



HUMANITIES NEW YORK

Humanities New York Public Humanities Fellowship – Application Guidelines Updated October 1, 2019

Who is eligible for the Public Humanities Fellowship?

Anyone enrolled as a graduate student at one of our nine partner universities: Binghamton University, Columbia University, Cornell University, CUNY Graduate Center, New York University, Stony Brook University, Syracuse University, the University at Buffalo, or The University of Rochester.

What should my project proposal include?

The project proposal should describe, in as much concrete detail as you are able to include at this moment, what the project will look like from start to finish. It should discuss who the ideal and/or likely participants in the project would be, where the project might take place, and when. In particular, you should discuss what community groups, non-profits, or individuals might serve as partners on the project, and what your current relationship is with those potential partners. Applicants should also include a brief history of their interest and involvement in public humanities work, especially as it relates to the proposed project.

Stronger applications should both describe the project and keep in mind the larger evaluative criteria used by the Fellowship committee, described below.

How will the proposal be assessed?

The Fellowship committee looks at four factors when considering proposals.

- The first is the project's innovation, or how novel it feels in approach, subject matter, audience, and/or format.
- The second is feasibility, based on whether the applicant has identified suitable partners, has laid out a viable workplan, and is likely to see the project to fruition.
- The third is urgency, dependent largely on how needed the project is in the community identified by the applicant and how likely it is to make a positive impact.
- The final factor is engagement, or the potential for the proposed project to engage wide publics and whether the applicant exhibits a commitment to doing public work.

Are there any types of projects that will not be considered?

Not outright, but the Fellowship committee would like to discourage projects that take place primarily on-campus or that heavily involve the university classroom.

I am a student in a field outside the humanities. Can I still apply?

Yes! The Fellowship is for any project that incorporates humanities methods or approaches, broadly conceived.

Who should I list as my references?

Your references can be anyone with whom you've discussed the project and your desire to apply for the Public Humanities Fellowship. They can be faculty on your campus or partners you intend to work with on the project, and ideally one of each.

You do not need to ask for letters of recommendation from your references. All that we require is contact information in case the committee decides to reach out for further information.