# Positions in Public Humanities

**Overview:**
NEH-supported Positions in Public Humanities are intended to invigorate the interpretation of the humanities in a wide variety of cultural organizations. To that end, organizations applying for a Public Humanities Projects implementation grant are invited to request funding for a position in public humanities. Applicants for planning grants are **not** eligible.

**Program requirements:**

- Positions are entry level and should be designed with a correspondingly appropriate level of responsibility in mind.
- Applicants must have graduated in the last five years from a humanities MA or PhD program (including public history or museum studies).
- Positions should be widely advertised, so as to draw on a national pool of candidates. Institutions are encouraged to seek a diverse pool of applicants.
- Awards support only full-time employees.
- Individuals hired for an NEH-supported public humanities position must be assigned to work on specific aspects of the larger project, related to public engagement with the project.

**Award:**

The maximum award is $30,000 in compensation for a twelve-month period (for projects with a one-year period of performance), or $60,000 in compensation for a twenty-four-month period (for projects with a two- or three-year period of performance). (NB: This additional $60,000 budget component will increase the maximum implementation award to $460,000.) Applicants that wish to increase the compensation above $30,000 must use their own funds to do so.

These awards may not be used to support

- ➢ the salaries of current staff members;
- ➢ payments to project consultants;
- ➢ the hiring of individuals who hold teaching or administrative assignments during the two-year period; or
- ➢ the hiring of individuals currently enrolled in a degree-granting program.

**Candidate and screening requirements:**

- Applications must be solicited and reviewed by the organization that administers the implementation grant.
- Applicants for these positions should submit a curriculum vitae, graduate school transcript, writing sample, cover letter, and three letters of reference.
- The selection should be made by a committee convened by the project director. Committees customarily consist of three members: the project director and two other humanities experts who are familiar with the project or bring special knowledge to the project. Committees may include other personnel or scholars who will contribute to the project and may be

composed of more than three members. These committees should review all applications.

- Note: applicants with delinquent federal debt or who have been suspended, debarred, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from eligibility for covered transactions by any Federal department or agency are not eligible for selection. To see if applicants have delinquent federal debt or other exclusions recorded in the System for Award Management (SAM), recipients should go to the [SAM website](); click on "Search Records," and then on "Advanced Search - Exclusion."
- In addition to their work on the larger project, individuals in NEH-supported public humanities positions should also administer three different types of public programs at the institution during the period of performance. They might, for example, organize film and panel discussions, family gallery talks, or an oral history day program.

**Sample projects:**

➢ As part of a new emphasis on interpreting slavery throughout its entire historic site, a Southern plantation might create a position for a recent anthropology PhD to conduct outreach and collect oral histories from descendants of slaves. This research and personal testimony would inform the writing of a final interpretive plan for the site.

➢ An art museum reinstalling its American wing might hire a recent graduate from a public humanities program who would work with curators and educators to devise a high school curriculum interpreting the American collection and would collaborate with the local school district to receive and incorporate teachers' feedback.

➢ As part of a statewide celebration of women's history, a state humanities council might hire a recent digital humanities PhD to devise a GPS-based app of significant women's history sites throughout the state.

**How to apply:**
Institutions applying for a position in public humanities should indicate that in the "Nature of the request" section of their implementation grant project narrative. The proposal must also include a separate three-page single-spaced attachment (Attachment 9 for a Community Conversations proposal, Attachment 10 for an Exhibitions or Historic Places proposal) titled "publicpositions.pdf." This attachment should discuss

➢ Recruitment: explain how and where the position will be advertised;
➢ The position to be filled: describe the proposed position in terms of the tasks to be done and the goals to be achieved;
➢ Candidate profile: provide details about the ideal candidate and the area in which he or she would work (for example, in the education, digital, curatorial, or some other institutional department);
➢ Expected outcomes: detail the contributions that the new employee would make to the project, and explain the value added to the larger project by the creation of this position; and
➢ Hiring process: outline the vetting process for the candidates.