



NEW HAMPSHIRE HUMANITIES COUNCIL *Connecting people with ideas*

2012 Request for Proposals

Humanities to Go (HTG) is an award-winning traveling speakers' bureau. It offers entertaining and informative programs to the general public in a wide range of humanities disciplines. This year, we will be completely revising and updating our *Humanities to Go* catalog. Scholars from around the state and region are invited to submit proposals in their areas of expertise. Our purpose? To connect people with ideas!

If you have participated in *Humanities to Go* before but your program has not been booked in the last two years, you will need to re-apply for inclusion in the revised catalog. Your proposed presentation need not differ from your previous offering, but you may choose to revise the description or to apply with additional or different topics. We ask ALL current *HTG* presenters to review and update your biographical and contact information. We also ask you to look critically at both the content of your program(s) and the catalog description(s) and update them for the new publication.

A big change in the process is that all presenters, current and prospective, will need to submit proposals or update current program information by filling out an electronic application accessible on the Humanities Council website.

As with the previous form, draft your answers in your own word processing document and copy and paste them into the application because you can't save what you enter in the application as you go. It must be completed and submitted in one sitting. Please be concise. And be sure to print a copy of the completed application for your records.

Due to the anticipated volume of applications for this program, we request that you do not call the Humanities Council with questions. You may [e-mail questions to Grants Officer Susan Hatem](#) and she will reply as soon as possible.

What are the Humanities?

What does it mean to be human? The fields of inquiry known as “the humanities” look at what people have created, debated, thought, done, and believed throughout recorded time. They explore the heart of the human experience with valuable learning tools – critical thinking, moral reasoning, and civil discourse – that enhance our individual and collective lives. Disciplines include archaeology, history, literature, languages, jurisprudence, philosophy and ethics, comparative religions, as well as the history, theory and criticism of the arts. In addition, the humanities can encompass historical and cultural aspects of the social sciences such as

anthropology, sociology, psychology, political science, government and economics. Humanities scholars often use multiple disciplines to develop rich interpretations of and complex vantage points on the human experience.

What does the New Hampshire Humanities Council do?

For almost four decades, the New Hampshire Humanities Council has led tens of thousands of New Hampshire citizens on a journey of discovery, presenting programs that have invited people to learn, think and connect with one another in meaningful and sometimes surprising ways. We are an independent nonprofit organization affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and dedicated to providing public humanities programs throughout our state. We offer over 1,000 free, public programs annually, almost half of them through *Humanities to Go*. Although our mission is specific to New Hampshire, we are not part of state government. We rely on the NEH, individual, corporate, and foundation support for our diverse programs.

Request for Proposals: Pitch a Program

We are seeking proposals that directly connect to your recent scholarship, your teaching, writing, and research interests. We will consider any proposal that addresses substantive humanities themes and topics. Talks should be interactive, informative and concise (30 to 45 minutes plus 15 minutes for Q & A). Illustrations, maps, artifacts, videos/DVDs/films, Power Point slides, and other media may be used in presentations as long as you arrange for any necessary technology. Although host venues sometimes have equipment such as screens and projectors, it is up to the presenter to make any arrangements in advance. Please [browse our current on-line *Humanities to Go* catalog](#) to become familiar with our programming.

The HTG selection process is a competitive one. Proposals will be evaluated by the NHHC Program Committee according to the criteria below. The proposed program:

- is balanced and does not advocate a particular political position;
- is well-structured, clear, and easy to understand;
- covers the topic in depth and explores essential questions of meaning, including thoughtful examples and contexts;
- illustrates central humanities themes and how they contribute to personal and public understanding of contemporary life;
- provides viewpoints from multiple disciplines where applicable;
- encourages audience involvement.

Special Requests for 2012

For the 2012 edition of the catalog, we are particularly interested in adding programs in these areas:

- **Living History:** Theatrical presentations of living history are very popular with *HTG* audiences. Today's living history presenters are scholar-performers who represent figures from the past and answer audience questions both in and out of character. Presenters

must have expertise not only in the personal story of the character represented but the history of that person's era and the import of his or her life.

- **The Civil War & Its Impact:** The NH Humanities Council sees the 150-year observance of the Civil War as a time to think about issues relevant both then and now: race relations, labor issues, Constitutional law, political rhetoric and practice, social upheaval, and the conflicts that lead to war. What unique legacies identify us as a nation? What social matters, if any, have we left unfinished? Are we engaged in a different kind of civil war in America now? A different kind of reconstruction? We hope scholars will help the people of NH make new use of history as a tool to reflect on what America was and is, and to whom and why.
- **Contemporary New Hampshire Issues in Context:** Finally, the Council seeks programs that explore the history, philosophy and/or literature of issues critical to our state, issues such as what constitutes an adequate education and how to pay for it; environmental protection versus energy, water, transportation and development demands; local governance and the purpose of democracy; healthcare access and the aging of NH's population; and Constitutional law, civil rights and civic responsibility. Note that the focus of all talks should be on context and inquiry, not advocacy.

Speaker qualifications

Our speakers can be faculty at colleges or universities. They also can be independent scholars with recognized expertise and authority, publication, and presentation experience. Most HTG speakers will have a Ph.D. or M.A. in a humanities discipline from a nationally-accredited college or university. Applicants must be experienced in public speaking or teaching, be genuinely interested in addressing and interacting with public audiences, and be available to travel around the state.

Speaker Stipend

The stipend for a program is \$200 for a 30 - 45 minute program plus 15 minutes of Q & A. Mileage is reimbursed at \$.50 per mile. For programs involving two presenters together, each presenter receives a \$200 stipend but the program may only be booked six (6) times per year. We no longer permit living history presenters to charge an additional fee each time a program is booked but, once selected for our roster, encourage them to apply for a one-time stipend to help defray the cost of an historically-accurate costume. If invited to audition, living history presenters should research and wear an approximation of the proposed costume – something to evoke the character - but will not be judged on the costume itself.

Your *Humanities to Go* Audience

Organizations around the state — libraries, historical societies, museums, civic and membership organizations, hospitals, schools, churches, for-profit businesses — partner with us to present *HTG* programs for their patrons, employees, colleagues, and fellow community members. New

Hampshire residents of all ages and backgrounds engage in lively and meaningful discussion with *HTG* speakers. Last year, 425 programs reached 18,000 citizens statewide.

Selection Process and Important Dates

February 15, 2012	Proposals due electronically
March 30, 2011	NHHC notifies applicants whether they will be invited to audition proposed program at “Humanities Fair”
Early June 2012	Humanities Fair, Concord, NH (check NHHC website for Fair date)
July 2012	Notification to Presenters of Program Selections
September 2012	Formal launch of newly revised <i>Humanities to Go</i> catalog!

Go to www.nhhc.org to access the electronic application.

**In addition to the electronic application, please submit a two-page resume [by e-mail to Susan Hatem](mailto:shatem@nhhc.org) at shatem@nhhc.org.
Please type in the subject line “HTG Resume (your name)”**