



JULY 2015

GRANTS AND PROGRAMS WORKSHOP

HARRISBURG

Illinois Humanities Programs & Grants

# Illinois Humanities

- Our website: [www.ilhumanities.org](http://www.ilhumanities.org)
- The mission of Illinois Humanities is “**to strengthen society by fueling inquiry and conversation about the ideas and works that shape our culture.**” Our work yields social, economic, and political value through informed discussion and debate in four areas: art, media & journalism, public policy, and business.



Organized as a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1973, Illinois Humanities is now a private nonprofit (501 [c] 3) organization that is funded by contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations; by the Illinois General Assembly through the Illinois Arts Council Agency; and by the NEH.

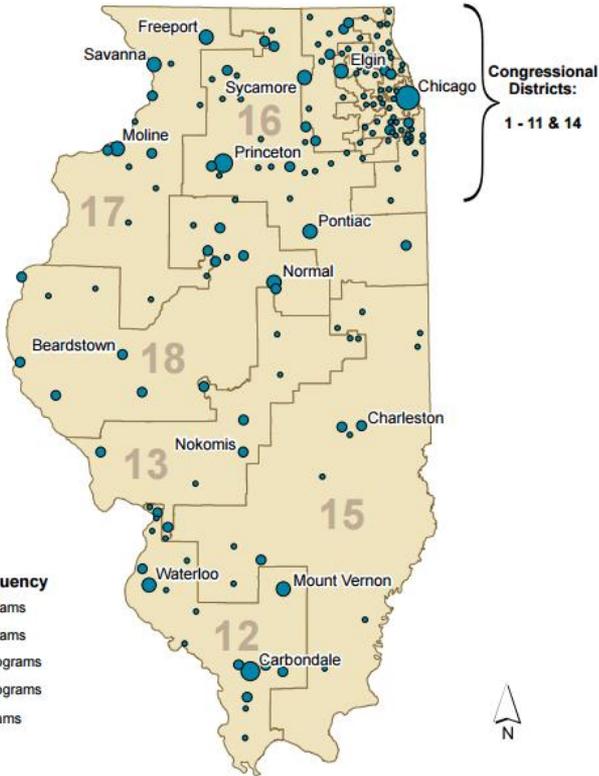
# What are the humanities?

- For its purposes, Illinois Humanities defines the humanities as **“the examination of what it means to be human through the interpretation and discussion of all forms of thought, interest, and expression.”**
- The humanities include such disciplines as language, linguistics, and literature; history; legal and political theory; philosophy, religious studies, and ethics; the history, criticism, and theory of the arts; and those aspects of the social sciences (such as anthropology, geography, and economics) that involve humanistic content and methods.

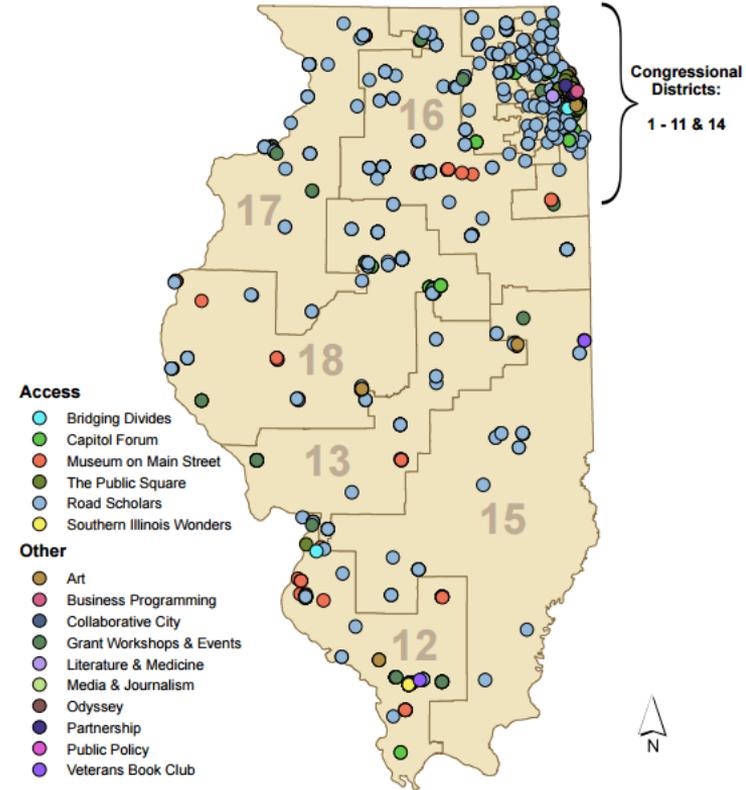


# Geographic distribution of IH programming, 2011-2014

Illinois Humanities Programs, 2011-2014:  
Statewide Program Frequency per City



Illinois Humanities Programs, 2011-2014:  
Focus Areas





## Illinois Humanities Programs

# Our focus areas:



- Public Policy
- Media & Journalism
- Business
- Art
- Access

# Some programs available to southern Illinois residents



# Capitol Forum on America's Future

- Year-long civic education program for high school students promoting informed discussion about and active engagement with human rights policy issues
- Curriculum from Brown University's Choices Program, "Competing Visions of Human Rights: Questions for U.S. Policy," is incorporated into social studies classes
- Program culminates with gathering of all participants at Illinois State University featuring seminars with professors, debates, and policy-making simulations



