



# **Festival Grant Opportunity Information Session**

MHC 2023-2025 Biennium  
October 2024

# BEFORE WE GET STARTED

- This session will be recorded. A link to the recording will be available at [mnhum.org/what-we-do/grants](https://mnhum.org/what-we-do/grants) within a few days.
- Mics and video will be off for participants to start. These will be optional for the Q & A segment.
- If you have questions, please type them in the Q & A feature at anytime.
- We will respond to questions after our opening remarks. Some questions may take further consideration before we provide a response. All questions will be posted in the FAQs at [mnhum.org/what-we-do/grants](https://mnhum.org/what-we-do/grants).

# AGENDA

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About MHC

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Grant Opportunity

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Grant Overview and Goals

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Eligibility & Evaluation

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How to Apply

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Q & A

# MHC GRANTS TEAM



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# ABOUT MHC

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**Founded in 1971** - MHC was created when the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) began funding state-based humanities programs

**Mission** - MHC connects our past to the present, to increase shared understanding, and spark positive future change.

**Vision** - A just society that is curious, connected, and compassionate



# LEGACY FUNDING



Three-eighths of one percent of sales tax revenue is dedicated to Clean Water, Land, and Legacy; 19.75% is dedicated to the Arts & Cultural Heritage projects.



Appropriated every two years (2023-2025) by MN State Legislature.



During the 2023-25 biennium, MHC will administer more than **\$15 million** in grants to individuals and/or organizations in Minnesota **working to create, celebrate, and teach the art, culture, and heritage of diverse Minnesota communities.**



The Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) administers these grant funds based on state-required policies and by offering resources, advice, and guidance to support your project.



# GRANT OPPORTUNITY

## Community Identity & Heritage Festival Grants

Funding Available: **\$450,000**

Maximum Funding Request: **\$50,000**

Applications will be accepted on a **rolling basis** until funds are expended or June 30, 2025, whichever occurs first.

# ELIGIBILITY



Individuals **and** Cultural organizations are eligible to apply for Festival funding.



Applicants must be in **good** standing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) & MHC.



Applicants meeting **all** financial requirements are eligible for funding.

Applicants must actively and regularly seek to create, celebrate, and teach the art, culture, and heritage of diverse Minnesota communities, including but not limited to:

- African American community,
- Asian and Pacific Island communities,
- Indigenous communities with a focus on the 11 Tribes within Minnesota,
- Latinx communities,
- LGBTQIA+ community,
- Somali diaspora and other African immigrant communities, and
- Other underrepresented cultural groups to celebrate the cultural diversity of Minnesota.



# ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for funding, a project **must** support one of the following requirements:

- Community events,
- Music and jazz festivals,
- Cultural festivals for art installations, music, and other performances and activities that support festivals and events.

# LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Aligning with the intent and legislative language of this grant opportunity, the **goals** of this grant are to:

- Preserve and honor the cultural heritage of Minnesota.
- Provide education and student outreach on cultural diversity.
- Expand the development of culturally diverse humanities programming in Minnesota.
- Empower communities in building identity and culture.

Aligning with the outcomes of Legacy, the grant should also:

- Amplify arts, culture, and heritage in Minnesota.
- Increase the depth and breadth of Minnesotans who will connect with arts, culture, and heritage.

Aligning w/the funding biennium, the project **must** be completed no later than **June 30, 2025**.

# LEGACY REQUIREMENTS

Legacy **requires** proposed and/or awarded fundings support **new work** or **new additions** to existing work. These funds must supplement, not substitute, other funding sources – in other words, this grant cannot replace expenses for ongoing projects.



I and/or my organization has a program or project that we have been running for many years, and our usual funding source is gone. We want to apply to this grant to keep it going.

I and/or my organization has a program or project that we have been running for many years, and we want to apply for funding to add on a new aspect or element to our program.



# EXPENSES **NOT** ALLOWED

- Fund parades,
- Cover costs expensed before the grant agreement is fully signed,
- Start, match, add, or complete any type of capital campaign,
- Support capital costs (such as improvements, construction, property, or equipment),
- Support the purchase of equipment (such as iPads, computers, monitors and AV),
- Pay for indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges not directly related and proportional to, and necessary for, the activities outlined in the project proposal,
- Support benefits and fundraisers,
- Purchase promotional giveaway items such as t-shirts, keychains, or gifts to promote the applicant's brand,
- Food expenses when expenses are either (i) incurred during the planning phase of the project, or (ii) are not essential to the final program,
- Wages, salary, and benefits of staff for the time that such individuals are not working on the project, and
- Fund out-of-state expenses such as out-of-state travel.

# STRONG PROPOSALS

- Answer **all** the prompts/questions.
- Start your proposal **early**
  - Review the PDF of the **full** proposal
  - Take advantage of the **support** from MHC
- Use **MHC's** budget template.
- Make sure the emphasis is on the **intent** and **goals** of the funding opportunities.
- Review Selection Criteria for the grant opportunity; **tailor** your narrative to those prompts specifically.
- **Don't** submit anything not required.



