities advisers

- The qualifications and potential contributions of the advising scholars

Media team

- The experience of the media team, and the quality of the team's previous work

Work sample

- The quality of the work sample, and its demonstration of the qualifications of the media team to produce the proposed project successfully

Audience and distribution plan

- The likely public reach and impact of the proposed film(s)
- The appeal of the project to a general audience, the estimated size of the audience, the accessibility of the ideas, and the quality of the project's distribution plan.

Work plan, budget, likelihood of success

- The extent to which the roles of team members and partners are clearly defined
- The likelihood that the applicant will meet the project's goals
- The appropriateness of the project's costs

Overall evaluation

- The quality of the project, taken as a whole

All other considerations being equal, the program will give preference to projects that provide free access to materials produced with NEH funds.

Application components

Your application will consist of four forms that you will complete in Grants.gov Workspace. You will then upload the remaining application components, which make up the bulk of your application, into the Attachment Form.

SF-424 Application for Federal Domestic Assistance – Short Organizational

This form asks for basic information about the project, the project director, and the institution. Please provide the following information:

1. Name of Federal Agency

This will be filled in automatically with "National Endowment for the Humanities."

2. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number

This will be filled in automatically with the CFDA number and title of the NEH program to which you are applying.

3. Date Received

Please leave blank.

4. Funding Opportunity Number

This will be filled in automatically.

5. Applicant Information

In this section, provide your organization's legal name, address, employer/taxpayer identification number (EIN/TIN), D-U-N-S® number, website address, and congressional district of the institution.

If your institution is located, for example, in the 5th Congressional District of your state, put a "5." If your institution doesn't have a congressional district (for example, it is in a state or U.S. territory that doesn't have districts or is in a foreign country), put a "0" (zero).

Also choose the "type" that best describes your institution (you only need to select one).

All institutions applying to federal grant programs are required to provide a D-U-N-S® number, issued by Dun & Bradstreet, as part of their application. Project directors should contact their institution's grants administrator or chief financial officer to obtain their institution's D-U-N-S® number.

6. Project Information

Provide the title of your project. Your title should be brief (no more than 125 characters), descriptive, and substantive. Successful proposals will typically have titles that are descriptive of the project, substantive, and free of specialized language. Most importantly, your title should be easily understood by the general public. NEH reserves the right to retitle funded projects for clarity when announcing its funding decisions and in its own reports and communications, but recipients are permitted to use their preferred title for any award products.

Provide a brief (no more than one thousand characters) description of your project. The description should be written for a nonspecialist audience and clearly state the importance of the proposed work and its relation to larger issues in the humanities.

List the starting and ending dates for your project. All starting dates are on the first day of a month. All ending dates are on the last day of a month.

7. Project Director

Provide the name, title, mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone and fax numbers for the project director. The project director is responsible for the programmatic aspects and day-to-day management of the proposed project. Because the project director's involvement in the proposed project is critical to its success, applicants must notify the NEH immediately if the project director listed in the application changes.

8. Primary Contact/Grants Administrator

Provide the contact information for the official responsible for the administration of the NEH award (that is, negotiating the project budget and ensuring compliance with the terms and

conditions of the award). This person is often a grants administrator or sponsored programs official.

As a matter of NEH policy, the Project Director listed in section 7 may **not** be the same individual listed as the Primary Contact/Grants Administrator listed in section 8. 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.

9. Authorized Representative

Provide the contact information for the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) who is submitting the application on behalf of the institution. This person, often called an "Authorizing Official," is typically the president, vice president, executive director, provost, or chancellor. In order to become an AOR, the person must be designated by the institution's E-Business Point of Contact. For more information, consult the [Grants.gov Online User Guide](#).

Supplementary Cover Sheet for NEH Grant Programs

This form asks for additional information about the project director, the institution, and the budget. Please provide the following information:

1. Project Director

Use the pull-down menu to select the major field of study for the project director.

2. Institution Information

Select the appropriate institution type from the drop-down menu.

3. Project Funding

Enter your project funding information. [Learn more about different funding types](#).

4. Application Information

Indicate whether the proposal will be submitted to other NEH programs, government agencies, or private entities for funding. If so, please indicate where and when. NEH frequently cosponsors projects with other funding sources. Providing this information will not prejudice the review of your application.

