



RHODE ISLAND
HUMANITIES

2024-2025 RI Humanities Grants Information Session.

September 11 & 13, 2024.

Welcome!



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Reach Grants staff at grants@rihumanities.org!

Today's Agenda.

1. Introduction to RI Humanities.
2. Overview of Grant Opportunities.
 - Major and mini project grants.
 - THRIVE general operating support grants.
3. Major and Mini Project Grant Program Information.
 - Eligibility, timeline, application process.
4. THRIVE General Operating Support Grant Program Information.
 - Eligibility, timeline, application process.
5. What if I need help preparing my application?
6. What happens next if I receive an RI Humanities grant?

Our Mission.

Rhode Island Humanities seeds, supports, and strengthens public history, cultural heritage, civic education, and community engagement by and for all Rhode Islanders.

Our Vision and Values.

***Vision* – Our aspirations and hopes for the future.**

RI Humanities will contribute to the development of an inclusive culture of belonging for all people in Rhode Island, while actively encouraging Rhode Islanders to engage with the complexity of the state's history, current challenges, and future possibilities. RI Humanities is committed to drawing in and amplifying many voices to explore historical and contemporary issues, as well as celebrating multifaceted perspectives and approaches. RI Humanities seeks to inspire participation in community, promote conversation and difficult dialogues, and establish the basis for shared understanding that also acknowledges differences.

***Values* – Our core principles that guide how we act and what we do.**

Our core values are Relevance, Collaboration, and Community.

About RI Humanities.

- Founded in 1973 (celebrated our 50th anniversary last year!).
- We are a private 501c3 non-profit organization affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency.
 - Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island instrumental in the founding of the National Endowment for the Humanities and National Endowment for the Arts in 1965.
 - Not a government agency.
- One of 56 state and territorial humanities councils.
- Receive federal funding, state funding, and private funding (donors, foundation grants, sponsorships, etc.).

FY25 Grant Opportunities at RI Humanities.

- Major and Mini Grant Program - Federal funds.
 - Program supports public humanities projects with a clear connection to and impact in Rhode Island.
 - Open to both eligible individuals and entities/organizations.
 - Five deadlines over the course of the year (four mini grant deadlines, one major grant deadline).
 - Maximum mini grant award is \$2,000; maximum major grant award is \$12,000.
- THRIVE Grant Program - State funds.
 - Program supports organizational general operating expenses.
 - Only open to eligible organizations.
 - One deadline over the course of the year.
 - All awards are \$5,000.

Where can I find more information on RI Humanities' grantmaking programs?

- In our brief time together today, we will not be able to cover all facets of each grantmaking program!
- For all the details, please visit our website:
 - Major and mini grants:
<https://rihumanities.org/grants/grantmaking/>
 - THRIVE grants:
<https://rihumanities.org/grants/grantmaking-thrive/>
- You can find our updated [Major and Mini Grant Guidelines](#) and [THRIVE FAQs](#) documents, reference PDFs of applications and reviewer materials, information session videos, registration links, summaries of program updates, and more!

Major and Mini Project Grant Program.

Major and Mini Project Grants.

- Funding for this program - federal.
 - Our FY25 (Nov. 2024 - Oct. 2025) Budget - \$180,000 (around \$32,000 reserved for 16 mini grants, around \$148,000 reserved for 12-15 major grants).
 - Competitiveness varies from year to year, usually in the range of 35-50% acceptance rate.
- Through these programs, we fund:
 - Research projects.
 - Public projects.
 - Documentary film and media projects.

- What are the humanities?*
- What is humanities content?*
- What are humanities methods?*
- What are the public humanities?*

*Please see [Major and Mini Grant Guidelines](#) for full definitions of all terms.

Major Grants

- What types of projects do we fund with Major Grants?
 - Public Projects.
 - Documentary Film and Media.
- Requests from \$2,000 - \$12,000.
 - Requests up to \$5,000 for research, planning and development / script development stages.
 - Requests up to \$12,000 for production and implementation / production and post-production stages.
- Only eligible organizations may apply for major grants. Fiscal sponsorship is accepted.