# EVALUATION PROCESS

- Applicants go through an evaluation process.
- Each applicant will be reviewed on a point scale (**100** points).
- General factors include:
  - **Project Details** – How does the project align with Legacy and grant requirements.
  - **Community Involvement** – How are community members involved in the project.
  - **Project Management** – How will reporting or expenses be correctly reported, will the project be completed on time, does the budget align with the project expenses.
  - **Evaluation & Impact** – Is the project clearly defined, is there a clear evaluation process, who is the audience, and what is the projects impact on the audience.

# POST SELECTION

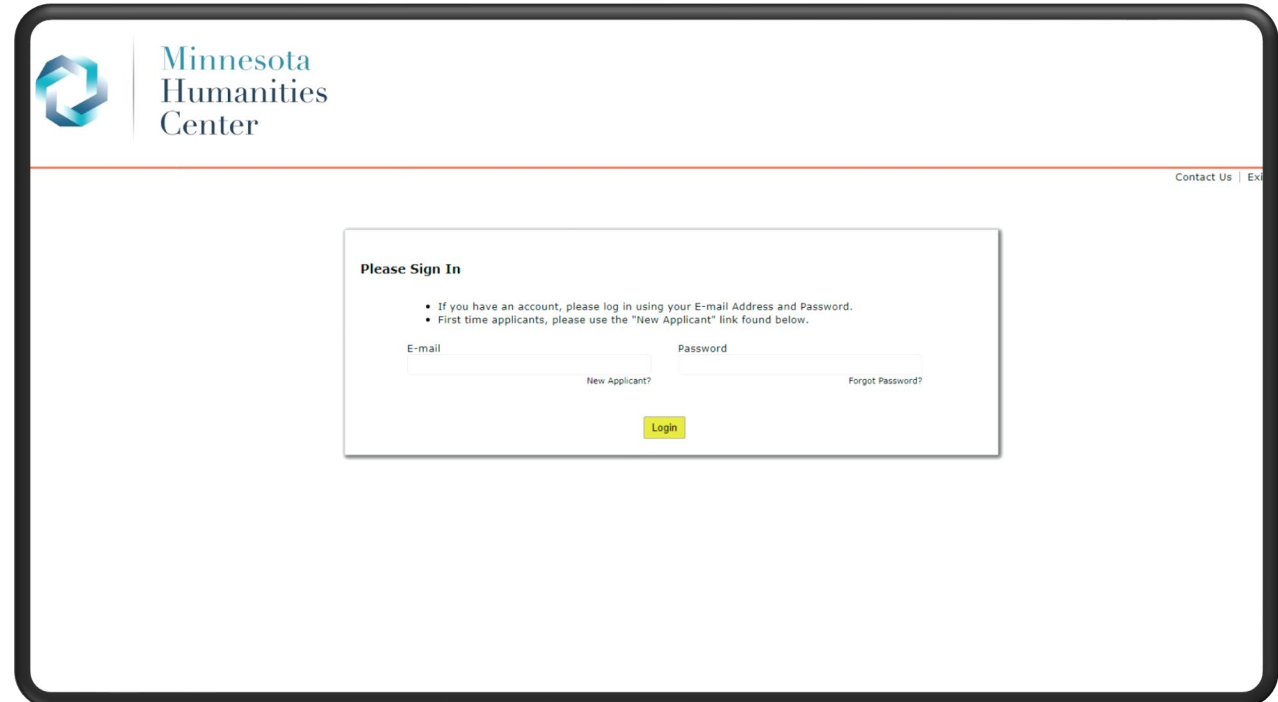
- Award process will include:
  - Grantee orientation meeting
  - Contract
    - Payment process
    - Grant terms (start and finish)
    - Legacy language acknowledgment
    - Reporting requirements (Interim and Final reporting)
  - Monitoring visit (if needed)

# HOW TO APPLY

Complete an **ONLINE**  
application

- OR -

Complete PDF application  
(w/required attachments)  
email to  
[submissions@mnhum.org](mailto:submissions@mnhum.org)



The screenshot shows the Minnesota Humanities Center website. The header includes the logo and the text "Minnesota Humanities Center". A navigation menu in the top right corner contains "Contact Us" and "Ex...". The main content area features a "Please Sign In" form with the following elements:

- Instructions: "If you have an account, please log in using your E-mail Address and Password." and "First time applicants, please use the 'New Applicant' link found below."
- Input fields: "E-mail" and "Password".
- Links: "New Applicant?" and "Forgot Password?".
- Button: A yellow "Login" button.



# Q & A

# THANK YOU!

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## **Technical Support or Eligibility Questions:**

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If applying in English is a barrier or you need a reasonable accommodation to submit your application, please contact Laura Adams.