For Type of Application, check "new."

Enter the primary project discipline (and, if you like, the project's secondary and tertiary disciplines as well).

Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form

This form asks for information about the primary site(s) at which project activities will take

place Instructions for each requested data element may be viewed by positioning your cursor over the blank field.

Attachments Form

This form is where you will attach your narrative, budget, and the other application components.

Your attachments must be in Portable Document Format (.pdf). Make sure that all files in formats other than PDF (images, Word or Excel files, etc.) have been properly saved as PDF files. Do not simply rename your non-PDF files with PDF extensions. If an attachment contains multiple PDFs, you must merge those documents into a single PDF. Do not attach a zip file containing multiple PDFs.

Visit [Grants.gov's Adobe Software Compatibility page](#) to verify the compatibility of your current software or to download the appropriate version. Even if you choose to complete the online webforms in Workspace, you will need to convert the files that you will attach (to the Attachments Form) into PDFs. If you have a problem installing Adobe Reader, it may be because you do not have permission to install a new program on your computer. Many organizations have rules about installing new programs. If you encounter a problem, contact your system administrator.

When you open the Attachments Form, you will find fifteen attachment buttons, labeled "Attachment 1" through "Attachment 15." By clicking on a button, you will be able to choose the file from your computer that you wish to attach.

Note the following Grants.gov file naming conventions: Please limit file names to 50 or fewer characters. Do not attach any documents with the same name. All attachments should have a unique name. Please use only the following UTF-8 characters when naming your attachments: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscore, hyphen, space, period, parenthesis, curly braces, square brackets, ampersand, tilde, exclamation point, comma, semi colon, apostrophe, at sign, number sign, dollar sign, percent sign, plus sign, and equal sign. Attachments that do not follow this rule may cause the entire application to be rejected or cause issues during processing.

Please consult the Attachments Table below for how to name each attachment and the order in which to attach them. You must name and attach your files in the proper order so that we can identify them.

Attachments Table

Component	Naming Convention	Notes
Attachment 1: Narrative	narrative.pdf	Not to exceed 15 pages
Attachment 2: Detailed treatment	treatment.pdf	Requirements differ depending if the project is for a single short documentary or a series.
Attachment 3: Related digital projects	digitaldesign.pdf	Conditionally required, if applicable
Attachment 4: Work Sample	sample.pdf	A description of the work sample should be included as Attachment 4 including hyperlinks to online samples. DVD samples may be mailed.
Attachment 5: Bibliography	bibliography.pdf	Not to exceed 2 pages

Attachment 6: Images	images.pdf	Optional attachment
Attachment 7: Résumés and letters of interest and commitment	resumesandletters.pdf	Limit résumés to 2 pages
Attachment 8: Budget	budget.pdf	
Attachment 9: Federally negotiated indirect-cost rate agreement	agreement.pdf	Required for applicants seeking reimbursement of indirect costs
Attachment 10: Certification Regarding Lobbying	lobbyingcertification.pdf	Required for applicants requesting more than \$100,000

Attachment 1: Narrative

The narrative portion of the proposal should not exceed **fifteen** single-spaced pages, with one-inch margins and at least eleven-point type. Keep the review criteria in mind as you compose your narrative.

Your narrative should not assume specialized knowledge, and it should be free of jargon. It should clearly define technical terms, so that they are comprehensible to a nonspecialist audience. It should contain the following, in this order.

A. Nature of the request

State in one or two paragraphs the subject and format (including length) of the proposed film(s) and the amount of money requested from NEH.

If you are requesting support for a series of short documentaries, indicate the number and length of programs planned for the series and describe the overall concept and organization of the series.

B. Humanities content

Discuss the film’s intellectual content and significance to the humanities. Identify the humanities scholarship that informs the project. In discussing the humanities content, highlight a specific “humanities theme,” or several “humanities themes,” depending on the scope of the project. A “humanities theme” is a brief interpretive statement about a topic that shows the educational direction that a project will take.

C. Creative approach

Describe the program’s audiovisual style and approach. For example, from what perspective will the program tell its story? Will it use narration, on-camera interviews, dramatic re-creations, dramatizations, animation, or other techniques?