# Small-group discussions (“Café Society”)



- Moderated, open-forum discussions of culturally significant current events and contemporary issues, often drawing upon selected readings
- Discussions occur monthly in Carbondale and in alternating months in Vienna and Golconda
- Upcoming discussions:
  - Friday, August 14, 6 PM, Vienna Diner, Vienna
  - Sunday, August 16, 7 PM, Panera Bread, Carbondale

# Road Scholars Speakers Bureau

- Enables organizations of all sizes statewide to present compelling, free-admission cultural programs to their communities at little cost to them
- Invites Illinois authors, artists, and scholars to share their expertise and enthusiasm with people throughout the state
- Organizations select from a roster of 25-35 presentations representing a wide range of subject matter, selected annually

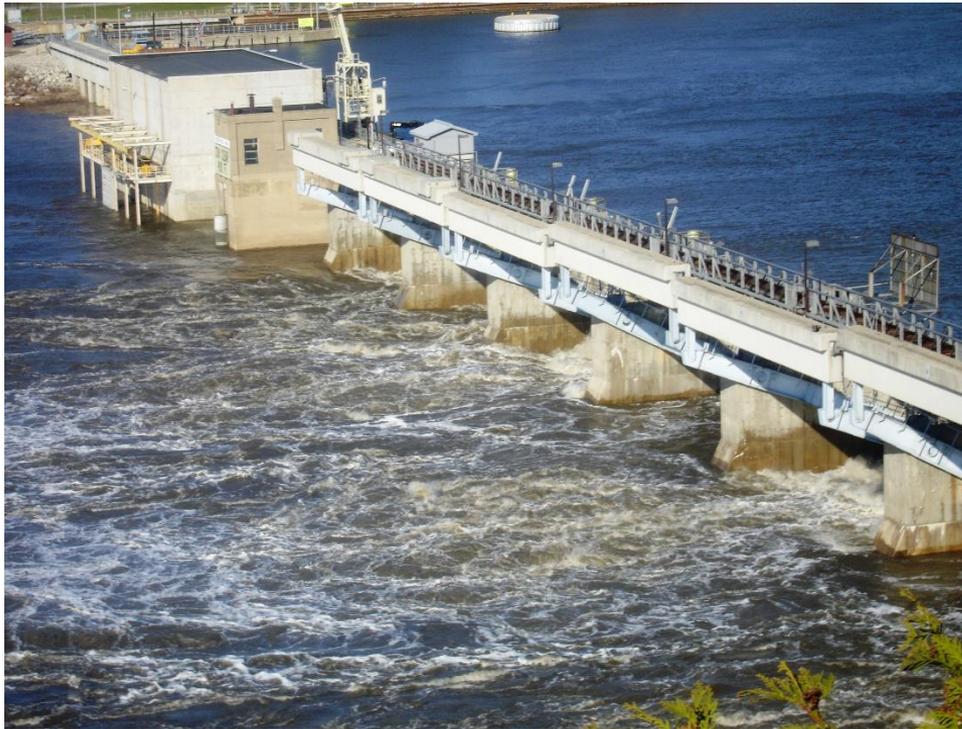


# Museum on Main Street

- Partnership between the Smithsonian Institution and state humanities councils that brings traveling exhibitions on significant themes in American culture to small communities
- Gives Illinoisans opportunities to view Smithsonian-designed exhibits in their own communities
- Enables local cultural organizations that host the exhibits to enhance their capacities in various ways
- Host organizations develop locally focused companion exhibits and public programs



# Coming in 2016-17:



Six host organizations in Illinois, including...

- Lawrence County Historical Society, September 3-October 16, 2016
- Valmeyer Community Heritage Society, October 22-December 4, 2016
- Science Center of Southern Illinois, Carbondale, December 10, 2016-January 22, 2017

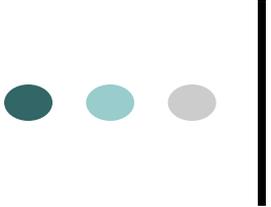
# Two additional programs

## ❑ Veterans Book Group

- Veterans Book Groups met in Carbondale, Springfield, and Champaign in 2014-15
- A new Veterans Book Group specifically for women veterans will meet at SIU Carbondale in late August through October 2015 – details TBA

## ❑ Southern Illinois Wonders

- Series of five-minute radio programs on various humanities topics and themes related to southern Illinois, produced in partnership with WSIU FM in 2014
- Currently on hiatus, but we hope to produce another season within the next year; 2014 programs are accessible in streaming audio form via our website



# Community Grants



# FUNDING INTERESTS

- **Nonprofit organizations – not individuals**
- **Public humanities programs in Illinois that are shaped by and significantly involve humanities scholars and/or other community experts (defined broadly)**
- **Programs developed by, for, or aimed at reaching new or historically neglected audiences**
- **Technical assistance for small organizations**
- **General support for humanities organizations**
- **Four grant categories: project, media, technical assistance, and general support grants**