All grant-funded projects must be free, open, and accessible to the public.

Major Grants FY25 Timeline.

Letter of Intent:

- **Oct. 1 - Dec. 2:** Letter of Intent Form available on grantmaking portal.
 - Staff will respond within two weeks of submission.
- **Dec. 2:** Letter of Intent Form Due.

Full Application:

- **Dec. 9:** Application drafts due for feedback (optional deadline).
- **Dec. 20:** Staff return feedback on application drafts (optional deadline).
- **Jan. 15:** Full application due.

Award Decision Notifications.

- **By March 20.**

Mini Grants.

- What types of projects do we fund with Mini Grants?
 - Research Projects.
 - Documentary Film and Media.
 - Public Projects.
- Requests from \$0 - \$2,000.
- Eligible individuals and organizations may apply for research projects. They may also apply for public projects.

All grant-funded projects must be free, open, and accessible to the public.

One exception: doc. film and media research grantees can choose if they wish to conclude their project with a written/verbal report to Grants staff or a public sharing of findings.

Mini Grants FY25 Timeline.

Letter of Intent:

- Not Applicable to Mini Grants.

Staff feedback on application drafts:

- Available if draft is submitted at least two weeks prior to deadline.

Application Deadlines:

- **Nov. 1.**
- **Feb. 3.**
- **May 1.**
- **August 1.**

Award Decision Notifications:

- Six weeks following each deadline.

What **can** I spend project grant funds on?

- Eligible expenses related to the execution of the project, including:
 - Project staffing (including salaries and fringe benefits).
 - Project supplies and materials.
 - Marketing and promotional materials.
 - Venue rental and other event-related costs.
 - Printing and postage.
 - A/V or technical equipment/supplies of up to \$10,000.
 - Travel and mileage.
 - Research costs (books, copying fees, etc.).
 - Website hosting costs and software purchases.
 - Exhibition fabrication.
 - Indirect costs (either 15% if org. does not have NICRA, or amount dictated by NICRA).

...and more! Please check with Grants staff if you are not sure if a cost is eligible. More details available in the [Major and Mini Grant Guidelines](#).

What **can't** I spend project grant funds on?

- **Creation of art or performances in the arts.**
 - **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.**
 - Food or beverages.
 - Academic fees or other degree-related expenses.
 - Fellowships or scholarships.
 - Courses, undergraduate or graduate degree-related pursuits, or a research project for faculty at institutions of higher education for the purpose of professional scholarly discourse.
 - Foreign, non-economy, or extensive domestic travel.
 - Book publication.
 - **Fundraising or for-profit activities.**
 - Restoration work, construction work, and/or capital costs.
 - Purchase of A/V or technical equipment/supplies that use more than \$10,000 of grant funds.
 - Archival acquisitions.
 - Economic development activities.
 - **Retroactive costs (costs incurred prior to project start date).**
- Other restrictions may apply.*

Who is eligible?

- **Nonprofit organizations.**
 - Must have 501(c)3 status or equivalent federal tax-exempt status.
 - Must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number.
- **Individual Applicants.**
 - Only eligible for mini grants.
 - Must partner with a sponsoring non-profit for major grant applications.
- **Municipal and state governments** (including schools and libraries) and **state, local, and federally recognized Indian tribal governments.**
- **Colleges and Universities** for programs beyond the “campus community.”
- **Out-of-State Applicants** for projects with a clear Rhode Island connection and impact.
- All applicants must have a **federal taxpayer identification number.**

Who is eligible?