Briefly describe the most important resources available for the project, including interviews, archival materials, and other audio and visual materials. You will provide a detailed list of materials in section D of the narrative, “List of collections of materials to be used by the project.”

If your request includes funding for a digital component that would complement the project, describe the component’s user experience, technical framework, and educational elements. Explain how the digital component will expand the audience’s understanding of and engagement with the project’s humanities content.

If there are other productions on similar or related subjects, explain how the project will make a

new contribution.

Applicants may provide visuals, including screenshots for digital components, in the “Images” attachment below.

D. List of collections of materials to be used by the project

List audio or visual resources, including archival collections, that you plan to use in your project.

E. Preliminary interviews

If you have conducted preliminary interviews, include a list of those who have been interviewed.

F. Rights and permissions

Discuss the potential for obtaining permissions and clearing rights to use the proposed materials.

G. Humanities advisers

Identify the humanities advisers and describe the scholarly contributions that each adviser has made to the project to date and will make during the period of performance. You will include résumés and letters of commitment from each adviser in a separate attachment (see Attachment 7: Résumés and letters of interest and commitment).

H. Media team

Identify the principal members of the media team. Principal members include at a minimum the director and writer. It is also helpful to identify a director of photography and an editor. In a paragraph, summarize each person’s qualifications and contributions to the project. Describe the media team’s experience and suitability for the proposed project. You will include résumés for each person listed and letters of commitment from all in a separate attachment (see Attachment 7: Résumés and letters of interest and commitment).

G. Progress

Describe the work that has been accomplished to date on the project. Indicate the work that will be done to complete the short documentary(ies) during the NEH period of performance.

H. Distribution plan and audiences

Describe the expected reach and impact of the program. Explain how you will achieve this reach and impact.

Identify targeted audiences. If possible, estimate the size of the audience, across different platforms, for the completed project. Explain the basis for this estimate.

Provide a distribution and marketing plan. The distribution plan should detail how the NEH-funded product might be broadcast, distributed through festivals/theaters, and/or streamed on the Internet. Discuss partnerships that would help publicize the project. If you have received a letter of interest or commitment from a broadcaster or distributor about your project, include the letter in Attachment 7: Résumés and letters of interest and commitment.

I. Evaluation plan

Explain how you will evaluate the reach and impact of your project upon completion. Your evaluation plan should also be integrated into your work plan and budget.

J. Fundraising plan

Contextualize your NEH request within the larger scope of the overall project. Describe the total budget for project activities that will be conducted during the period of performance, including those costs that will not be covered by NEH funds. Specify the source and amount of all funds raised to date for all aspects of the project. Provide plans for raising additional funds from other sources, and/or securing in-kind support, to cover the costs that will exceed NEH support. **NEH programmatic policy requires that commitments for full funding for the project from all sources must be in place prior to the start of production and the release of funds.**

K. Work plan

Provide a detailed, month-by-month schedule of the work to be done during the period of performance, including the specific people involved. The work plan should clearly show how the humanities advisers will be involved in reviewing and shaping the project.

L. Organization profile

Describe briefly the mission and typical activities of the applicant institution and, if different, the production organization. Each profile should be only one paragraph.

M. Social media and audience-generated content (if applicable)

If the project includes a social media and/or an audience-generated component (for either the main media product or any ancillary digital components), describe how this component will add to the humanities content and explain the criteria and process to be used for selecting and monitoring the content. Describe the policies and process to be used to prevent the dissemination of obscene, libelous, indecent, or defamatory content (including hate speech, personal attacks or material constituting harassment).

Attachment 2: Detailed treatment

Include a detailed treatment that describes how the program will unfold, from start to finish. The detailed treatment should present a clear narrative, identify specific audio and visual materials, and demonstrate how the film would integrate the humanities analysis and interpretive content.

For applicants seeking support for a single short documentary, the treatment should not exceed ten pages, and may be shorter, depending on the length and scope of the proposed film.

For applicants seeking support for a short documentary series, include at least two detailed treatments (not to exceed ten pages per treatment), and shorter descriptions of other films in the series.

You may use published humanities scholarship, archival resources, and preliminary interviews that you have conducted as the foundation for your script or detailed treatment. Clearly identify the materials sources that inform the script or treatment.

