



## **OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Opportunity Grant program provides small grants, up to \$1,200, that give priority to the programming needs of small institutions and underserved audiences. The Opportunity Grant is flexible and responsive, designed to provide easy access to support new and innovative programs in the humanities.

### **Goals**

1. Reach Maryland audiences and communities (socio-economic, ethnic, or geographic) that are not served by other Maryland Humanities Council programs;
2. Support Maryland organizations not previously involved with MHC;
3. Nurture innovative practices;
4. Encourage the use of the humanities in new or innovative ways
5. Provide expertise or resources for high quality public programs.

### **Criteria**

1. The project goals are well grounded in the humanities.
2. The project will draw in and engage the targeted audience.
3. The format(s) will effectively convey the ideas and themes of the project to the intended audience.
4. The project participants have the necessary skills and humanities expertise to complete the project.
5. The budget is reasonable.
6. The evaluation plan effectively addresses project goals.

### **Opportunity Grant Program Priorities**

The Opportunity Grant program gives priority support to projects that:

1. Use the humanities to stimulate informed and thoughtful discussions and civic engagement on issues and matters critical to Marylanders;
2. Reach audiences and communities (socio-economic, ethnic, and geographic) not normally reached by MHC programs and grant-funded programs;
3. Involve developing institutions or institutions that have not received MHC grants in the past;

4. Involve an established institution or former MHC grantee that is reaching a new or underserved audience;
5. Use the humanities in a new and unique way or incorporate innovative practices for engaging the public in the humanities; or
6. Provide expertise and resources not normally available to an organization.

**Opportunity Grant Application Deadlines**

Final grant applications for Opportunity Grants are due January 1, March 1, May 1, July 1, September 1, and November 1 of each year\* with notification within 30 days of those deadlines.

\*Deadlines falling on the weekend will be moved to the next business day.