

Maryland Humanities FY26 Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE Grant Program

General Operating Support Grants Fund Guidelines

All grant information and resources for applicants are made available on our website:

mdhumanities.org/grants

On June 20, 2025, Maryland Humanities will begin accepting grant applications for its Marilyn Hatza Memorial Strengthening the Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity (SHINE) Grant fund. This program will provide **30 General Operating Support grants worth \$5,000**, to non-profit organizations which provide humanities programming throughout the state of Maryland.

General Information

- No matching funds are required to receive these funds.
- Organizations may use the funds to cover any form of general operating expense. This includes, but is not limited to, expenses such as salaries and professional development, rent, utilities, supplies, programs, and equipment.
- It is discouraged to use these funds for: re-granting, purchase land, construct buildings, collections acquisition

Timeline

- **Application Opens:** June 20, 2025
- **Application Closes:** September 14, 2025, 11:59pm ET
- Applicants will be notified regarding the status of their application by the end of November 2025.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a Maryland Humanities SHINE grant, an organization must:

- conduct programming in the humanities as a significant part of its work (>70% of annual programming). Eligible non-profits include museums, historic sites, preservation and historical societies, and community & cultural organizations with a **significant humanities focus**.
- be designated as a nonprofit organization and maintain good standing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as determined by organization's 990 and Charity Check.
- be physically located and registered as a nonprofit in Maryland and have Maryland residents as its primary constituents.
- have a maximum total annual budget (income and expenses) of \$500,000 or less.

The following organizations are not eligible to apply for funding:

- Organizations with an annual budget that exceeds \$500,000.
- Organizations whose mission, focus, or majority of their programming is the creation or performance of art. This includes visual art, dance, theater, and music.
- Any federally, or state-funded agency.

- All academic Institutions, including, universities, colleges, academic departments, and K-12 institutions
- Public libraries

What are the humanities?

The humanities explore, interpret, and preserve the diversity of human cultures, ideas, practices and experiences, past and present. The humanities supports the building blocks of civil society, helping to examine the human condition, promote civics education, understand our cultural heritage, foster mutual respect for diverse beliefs and cultures, and develop media and information literacy. The most common humanities subjects include: history, literature, linguistics, law, philosophy, archaeology, religious studies, and ethics.

Organizations conducting activities in the humanities provide programs that do **two or more** of the following:

- Explore and elevate our shared stories of the past, present, and future to connect people
- Preserve, share, and celebrate cultural identities, heritage, and traditions
- Promote storytelling and enriching communities through dialogue, discussion, and participation
- Bring people together to encourage thoughtful and accessible programs that value equity, democracy, collaboration, and life-long learning

For the purposes of this grant, the humanities do not include:

- Arts (visual, music, theater, resources for working artists)
- Health and human services (organizations providing medical services, therapeutic support, etc.)
- Social services (organizations providing basic living necessities e.g. housing aid, food pantries, shelters, social work)

Funding Priorities

The most competitive applicants to the SHINE grant program will demonstrate multiple of these funding priorities:

- Organizations that center diversity, racial equity and inclusion within their mission and throughout their programming and organizational culture.
- Organizations that serve geographic areas that have historically been underserved by Maryland Humanities
- Organizations that serve audiences that have been traditionally underserved by the humanities, which includes but is not limited to: Veterans, Rural Populations, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), Low-income Individuals, Currently and Formerly Incarcerated Persons, LGBTQ+ Individuals, Currently or Formerly Unhoused People, Immigrants, and/or Disabled People
- Small and mid-size nonprofits that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising.
- Organizations with a strong connection to and emphasis on the humanities in their mission and programming.

Documentation Needed to Apply:

- Nonprofit Employer Identification Number (EIN). At the time of submission, all organizations must provide their nonprofit Employer Identification Number, or EIN. This number is utilized to evaluate that the applying organization is in good-standing and maintains its non-profit status.
- Annual Budget: 2024. All organizations must provide a copy of their 2024 annual budget that includes income and expenses.

Fiscal Sponsorships:

Organizations with fiscal sponsors are welcome to apply for a Hatza SHINE grant. The following additional documentation is required by email to eross@mdhumanities.org before the application deadline:

- Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement between the sponsor and sponsored organization that demonstrates a fiduciary pass-through arrangement.
- 2024 annual budget of the sponsor organization
- Copy of 2024 990 form of the sponsor organization

How to Apply:

All applications for this grant will be completed through our grant interface. You can access the grant interface on our website, mdhumanities.org/grants.

Have Questions?

Please reach out to Emily Ross, Program Officer, Grants, at eross@mdhumanities.org or Camilla Sandoval, Program Coordinator, Grants at csandoval@mdhumanities.org if you have any questions about the timeline, eligibility criteria, funding priorities, or application process.

Asistencia disponible en español caso por caso. Por favor contactar a Camilla Sandoval a csandoval@mdhumanities.org con preguntas sobre las reglas generales o la solicitud de nuestro programa de subvenciones.

[Mdhumanities.org/grants](https://mdhumanities.org/grants) for details and RSVP to upcoming virtual informational and office hour sessions.

- Virtual informational session – [June 25, 2025 at 3pm](#)
- Virtual informational session 2 – [July 17, 2025 at 10am](#)
- Virtual open office hours – [July 31, 2025, 10am-2pm](#)
- Virtual informational session 3 – [August 12, 2025 at 2pm](#)
- Virtual open office hours 2 – [September 2, 2025, 10am-2pm](#)