If you are proposing a project that explored contemporary culture, explain the basis for your script. For example, you may identify the footage that you have already shot, the preliminary interviews that you have already conducted, and the scholarly research that would serve as the foundation for your program.

Attachment 3: Related digital projects

If the films would be part of a larger digital project, such as a website, provide information on this larger project. For example, if you or a partner on the project maintain a website that would host the films, provide a URL and brief description of the website.

Attachment 4: Work Sample

All applicants must submit a sample of a completed work that best demonstrates the experience and qualifications of the media team to produce the proposed project successfully.

Describe the sample, including a brief summary of the film, its distribution, and indicate the roles played by members of the media team. Include hyperlinks to the sample.

We encourage applicants to submit online samples through a video sharing service, such as Vimeo or YouTube. You are responsible for ensuring that the link to the sample remains active and that the sample will be accessible through April 2020, when applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications. If you are linking through a third party, such as a broadcaster or distributor, confirm that the link will be accessible. Please check your links and passwords carefully when you submit your application; periodically check these links after you submit your application. An online sample may not be revised after the deadline; however, if you notice that a link is broken after the application is submitted, please notify the Division of Public Programs to request permission to fix the link.

If you cannot submit an online sample, you may instead submit the sample on a DVD (standard definition); submit eight copies. Samples will not be retained by NEH, and they will not be returned to the applicant. See the additional instructions in the “Submitting samples” section below.

If you have a trailer or work-in-progress for the proposed media project, you may submit the URL or DVD for the trailer or work-in-progress, **in addition to** the sample of a completed work.

If the project includes supplementary digital components, include an example of previously completed work from the principal members of the digital team. We would like to have this work available through a URL included in the application but would also accept a DVD (eight copies), if that is a more appropriate format. Clearly indicate that this URL is your digital work sample. Identify the project personnel who worked on this sample and include additional information on the audience or distribution of the work sample.

Attachment 5: Bibliography

Include a bibliography of the humanities scholarship that significantly informs the project, not to exceed two pages.

Attachment 6: Images

You may include images with your application as a single PDF attachment. Be sure to include in this attachment a list of the images.

Attachment 7: Résumés and letters of interest and commitment

List on one page the media team and humanities advisers, using the following format: Joan Smith (American studies, University of Maryland), or John Smith (producer, ABC Films). Include résumés (of two pages or less) for and letters of commitment from the key persons on the media team and all consultants (including humanities advisers or scholars). Include letters of commitment from all participating organizations. In addition, if you have received a letter of interest or commitment from a broadcaster or distributor regarding your project, include the letter as part of this item.

Attachment 8: Budget

Using the instructions below and the sample budget, complete the budget form (MS Excel format) or a format of your own that includes all the required information. (Links to the sample budget and budget form are available on the [program resource page](#).)

All costs are subject to audit, record retention and other requirements set forth in 2 CFR 200.

All of the items listed, whether supported by NEH funds or cost sharing contributions, must be reasonable, necessary to accomplish project objectives, allowable in terms of [2 CFR 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles](#), auditable, and incurred during the period of performance. Also see the property and procurement standards set forth in [2 CFR 200 Subpart D](#).

When indirect costs are charged to the project, take care to ensure that expenses included in the organization's indirect-cost pool are not charged to the project as direct costs. For further information, see the Indirect Costs section below.

If you are requesting federal matching funds, please include required cost sharing in your application budget.

1) Salaries and Wages

Staff costs should include the position title, name (if possible), percent of full-time equivalent or total number of hours charged to the project. For support staff, include the title of each position and indicate in brackets the number of persons who will be employed in that capacity. For persons employed on an academic year basis, list separately any salary charge for work done outside the academic year. All salaries and wages claimed must be in compliance with [2 CFR §§200.430](#) and [466](#).

U.S. Department of Labor regulations require that all professional performers, scriptwriters, and related or supporting professional personnel employed on projects or productions supported in whole or in part by NEH be paid not less than the minimum union or guild rates. Review [Labor Standards on Projects or Productions Assisted by Grants from the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities](#) to familiarize yourself with applicable regulations.

