

# Spring 2026 Grant Opportunity Application Guidelines & Frequently Asked Questions

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## About Georgia Humanities

Founded in 1971, Georgia Humanities is the only nonprofit providing statewide support for the humanities in Georgia. An affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Georgia Humanities connects people and communities to explore what shapes us as individuals and binds us together as Georgians through public humanities programming. As a facilitating organization, we use our grants to see who is and is not served by current programming and to partner with organizations equally invested in reaching broader audiences.

## About the America250 initiative at Georgia Humanities

America250 marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. Georgia Humanities interprets America250 broadly to support public humanities projects that invite Georgians to explore the nation's history, ideals, conflicts, and ongoing civic questions through a Georgia-centered lens. Projects may address local, state, or national histories, diverse community experiences, and evolving interpretations of American democracy. Projects are not required to be celebratory in nature. See more details here:

<https://www.georgiahumanities.org/grants/america250-grant-opportunity/>

## ***What's New***

As Georgia communities prepare to mark America's 250th anniversary, Georgia Humanities has made several updates to the Spring 2026 grant cycle to help organizations plan and deliver meaningful public humanities programming during this statewide moment. Applicants—especially returning grantees—are encouraged to review the updates below.

### ❖ **Expanded Grant Amounts**

- The Spring Grant cycle offers grant awards from \$1000-\$7,500 in order to support both smaller programs and larger or multi-part proposals with opportunities to connect to the America250 initiative.

### ❖ **Expanded Eligibility**

- To support the America250 initiative and the introduction of larger award amounts, Georgia Humanities will not apply the three-year consecutive funding limit during this cycle.

### ❖ **Rolling Review**

- Unlike previous Grant opportunities, our Spring deadline offers application review on a rolling basis in scheduled rounds, allowing for more timely funding decisions as proposals are received.

### ❖ **Condensed Timeline**

- Because of the fixed end date of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, applicants should prepare for a shorter period of performance than in previous cycles that typically offered a year-long period of performance.

## Grant Opportunity Overview and Deadlines

Under this Grant opportunity, Georgia Humanities will award up to \$7,500 for public-facing humanities programs that bring people together for dialogue and shared experience. We prioritize projects that actively invite community members from different backgrounds to participate and that are free or low-cost to attend. The number of awards made will depend on request amounts and available funding. Funding availability is contingent upon federal and state allocations and is subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

### Application Deadlines:

Rolling from:

**Monday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 11:59pm**

**to Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 11:59pm**

- Applications will be reviewed in order of submission
- Grant period of performance: February 2 – May 1, 2026 until December, 2026
- Award Amounts: Minimum: \$1,000 – Maximum: \$7,500 with matching 1:1
- Anticipated award announcements: May, 2026

## Eligibility

### *Who May Apply*

Eligible Georgia-based applicants serving Georgia audiences include:

- Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status (or a qualified fiscal sponsor)
- Accredited colleges or universities
- Libraries, museums, and historical societies
- State or local government agencies
- Federally recognized tribal governments

Individuals and for-profit entities are **not** eligible.

### *What We Fund*

Georgia Humanities supports projects grounded in the humanities that include public engagement and interpretation. Examples include lectures, discussions, exhibitions with interpretive programming, oral or living history initiatives, reading and discussion programs,

walking tours, workshops, author talks and literary festivals, and digital humanities projects. All projects must be publicly advertised, non-partisan, free or low-cost, accessible, and inclusive of diverse audiences. Projects that are digitally scalable and can be made available to other communities are strongly encouraged.

### *What We Do Not Fund*

- Individuals
- Fundraising events
- Construction/restoration (including historic properties)
- Research not directly tied to the public program
- Coursework toward an academic degree
- Art for art's sake (performing/visual arts without a humanities interpretive component)
- General operating or capital improvements
- Social services
- Scholarships, fellowships, or cash prizes
- Travel for academic/professional conferences
- Food, entertainment, or alcoholic beverages
- Book publications
- Programs not publicly advertised or that are exclusive
- Advocacy for social, religious, or political positions
- Lobbying or attempts to influence legislation

### **Project Requirements**

All proposed projects must meet the requirements listed below to be considered for a program grant from Georgia Humanities. A review committee, comprised of members of the Georgia Humanities Board of Directors, uses these requirements to evaluate grant applications and make award decisions.

