



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

DIVISION OF EDUCATION

LANDMARKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE: WORKSHOPS FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the most important element of an application to direct an NEH Landmarks Workshop?

The most important element is the specific humanities content of the project. Thus the application should address the significance of the subject and landmark(s); the topics, questions, and readings that form the core of the intellectual conversation; and the qualifications of the humanities faculty who will lead the project.

What qualifies as a landmark?

A landmark is a specific location in America that has significance for our history and culture. A landmark may be a recognized historical monument or group of monuments, such as a presidential residence, a Civil War battlefield, a colonial settlement, or a site associated with a major writer, artist, or musician. A historical district or a collection of thematically related structures and sites within a local region could also qualify. If you have any questions as to whether your proposed landmark qualifies, consult an NEH program officer.

Does my institution need a grant writer to prepare an application?

No, but scholars knowledgeable about the subject should be involved early in the conceptualization of the project and the writing of the application.

Are program officers available to answer questions via phone or e-mail?

Yes. Applicants are encouraged to discuss applications with a program officer prior to their submission. Staff will also look at drafts of proposals (which should be submitted at least four weeks before the application deadline) and share samples of previously funded projects. Call 202-606-8463 or send an e-mail message to landmarks@neh.gov.

Are there types of projects that NEH does not support?

Yes. Please review the bulleted list of examples found at the end of Section I of the program guidelines.

What are the review criteria?

Please see Section V of the grant guidelines.

May an independent scholar apply to direct a workshop?

Individuals are not eligible to apply to this program. Only U.S. nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and state, local, and federally recognized Indian tribal governments are eligible applicants. An independent scholar would be eligible to direct a workshop only if an eligible applicant agreed to sponsor the project and submit an application to NEH.

My institution would not be an appropriate host for a workshop, but another nearby college would be. May I hold my program there?

Yes. Contact a program officer in the Division of Education Programs for details on how to do this.

May I co-direct a workshop with a colleague who is not on the faculty of the institution hosting the workshop?

Yes. In this situation, both you and the co-director would receive \$7,200 (60 percent of \$12,000, the compensation for a single director). Your salary would be entered under Item 1a of the budget, and your co-director's would be entered under Item 3.

Are non-U.S. citizens eligible to participate in an NEH Landmarks Workshop?

Only foreign nationals who have been living in the United States or its jurisdictions for at least the three years prior to the application deadline are eligible to participate in NEH Landmarks Workshops (that is, to be chosen to be NEH Summer Scholars). Foreign nationals teaching abroad are not eligible to be chosen as NEH Summer Scholars. However, such individuals may be included on the staff of a workshop if they bring unique and important expertise to the endeavor.

Are home-schooling parents eligible to participate in an NEH Landmarks Workshop?

Yes.

Should I include an on-site co-ordinator in my project budget?

Yes.

I'd like to hold a welcoming reception for the participants in my workshops. May I pay for this out of grant funds?

No. You may wish to seek funds for such events from the project director's academic department, the dean's office, or another source, but NEH grant funds may not be used for social events, entertainment, or the purchase of alcoholic beverages. However, water or light refreshments may be included in your project budget for site visits and other project-related activities.

How early or late in the summer should a workshop take place?

Because of school calendars, workshops should begin no earlier than late June and end before the middle of August. NEH recommends that at least one of the two workshops supported by the grant should be held in July.

When scheduling workshops, should I have an interval between them?

Yes. Although in some cases you might need to hold the workshops in quick succession, it is preferable to give time between sessions for the workshop leaders to fine-tune the intellectual and practical aspects of the project, as needed.

I just found out that my institution will submit an application for another Landmarks workshop. Will NEH fund only one?

Each application is evaluated on its own merits. NEH might fund both applications, one, or neither.

My institution applied for a grant last year and was unsuccessful. Will this be held against us if we apply again this year?

No. NEH treats all applications as new applications.

How long must I wait to learn the outcome of my application?

Applicants will be notified of the outcome by September 2012.

Is there anything I may do to increase my chances for success next time?

You may receive a copy of the comments provided to NEH by outside evaluators during the review. You must request this material by sending an e-mail message to landmarks@neh.gov. After reading these comments, you should follow up with a telephone call to a program officer.