2) Fringe Benefits

Fringe benefits are allowances and services provided by employers to their employees as compensation in addition to regular salaries and wages. Fringe benefits include, but are not

limited to, the costs of leave (vacation, family-related, sick or military), employee insurance, pensions, and unemployment benefit plans. All fringe benefits claimed must be in compliance with [2 CFR §200.431](#). List each rate and salary base.

3. Consultant Fees

Include payments for professional and technical consultants and honoraria. All consultant fees claimed must be in compliance with [2 CFR §200.459](#).

4. Travel Costs

List travel costs for local and long-distance travel. For local travel, outline the mileage rate, number of miles, reason for travel and staff member/consumers completing the travel. The budget should also reflect the travel expenses (for example, airfare, lodging, parking, per diem, etc.) for each person and trip associated with participating in meetings and other proposed trainings or workshops. Name the traveler(s) if possible, describe the purpose of the travel, and provide the number of trips involved, the destinations, and the number of individuals for whom funds are requested. Calculate per diem amounts for meals and lodging using written institutional policy. The lowest available commercial fares for coach or equivalent accommodations must be used. All travel costs claimed must be in compliance with [2 CFR §200.474](#), and foreign travel must comply with article 10 of the [General Terms and Conditions for Awards to Organizations](#).

Travel to regularly occurring professional meetings is not supported with NEH funds. **All trips—both foreign and domestic—must be listed individually.**

5. Supplies and Materials

Include consumable supplies and materials to be used in the project costing the lesser of the capitalization level established by the applicant or \$5,000, regardless of the length of its useful life.

6. Subawards

The costs of project activities to be undertaken by a third-party subrecipient should be included in this category as a single line item charge. A complete itemization of the cost comprising the charge should be provided in an attachment. If there is more than one subrecipient, each must be budgeted separately on the NEH form and must have an attached itemization. See [2 CFR §§200.330 and 331](#) for additional information.

7. Other Costs

Include participant stipends and room and board, equipment rental or purchases, duplication, printing, long distance telephone calls, and other items not previously listed under other budget categories or in the indirect cost pool. Please note that “miscellaneous” and “contingency” are not acceptable budget categories.

List equipment costs and provide a justification for the need to purchase the equipment to carry out the program’s goals.

Permanent equipment may be purchased for a project if an analysis demonstrates that purchasing is more economical and practical than leasing. Permanent equipment is defined as nonexpendable personal property costing \$5,000 or more and having a useful life of more than

one year. (Also see [2 CFR §§200.313 Equipment](#) and [439 Equipment and other capital expenditures](#).)

Consistent with [Executive Order 13788](#) (“Buy American and Hire American”), recipients and subrecipients who purchase equipment and products costing \$10,000 or more per unit with grant funds should purchase only American-made equipment and products. This encouragement does not apply to commercial information technology.

If a budget includes compensation for the use of equipment or facilities owned by an applicant and allocable to the project, the applicant must charge depreciation in compliance with [2 CFR §200.436](#). If the equipment was purchased with federal funds under another award, user fees may be appropriate (see [2 CFR §200.313 \(c\)\(2\)](#)). The applicant may not charge both depreciation and user fees.

Per [2 CFR §200.432](#), allowable conference costs may include rental of facilities, speakers’ fees, costs of meals and refreshments, and other items incidental to such conferences. Conference hosts/sponsors must exercise discretion and judgment in ensuring that conference costs are appropriate, necessary and managed in a manner that minimizes costs to the NEH award. Please note: if incidental food items and/or meals are provided at no charge during meetings, conferences, training, or other events attended while on NEH-supported travel, the per diem charged to the award must be reduced accordingly. Alcoholic beverages are unallowable and may not be included in your budget.

8. Total Direct Costs per year

Total the sum of items 1-7.

9 a.- c. Indirect Costs (Facilities and Administration or “F&A”)

Indirect costs are costs that are incurred for common or joint objectives and therefore cannot be readily identified with a specific project or activity of an organization. Items that would typically be regarded as indirect costs include the depreciation on buildings, equipment and capital improvement, operations and maintenance expenses, salaries of executive officers, accounting and legal services.

Indirect costs are computed by applying a federally negotiated indirect cost rate to a distribution base (usually the direct costs of the project).