Projects must:

- Be grounded in the humanities;
- Include at least one humanities scholar in planning and implementation stages. Advanced degrees are preferred but not required. Community historians, culture bearers, and tradition keepers may qualify when their expertise is demonstrated;
- Include at least one public gathering (in-person, virtual, or hybrid) designed to encourage dialogue;
- Be free or low-cost for participants. Limited exceptions for standard institutional entry fees (e.g., museum or historic site admission) may be considered only with prior written approval from Georgia Humanities and only when the grant-supported program itself is offered free of charge;
- Request a minimum of \$1,000 and up to \$7,500 ;

- Period of Performance: Start no earlier than Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 and complete activities on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026;
- Strive for ADA-accessible venues; caption virtual content when feasible; address language access if relevant;
- Credit: Use required credit lines and logos (provided upon award);
- Awardees must provide a UEI (Unique Entity ID). Federal UEIs can be obtained through [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) at no cost. Grant funds will not be distributed until a valid UEI is received.
- Provide a 1:1 match (cash and/or in-kind). More information about our budgeting and cost-share policy can be found here: [https://www.georgiahumanities.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Georgia\\_Humanities\\_Budget\\_and\\_Cost\\_Share\\_Policies.pdf](https://www.georgiahumanities.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Georgia_Humanities_Budget_and_Cost_Share_Policies.pdf)

### Application & Submission Information

Applications are submitted online and reviewed on a rolling basis in the order received. Funding decisions are made until available funds are exhausted. Applicants are encouraged to apply early.

Projects may begin as early as two weeks after award notification and must be completed no later than December 31. Awardees may begin programming prior to the public announcement of awards, which will occur in May.

### Application Process

- Access this grant opportunity application [HERE](#).
- **Project Summary:** Include your project name, indicate whether you are applying under our America 250 initiative, and provide a concise overview of the project that summarizes the topic, gives the audience expectations and format, and details what main humanities question this project addresses. For project dates, projects may begin as early as two weeks after award notification, provided that all required event details—including dates, times, locations, and format—have been submitted to Georgia Humanities in advance for promotional and compliance purposes.
- **Narrative:** Include humanities themes your project explores (ideas, interpretation, context). You should detail why this topic matters to Georgians and how audiences will engage with the content.
- **Project Scholars:** Identify which humanities scholar you are working with on your project, their relevant expertise and background, and their role in shaping project content. Project scholars can be faculty, independent researchers, or community experts with demonstrable credentials. Upload any relevant scholar bios. Georgia Humanities understands that identifying a humanities scholar may be new for some organizations or communities. Staff are available to assist applicants in identifying and connecting with appropriate humanities scholars during the planning and application process.

- **Publicity and Marketing:** Describe how you will advertise your program, which channels you will use to promote your program (social media, newsletters, press, community partners, etc.), and why these avenues are appropriate for your audience. Note: Marketing quality does not substitute for public access — ensure promotion supports access.
- **Timeline:** Provide a sequence of project activities such as planning dates, promotion, project delivery, and evaluation activities. Be sure to include the dates that fall within your proposal's period of performance.
- **Evaluation and Outcomes:** Include examples of what success looks like for your particular project. Detail ways that you will measure this success, such as surveys, attendance, feedback forms, journal responses, etc. Outcomes should be directly tied to your humanities goals.
- **Budget:** Upload your Budget Narrative form that details itemized expenditures. Include the amount of requested grant funds and an explanation of your matching funds with a clear delineation between cash and in-kind cost shares. Be sure the totals match and that each line item clearly supports project activities and falls within the scope of allowable costs.
- **Supporting Documents:** Upload letters of recommendation, relevant program information such as maps, translated documents, or diagrams. Include program samples or examples of past work.

## Review Process

Applications are reviewed in the order received. Each application is judged on:

- Humanities content and interpretation
- Public engagement potential
- Project feasibility
- Scholar involvement
- Budget clarity and match documentation

Reviewers use a standardized scoring rubric; applicants are encouraged to consult it to strengthen narratives. You can find the Evaluation Rubric here:

<https://www.georgiahumanities.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Georgia-Humanities-Grant-Evaluation-Rubric.pdf>

Applicants typically receive notification of decision by email approximately **2–4 weeks** after submission.

## Post-Award Requirements

Awardees are responsible for complying with all grant requirements after an award is issued. Specifically, awardees must:

- Submit all required follow-up materials by the stated deadlines, including a final narrative report and budget reconciliation documenting how grant funds and matching contributions were used.
- Document all required matching contributions, including both cash and in-kind support, using appropriate and verifiable records (such as invoices, receipts, time logs, or donation letters).
- Acknowledge Georgia Humanities support by including required credit language and logos on all promotional materials, programs, publications, and digital content related to the funded project.
- Submit and receive approval of the final report before the release of any remaining grant funds. Final payment is contingent upon satisfactory completion of reporting requirements.
- Maintain records related to grant expenditures and matching contributions in accordance with Georgia Humanities' budget and cost-share policies.

**Failure to meet reporting or matching requirements may result in withholding of final payment or repayment of grant funds** in proportion to unmet or undocumented matching contributions, in accordance with Georgia Humanities' cost-share policy.

### **Georgia Humanities Staff Contact**

Georgia Humanities staff are available to provide guidance and technical support throughout the application process. Comments and suggestions are based on prior experience and do not guarantee approval.

Applicants may contact Amy Banish, Grant Coordinator, at [abanish@georgiahumanities.org](mailto:abanish@georgiahumanities.org) or by calling (706) 703-2283.