# Funding Restrictions

## **Illinois Humanities does NOT fund:**

- Advocacy or social action
- Projects for fundraising purposes
- Construction or restoration costs
- Purchase of permanent equipment
- Library or museum acquisitions
- Individuals, research or other endeavors intended primarily for the scholarly community, curriculum development or revisions, or academic courses for credit
- Performing arts as ends in themselves
- Projects directed primarily to children or students in formal school settings
- More than 50% of total project costs
- Indirect costs of sponsoring organizations
- Food and beverage costs for audiences or alcoholic beverages
- Expenses incurred or paid out before an IH grant award is made

# GRANT CATEGORIES



- 1) Project Grants
- 2) Media Grants
- 3) Technical Assistance Grants
- 4) General Support Grants

# Project and Media Grants

## Project Grant

- Up to a maximum of \$5000.
- Support for public humanities programs
- Scholars involved – academic degree not as important as experience
- Public program – intended for the public – college-based programs must be open and marketed to the broader community, not just the university community
- Targets underserved groups

## Media Grant

- Up to a maximum of \$4000 for development grants
- Up to a maximum of \$5000 for production grants
- Primarily films, but IHC has funded some radio documentaries, an occasional web site or app project
- Needs to have definite humanities content and primarily for educational purposes, not promotional purposes
- The more information about distribution and screening plans included in the application, the better.

# Technical Assistance Grants

- Up to a maximum of \$2000
- For organizations with annual budgets no larger than \$250,000.
- Grants to help gain skills and expertise that will strengthen the organization and its programs (consultant to train on archiving, training on marketing programs and events, etc.)
- Examples: training on collections management, preservation and archiving; strategic planning; board and volunteer development; marketing and outreach planning and training.



# General Support Grants

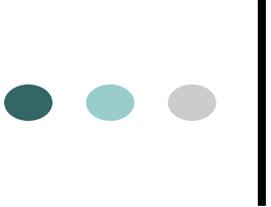


- ❑ Limited to organizations in which the humanities are central to the organizational mission and whose primary work involves public engagement with the humanities.
- ❑ Funds can be used for general expenses of the organization including staff, program costs, marketing, etc.
- ❑ Proposals do need to describe clearly the programmatic and organizational priorities and activities for the year.
- ❑ Response to economic downturn

# IH Grantmaking Process

- Illinois Humanities cannot fund something that has already happened or for which most of the budget has been spent.
- Decision time frame: Approximately 8 weeks after application deadline.
- Example: September program – applying in July may be too late.

- Accept drafts: approximately 1 month before deadline
- IH staff will review drafts of proposals and give you feedback.
- Grant deadlines: January 15, April 15, July 15, October 15
- Final applications reviewed by our staff.
- Staff complete evaluative overviews for the grants committee of the board to review.
- Grants committee reviews applications and makes selections, which are then ratified by the executive committee.
- If funded, grantee receives letter and package explaining reporting and acknowledgment requirements for the grant.

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- The application form for project, media, and technical assistance grants
  - Note: the application form for general support grants is somewhat different but largely similar

# Application Instructions: Narrative

In a maximum of 12 double spaced, one-sided pages for Project, Media, or General Support Grants, or a maximum of 6 double spaced, one-sided pages for Technical Assistance Grants:

1. Organization
2. Program/Project
3. Community/Audience
4. Evaluation/Impact
5. Use of Illinois Humanities Funds

# 1. Organization



- Background, mission, and history
- Organization's structure, governance, and staffing
- Organization's history with Illinois Humanities.

# 2. Program/Project

## Questions for Project,

### Media, and Technical Assistance Grant Applicants

- How does your organization engage with the humanities?
- Describe the program or project: who, what, where, when, how, etc.
- Who is providing the humanities expertise?
- Why is your organization undertaking this project? Why is the project important?
- If applicable, describe any collaborations with other organizations for this project.

## Questions for

### General Support Grant Applicants

- How are the humanities central to your mission and your programming?
- What are your organization's key program priorities and activities for the year in which you are applying for funds?
- Please describe humanities scholars on staff and how they help support the mission of your organization
- If applicable, please describe any collaborations with other organizations with which you normally engage.

# 3. Community / Audience

## Questions for Project, Media, and Technical Assistance Grant

- How would you describe the community this program or project is intended to reach?
- How is the program or project public?
- Is there a target audience for the project?

## Questions for General Support Grant Applicants

- Please describe the communities you regularly serve.
- How are your programs accessible and affordable for the general public?
- What is the target audience and how do you reach them?

# 4. Evaluation/Impact



- How will you determine if your program or project was successful or if your organization was successful in meeting its goals?
- What evaluation methods will you use?

# 5. Illinois Humanities funds

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- Describe how this grant, if received, will be used and how IH funds make a difference to your organization.

## 3 Things to Remember

- ✓ Make sure you have the correct grant application forms (A. Project/Media/Technical Assistance or B. General Support)
- ✓ Make sure you are on our e-mail list to receive new information about grants
- ✓ Talk to a staff person before you submit if this is your first application



QUESTIONS?