For applicants seeking reimbursement for indirect costs: Please review carefully your institution’s negotiated indirect-cost rate(s) to make sure you are using the most appropriate rate in your application budget. Many institutions negotiate multiple rates—for example, “Research,” “Instruction,” and “Other Sponsored Activities.” With rare exceptions, your institution’s “Research” rate will not be the appropriate rate for inclusion in your NEH project budget, as the use of this rate is reserved for projects involving scientific research, not scholarly inquiry of the type most often supported by NEH.

If your institution has a current federally negotiated indirect cost rate, please indicate on the budget form the appropriate rate, the base, the name of the agency with which you negotiated, and the date of that agreement.

Note: Except as provided in paragraph (c)(1) of [2 CFR §200.414](#) Indirect (F&A) costs, federal agencies must use the negotiated rates in effect at the time of the initial award throughout the

life of the federal award. Award levels may not be adjusted in future years as a result of changes in negotiated rates. Except as provided in [2 CFR §200.414](#) Indirect (F&A) costs, when an educational institution does not have a negotiated rate with the federal government at the time of an award (because the educational institution is a new recipient or the parties cannot reach agreement on a rate), the provisional rate used at the time of the award must be adjusted once a rate is negotiated and approved by the cognizant agency for indirect costs. If the recipient fails to negotiate an indirect cost rate applicable to the period of performance within the period of performance, indirect costs may be disallowed.

Organizations that wish to include indirect (F&A) charges in the budget but have **never** had a federally negotiated indirect cost rate may choose one of the following options:

- 1) direct cost all expenses;
- 2) submit an indirect cost proposal to their cognizant federal agency to negotiate a rate with the federal government within three months of the effective date (period of performance start date) of the award (subrecipients may negotiate a rate with the recipient consistent with the requirements outlined in [2 CFR §200.414](#)); or
- 3) per [2 CFR §200.414\(f\)](#), the applicant may charge a de minimis rate of 10 percent of modified total direct costs (MTDC)

Per [2 CFR §200.68](#), MTDC means all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards under the award). MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$25,000. If you choose one of these three options, please indicate on the budget form which option you are choosing.

While all items should be justified by the narrative, you may include further explanation in brief budget notes explaining projected expenses or other items listed in the budget. Please explain any voluntary cost share in your budget notes. The budget notes may be single-spaced and should be appended to the budget.

10. Total Project Costs

The sum of items 8. and 9.

11a-b. Project Funding

11a Requested from NEH: Indicate the amount of outright and/or federal matching funds that is requested from NEH.

11b Cost sharing: Indicate the amount of cash contributions that will be made by the applicant and cash and in-kind contributions made by third parties to support project expenses that appear in the budget. Cash gifts that will be raised to release federal matching funds should be included under "Third-party contributions." When a project will generate income that will be used during the period of performance to support expenses listed in the budget, indicate the amount of income that will be expended on budgeted project activities. Indicate funding received from other federal agencies.

12. Total Project Funding

The sum of 11.a. and 11.b.

Attachment 9: Federally negotiated indirect-cost rate agreement

If the applicant institution is claiming indirect costs using a current federally negotiated indirect-cost rate agreement, submit a copy of the agreement.

Attachment 10: Certification Regarding Lobbying

Applicants requesting more than \$100,000 must complete and submit the Certification Regarding Lobbying. If nonfederal funds have been or will be used for lobbying, also complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities. (These forms are available on the [program resource page](#).) Submit the signed and completed document(s) as a PDF. (See [2 CFR §200.450 Lobbying](#) for additional information.)

III. Submitting your Application

All organizations must submit their applications for NEH funding via [Grants.gov Workspace](#). Before using Grants.gov for the first time, each organization must have an Employer Identification Number (EIN) and register with Grants.gov.

The Grants.gov registration process requires completing information in three separate systems:

- 1) Dun and Bradstreet (<https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>)
- 2) System for Award Management (SAM) (<https://www.sam.gov/sam>)
- 3) Grants.gov (<https://www.grants.gov/>).