- **Only one major or mini grant open at a time.**
 - Can submit a Letter of Intent form with an open major or mini grant, but must close it by major grant application deadline (Jan. 15, 2025).
 - Organizations acting as fiscal sponsors may have up to two grants open at a time, as long as at least one of them is a fiscally sponsored project.
- An applicant can only submit **one application per deadline**, even if they are acting as a fiscal sponsor for one of the projects.
- Must be **in good standing** with RI Humanities and not subject to our updated **Consecutive Funding Policy** for major grants.
- Common **exceptions** to free, open, and accessible to the public: K-12 school projects, museum exhibitions, doc. film and media research grants.

Application Terms / Requirements

- Humanities Content.
- Humanities Methods.
- Humanities Scholar.
- Budget in required template.
 - Cost-Share Requirement (organizations only).
- Documentary film and media.
 - Required work sample.

Selected FAQs.

- Is there a standard timeline for a funded project grant?
- Do I have to write a letter for the major grant Letter of Intent requirement? Is the Letter of Intent binding? Is it required to submit a full application?
- How long should responses to application questions be?
- Do you give any extensions on application deadlines?

Application Review Process.

- Staff Doesn't Review Applications.
 - Reviewers: Volunteer board members, compensated community reviewers.
- Review Process.
 - Mini grant review committees use Application Review Guide to go through applications, submit feedback and rankings.
 - Major grant review committees go through this process, additionally meet to discuss applications and make recommendations.
 - For final decisions, staff and Board review feedback and rankings and reconcile recommendations if necessary.

Staff Tips and Observations.

- **Reviewer evaluation materials now available on our website to help you in creating a strong application - Application Review Guide + Feedback and Ranking Form.**
- Read the entire application before starting to fill it out! Make sure that you are answering the question being asked.
- Be clear about the scope of your project - what will be accomplished by the project end date? How will we know when it's "done"?
- Do your project scope, project timeline, and project budget all tell the same story?
- Do you have the appropriate humanities scholars and partners committed to accomplish your project?

Start early and reach out to staff with any questions!

How to apply.

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=rich>

GRANTMAKING  

Howdy, RI Humanities  



RECENT GRANTS



MAJOR & MINI GRANT GUIDELINES


FOR APPLICANTS

[APPLY FOR A MINI OR MAJOR GRANT](#)

[BUDGET TEMPLATE](#)

[MAJOR AND MINI GRANT GUIDELINES](#)

Rhode Island Humanities' Major and Mini Grantmaking Program funds individuals and organizations to stimulate new research in the humanities, spark thoughtful community exchange, build new audiences for the humanities, innovate new methods in the humanities, and advocate for the importance of the humanities for a lively and engaged democratic public. Funds granted through the Major and Mini Grants are provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Announcement – Virtual Grant Information Sessions (September 11 & 13) and Virtual Drop-in Office Hours (September 23 & 30) 

Rhode Island Humanities is hosting two virtual sessions in September with information and updates on our grant opportunities for the upcoming year!

These sessions will include information on both our federally funded major and mini project grant programs, and our state-funded THRIVE general operating support program. They are especially useful if you're new to the application process or considering submitting a major grant application. We have also implemented some minor revisions to this year's programs for clarity, transparency, and accessibility, and we will discuss those, as well.

We hope you will join us, and that you'll also help us spread the word to your networks!

The sessions will be conducted via Zoom at the dates and times listed below. They will also be recorded and posted to our website.



THRIVE General Operating Support Grant Program.

RHODE ISLAND
HUMANITIES

What is the THRIVE Program?

- Funding for this program - allocation and legislative grant from the State of Rhode Island.
- Provides 22 general operating support grants of \$5,000 to eligible organizations (increase from 18 in prior round).
 - Grant funds may be used for eligible expenses related to organization operations.

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible for THRIVE funds, organizations must:

- Be located in Rhode Island and primarily serve Rhode Island residents and visitors;
- Be a non-profit registered with the State of Rhode Island;
 - Federal tax-exemption is not required.
- Meet the definitions of one of the two types of humanities organizations (determined by organizational mission and programmatic activities):
 - Cultural Heritage Organization.
 - Local Historical and/or Preservation Society.
- Have a current annual operating budget of \$150,000/year or less.

