



2025 HUMANITIES WASHINGTON AWARD GUIDELINES

IMPORTANT DATES (updated 4/10/25)

Nominations open: March 11, 2025

Deadline to nominate: ~~April 18, 2025 at 11:59 pm~~ Extended, May 31, 2025 at 11:59 pm

Notification: ~~June 2025~~ July 2025

Number of awards and amount: 10 awards per region, each \$1,000

Submit a nomination: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Process/Apply?urlkey=humanities>

HUMANITIES WASHINGTON AWARD OVERVIEW

The Humanities Washington Award recognizes outstanding achievement in the public humanities. In honor of Humanities Washington's 50th anniversary, the 2025 Humanities Washington Awards will celebrate 50 individuals and non-profit organizations across the state whose work enlarges the meaning of the humanities in their communities and reflect Humanities Washington's values of, belonging, connection, critical thinking, respect, and stewardship.

The Humanities Washington Award was initiated in 1995 in memory of Heather C. Frank of Yakima. Frank was a dedicated and articulate supporter of the public humanities throughout her lifetime and gave generously of herself to a variety of cultural community activities. Read about previous Humanities Washington Award recipients:

<https://www.humanities.org/humanities-washington-awardees/>.

Humanities Washington is committed to expansive grantmaking and considers a range of applicants, audiences, participants, and their multifaceted backgrounds and experiences. It also recognizes the importance of serving communities whose stories and narratives need to be heard.

Ten awards will be given in five geographic regions across Washington State:

- **Central Washington:** Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, and Yakima counties.
- **Central Puget Sound:** King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.
- **Eastern Washington:** Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties.
- **Northwest/Islands:** Clallam, Island, Jefferson, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom counties.
- **Southwest/Coast:** Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum counties.

Awards will be made in the following categories:

Individuals

1. Lifetime Accomplishments in the Humanities
2. Emerging Leader
3. K-12 Educator
4. Higher Ed Public Humanist
5. Changemaker
6. Philanthropist

Nominees may include (but are not limited to) a writer, journalist, scholar, teacher, professor, tradition bearer, librarian, community organizer, curator, content producer, event organizer, club leader, historian, folklorist, etc.

Community-serving, Not-For-Profit Organizations

1. Small (<\$250,000 annual budget)
2. Medium (\$250,000-\$1 million annual budget)
3. Large (\$1 million+ annual budget)
4. Philanthropic Organization

Nominees may include (but are not limited to) a newspaper, radio station, cultural organization, library, history museum, literary presses, community organization, higher education programs, etc.

WHAT ARE THE HUMANITIES?

The **humanities** are the ideas, questions, and disciplines (e.g., history, philosophy, literature, folklife and traditional arts, etc.) that help us document and interpret the world around us. Events which primarily center around artistic performance tend to be outside the scope of the humanities and are not eligible for a Humanities Washington Award.

The **public humanities** create accessible discussions and learning opportunities, helping communities understand and provide context to complex social issues. A public humanities event can include a community conversation on a timely topic, a panel event, or a celebration of local culture.

ELIGIBILITY

- An individual or not-for-profit organization in Washington State.
- Work demonstrates commitment to public humanities, impact in their community, and furthers critical thinking, stewardship, belonging, connection, and respect.
- Individuals and organizations whose work primarily consists of the arts are not eligible.

SUBMIT A HUMANITIES WASHINGTON AWARD NOMINATION

1. **Preview the nomination form and gather materials.** Open [applications are available here](#). Locate the 2025 Humanities Washington Award nomination form and select “preview” to view the full set of information required.

Nomination materials include:

- a. Nominee contact information (name, mailing address, email, phone)
- b. Nominator (different than nominee) contact information (name, mailing address, email, phone)
- c. Description of individual or organization, their commitment to the public humanities, and impact of their work in their community. (500-word limit)
- d. Letter of support that speaks to the nominee’s embodiment of one or more Humanities Washington core values:

Belonging: We want people of all ages, means, cultures to feel welcome and valued in our organization and programs.

Connection: We seek opportunities to promote healthy dialogue between people with differing perspectives in order to build and strengthen mutually beneficial community relationships

Critical thinking: We encourage personal reflection, open mindedness, lifelong learning, and truth-seeking.

Respect: We believe people are equal in dignity and strive to provide welcoming spaces that uphold the dignity of our participants and promote the productive exchange of ideas.

Stewardship: We uphold public trust through impactful and transparent use of resources.

- e. (Optional) Up to two additional support materials (including but not limited to letters of support, work samples, publications, etc.). All materials must be uploaded and submitted as part of the online nomination unless directed otherwise.
2. **Log in** to our [online grants portal](#) once you have gathered the information to submit a nomination. If you have already created an account, please log in using the email you originally provided. New to our system? [Learn how to create an account here](#).

APPLICATION REVIEW

A panel of experts from across the state who form part of the Humanities Washington 50th anniversary planning committee and represent a wide range of disciplines and fields will read submissions and select 10 recipients in each region.

Reviewers will evaluate submissions using the following criteria:

- Washington State geographic area represented (Central, Central Puget Sound, Eastern, Northwest/Islands, and Southwest/Coast Washington)
- Humanities focus
- Impact of work on community
- Demonstration of Humanities Washington's core values

NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS

Humanities Washington staff will notify applicants of award decisions via email. Award recipients will be honored at an event in their region between summer and fall 2025.

CONTACT US

Have questions or need assistance? Contact Violeta Martin, Director of New Audience Engagement and Folklife Specialist at violeta@humanities.org or call (206) 682-1770 x 111. *Hablo español.*

ABOUT HUMANITIES WASHINGTON

Humanities Washington opens minds and bridges divides by creating spaces to explore different perspectives. Founded in 1973, Humanities Washington is our state's flagship nonprofit for public humanities programming and the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Learn more at humanities.org.