In order to apply through Grants.gov, the applicant organization must first have or obtain a valid Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (D-U-N-S®) number, and register (or have an active registration) in the System for Award Management (SAM). Note: If you are registering in SAM.gov for the first time, you must provide an original, signed [notarized letter](#) stating that you are the authorized Entity Administrator for the entity associated with the D-U-N-S® number. Read the [SAM update and FAQs](#) to learn more about this process change. **The initial SAM registration can take up to six weeks.**

Organizations must maintain active SAM registration with current information at all times during which they have an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal agency. You must therefore review and update your information at least annually after the initial registration, and more frequently if required by changes in information. Effective June 29, 2018, when you go to SAM.gov and log in, you will be asked to create a Login.gov user account. Your current SAM.gov username and password will **no longer work**. Applicants renewing or updating their registrations are strongly advised to know the e-mail address associated with their current SAM.gov user account. Using the same e-mail address allows SAM.gov to automatically migrate your roles. If a different e-mail address is provided, your roles will need to be reassigned. This could cause delays in renewing or updating your SAM.gov registration. You can review your organization's SAM registration [here](#). You must provide an original, signed notarized letter stating that you are the authorized Entity Administrator for the entity associated with the D-U-N-S® number in order to renew your registration or change your banking information. **We strongly recommend that you verify the status of your SAM registration at least two weeks before the application deadline.**

Applicant organizations with a valid D-U-N-S® number and an active SAM registration must then register with Grants.gov. <https://grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>. **The initial Grants.gov registration process can take up to two weeks.**

If your organization has already registered with Grants.gov, you must verify that your registration is still active and that your Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) is current and has been approved. **We strongly recommend that you do this at least two weeks before the application deadline.** Note: Grants.gov passwords expire every 60 days. Accounts that have been inactive for one year or more result in removal of all account roles.

If you have problems registering or verifying your registration with Grants.gov, call the Grants.gov help desk at 1-800-518-4726 or email support@grants.gov.

Links to the Grants.gov application package and instructions for preparing and submitting the package can be found on the [program resource page](#).

Submitting work samples

If you are submitting your sample on a DVD instead of through a URL, send **eight copies** and label each copy (both the case and the disk) with the name of the project director, the name of the applicant institution, the title of the project, and the title of the work sample. The work sample must be **received** by the NEH on or before August 14, 2019, to be considered as part of the application. Send the sample to:

Short Documentaries
Division of Public Programs
National Endowment for the Humanities
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20506
202-606-8269

Deadlines for submitting optional draft proposals and applications

Draft proposals, which are optional, must be submitted by July 3, 2019, so that staff will have adequate time to respond. A response cannot be guaranteed if drafts arrive after this date. If you choose to submit a draft proposal, send it as an attachment to publicpgms@neh.gov.

Applications must be received and validated by Grants.gov by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on August 14, 2019, for projects beginning on April 1, 2020. Grants.gov will date- and time-stamp your application after it is fully uploaded. Applications submitted after August 14, 2019, will not be accepted. Samples must also arrive at NEH on or before August 14, 2019, to be considered as part of the application.

[Confirm that you successfully submitted your application.](#) It is your responsibility as an applicant to confirm that Grants.gov and subsequently NEH have accepted your application.

IV. What Happens After the Submission of an Application

Review and selection process

Knowledgeable persons outside NEH will read each application and advise the agency about its merits. NEH staff comments on matters of fact or on significant issues that otherwise would be missing from these reviews, then makes recommendations to the National Council on the Humanities. The National Council meets at various times during the year to advise the NEH chairman. The chairman takes into account the advice provided by the review process and, by law, makes all funding decisions. More details about NEH's review process are available [here](#).

Prior to making an award, NEH will conduct a risk assessment of successful applicants, consistent with Administrative Requirements set forth in [2 CFR §200.205](#). This assessment guards against the risk that federal financial assistance might be wasted, used fraudulently, or abused. Based on its risk assessment, NEH will include in the award documents specific conditions designed to mitigate the effects of the risk.

Information for all applicants and for successful applicants

Applicants will be notified of the decision by e-mail in April 2020. Institutional grants administrators and project directors of successful applications will receive award documents from the NEH Office of Grant Management by e-mail in April 2020. Award documents will identify the relevant terms, conditions, and administrative requirements that pertain to successful applications. The [Grant Management](#) section of the NEH website outlines all the responsibilities of award recipients, including anti-lobbying restrictions, in great detail. Applicants may obtain the evaluations of their applications by sending an e-mail message to publicpgms@neh.gov.