*Participation in any other RI Humanities grantmaking program will not affect eligibility for the THRIVE program.

Humanities Organizations Definitions.

What is a **Cultural Heritage Organization**?

- An organization whose mission and programs include a focus on the preservation, perpetuation, and promotion of heritage, histories, and/or cultural practices and traditions representative of a particular culture and/or people.

What is a **Local Historical and/or Preservation Society**?

- An organization whose mission and programs are dedicated to the preservation, perpetuation, and promotion of a history and culture of a particular place.

Who is *not* eligible to apply?

- Individual applicants.
- For-profit organizations.
- Foreign entities.
- K-12 schools.
- Institutions of higher education.
- State and local governmental entities.
- Nonprofits who *do not* fit the eligibility criteria.

What *can* I use a THRIVE award for?

Funds can go towards the operational costs of the organization, including:

- Staffing.
- Rent and utilities.
- Program supplies and materials.
- Website and database development and maintenance.
- Marketing and communications.
- Technology equipment.
- Minor facilities repairs and/or improvements.
- Physical and digital accessibility improvements.
- Consultant fees.

There is **no cost-share / cash-match requirement** for THRIVE awards.

What *can't* I use a THRIVE award for?

- **Expenses unrelated to the operations of the grantee organization.**
- Purchase of alcoholic beverages.
- Purchase of firearms, guns, and/or explosives.
- **Purchase of land and/or construction of facilities.**
- Purchase of gambling equipment or anything related to gambling.
- Competitive regranteeing, prizes, or awards.
- Donation or loans to other individuals or organizations.
- Placement of funds in the custody of any individual.
- **Pre-award costs prior to December 13, 2024.**

Cont.d on following slide.

What *can't* I use a THRIVE award for? (*cont.d*)

- **Promotion of a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view; advocacy of a particular program of social or political action; support of specific public policies or legislation; lobbying; political activities.**
- Transportation of voters or prospective voters to polling places.
- Any fundraising or for-profit efforts, such as social events or benefits.
- Payment for entertainment or amusement activities (subject to approval).
- Undergraduate or graduate school activities (activities which are part of a graduate or undergraduate degree program, or for which academic credit is received).

What are the funding priorities?

- Resources available: 22 THRIVE grants of \$5,000 each.
- Staff will review all applications for eligibility, and also to determine **new** and **returning** applicant status:
 - New applicants: applicants who have not previously applied to the THRIVE program.
 - Returning applicants: applicants who have previously applied to the THRIVE program.

Previous applications to RI Humanities outside of the THRIVE program do not affect new/return applicant status for the program.

- If we have resources available for all eligible applicants, all applicants will receive funding.
- If there are more eligible applicants than resources available, priority will be given to:
 - 1. Return applicants whose previous THRIVE application did not receive funding;

What are the funding priorities? *(cont.d)*

- 2. New applicants, with priority given to:
 - Organizations where the communities served by the organization are reflected in organizational leadership;
 - Organizations that are making efforts towards strengthening diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in their programs, services, and operations.

There are questions evaluating these two priority areas in the application. Information about how these responses will be evaluated is available in the [THRIVE FAQs](#).
- 3. Return applicants whose previous THRIVE application did receive funding.

Please see the [THRIVE FAQs](#) for more information about funding priorities and decisions.

THRIVE Program Timeline.

Application opens on grantmaking portal:

- **Sept 16, 2024.**

Application drafts due for staff feedback (optional)

- **Oct. 8, 2024.**

Application deadline:

- **Oct. 28, 2024 at 11:59 pm EST.**

Award Decision Notifications:

- **By Dec. 13 2024.**

Grant Funds Disbursed:

- **January 2025.**

End of Grant Period:

- **June 30, 2025.**

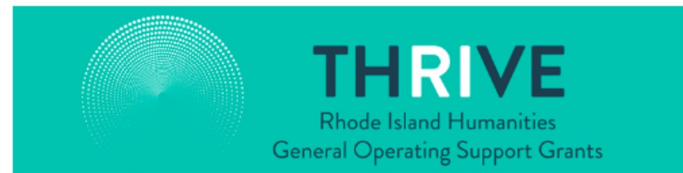
Application Information.