Reporting Requirements

Award recipients are required to submit annual performance and financial reports during the period of performance. A final financial report, final performance report, and a copy of the completed film(s) are also required no later than 90 days after the period of performance end date. Learn more about [Performance Reporting Requirements](#) and [Financial Reporting Requirements](#).

Help NEH eliminate fraud and improve management by providing information about allegations or suspicions of waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement, research misconduct (fabrication, falsification, plagiarism), or unnecessary government expenditures, during the period of performance, to the [NEH Office of the Inspector General](#).

V. Additional Information

Contact information for the program and Grants.gov

If you have questions about the program, contact:

Division of Public Programs
National Endowment for the Humanities
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20506
202-606-8269

publicpgms@neh.gov

If you have questions about registering or renewing your registration with SAM.gov, contact the Federal Service Desk Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time at:

The Federal Service Desk: FSD.gov
U.S. calls: 866-606-8220
International calls: +1 334-206-7828

If you need technical assistance in submitting your application to Grants.gov, contact Grants.gov 24 hours a day, seven days a week (excluding federal holidays).

Grants.gov: <http://www.grants.gov>
Grants.gov help desk: support@grants.gov
[Grants.gov Training Resources and Videos](#)
Grants.gov support line: 1-800-518-GRANTS (4726)

Privacy policy

Information in this notice of funding opportunity is solicited under the authority of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 956 *et seq.* The principal purpose for which the information will be used is to process the application. The information may also be used for statistical research, analysis of trends, and Congressional oversight. Failure to provide the information may result in the delay or rejection of the application.

Application completion time

The Office of Management and Budget requires federal agencies to supply information on the time needed to complete forms and also to invite comments on the paperwork burden. NEH estimates that the average time to complete this application is fifteen hours per response. This estimate includes time for reviewing instructions, researching, gathering, and maintaining the information needed, and completing and reviewing the application.

Please send any comments regarding the estimated completion time or any other aspect of this application, including suggestions for reducing the completion time to grantmanagement@neh.gov; the Office of Publications, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C. 20506; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (3136-0134), Washington, D.C. 20503. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB number.

Application checklist

- Register your institution or verify its registration with the System for Award Management (SAM).** Begin a new registration at least six weeks before the deadline. Read the [SAM update and FAQs](#) to learn more about this process.
- Register your institution or verify its registration with Grants.gov. Begin a new registration at least two weeks before the deadline.
- Access the application package through Grants.gov Workspace.** The [program resource page](#) on NEH's website has a direct link to the package. You can also search

Grants.gov for this program. The program resource page has a direct link to the NEH instructions for completing the package.

- **Complete the following forms contained in the Grants.gov application package:**
 1. SF-424 Application for Federal Domestic Assistance - Short Organizational
 2. Supplementary Cover Sheet for NEH Grant Programs
 3. Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form
 4. Attachments Form: using this form, attach the application components as described in the Attachments Table, noting the stated order and naming conventions.

- **Complete and submit your application through Grants.gov Workspace.** NEH **strongly** suggests that you submit your application no later than noon Eastern Time on the day of the deadline. Doing so will leave you time to contact the Grants.gov help desk for support, should you encounter a technical problem of some kind. The Grants.gov help desk is now available seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day (except on [federal holidays](#)), at 1-800-518-4726. You can also send an e-mail message to support@grants.gov.

Timeline

Before the August 14, 2019 deadline: Contact Division of Public Programs program officers (at 202-606-8269 or publicpgms@neh.gov) with questions and for advice (optional)

July 3, 2019: Applicants that have not registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) and Grants.gov should begin the process no later than this date

July 3, 2019: Submit draft application by this date (optional)

July 31, 2019: Applicants that have registered in SAM and Grants.gov should verify their registrations by this date

August 14, 2019: Applications must be submitted through and validated by Grants.gov by this date

August 14, 2019: If applicable, DVD samples must arrive at NEH on or before this date

October-November 2020: Peer review panels take place

March 2020: Meeting of the National Council on the Humanities, followed by funding decisions

April 2020: Applicants are notified of the funding decisions

April 2020: Institutional grants administrators and project directors of successful applications receive award documents by e-mail from the NEH Office of Grant Management

May 1, 2020: Successful applicants may begin work on their projects