- **New applicants** and **return applicants** fill out slightly different applications - both accessible through the same form.
- **All applicants** must provide:
 - Two authorized officials from your organization.
 - Overall summary of your organization's budget for your current fiscal year.
 - Documentation of registration as a nonprofit corporation in good standing with the RI Department of State.
 - Planned use for requested funds.
- **New applicants** must provide:
 - Organizational mission statement.
 - Communities served.
 - Organization programs and services.
 - Answers to two narrative questions assessing priority areas.
- **Return applicants** only have to provide the mission statement, communities served, and programs and services if anything has changed since the last application. They do not have to complete the two narrative questions.

How to apply.

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=rich>

January 26, 2024 By



What is the THRIVE Program?

Thanks to an allocation from the State of Rhode Island, RI Humanities is excited to announce the THRIVE general operating support grantmaking program. THRIVE provides funding for small cultural heritage organizations and local historical and preservation societies that support and strengthen Rhode Island's many diverse, dynamic communities.

The THRIVE program will offer 18 general operating support grants of \$5,000 each to eligible organizations (see the *Who is eligible to apply?* section). Grant funds may be used for expenses related to organizational operations (see the *What can I use this grant award for?* section).

The application is open to any organization that fits the program's eligibility requirements (see the *Who is eligible to apply?* section). If there is a higher number of applications than available grants, RI Humanities staff will convene a panel that will prioritize applications based on program funding priorities (see the *What are the funding priorities?* section).

The program application opens January 26, 2024. The deadline to apply is 11:59 pm EST on March 22, 2024. Grant award announcements will be made by the end of April 2024 and funds will be disbursed to grantees in May 2024. Awardees must conclude their grant-funded activities by December 31, 2024, and will be required to provide a final report to complete their grant requirements.

A reference PDF of the application questions is available [here](#). Applicants must submit a completed application form online through the RI Humanities [grantmaking portal](#).

RI Humanities staff will be hosting information sessions and providing one-on-one support during office hours (see the *What if I need help?* section). If you have any questions, please contact RI Humanities grants staff at grants@rihumanities.org.

A reference PDF of THRIVE Program FAQs is available to [download here](#).

[APPLY FOR A THRIVE GRANT](#)

What if I need help?

- **Resources on [website](#):**
 - Summary of all updates for FY25 programs.
 - PDFs of all applications.
 - [Major and Mini Grant Guidelines](#) and [THRIVE FAQs](#).
 - PDFs of reviewer guides, forms, and rubrics.
 - Video and slides from this information session.
 - Registration links for info sessions and office hours.
- **Staff are a resource - it is literally our job to help you!**
 - Drop-in virtual office hours on 9/23 and 9/30.
 - One-on-one meetings available depending on staff schedules.
 - Contact us well ahead of the deadline with any questions, and consider submitting your application for feedback per the timelines.
 - Email us at grants@rihumanities.org.
 - Call us at (401) 273-2250.

I've received an RI Humanities grant! Now what?!

- Congrats!!
- Must submit award paperwork to receive funds.
- Funds must be spent and grant-funded activities completed by project end date.
- Required Reporting.
 - Interim Report (only for project grants where timeline is over a year)
 - Final Report (all grantees)
- Resources and Support from RI Humanities

Please proactively reach out to staff for any requested changes to your original project staffing, scope, timeline, and budget. We're happy to work with you, and understand that things change and adaptations are sometimes necessary.

Thank you!



Image courtesy of Providence Children's Film Festival.