

April 14, 2020, NEH Networking Event, Q&A

Q: To be a reviewer, do you need to have received an award?

A: Absolutely not. In fact, serving on a panel is a great way of seeing behind the scenes. Particularly, if you're relatively new to the humanities world, it's a great way of participating in the process. In fact, serving on a panel helps you produce stronger applications.

Q: From whom does one get pre-application feedback?

A: Each notice of funding opportunity has information with an email address for where to send the draft.

Q: I have my name on the peer reviewer list but have not heard anything for quite some time. Is my name still on the list? How long to hear about being a peer reviewer?

A: Once a person volunteers, his/her name will remain in the potential reviewer database. NEH works to match reviewers to the right panels, which takes an indeterminate amount of time.

Q: Are universities limited to one proposal per year?

A: No. However, be sure to read the notice of opportunity. Some opportunities may limit the number of applications for that specific opportunity.

Q: Would you suggest calling NEH rather than emailing?

A: Start with an email first. It helps NEH match you to the best contact person.

Q: May applicants respond to initial reviews prior to the panel meeting?

A: No, unfortunately the panel does not have time for that.

Q: Not being funded is discouraging. What is the best way to cope?

A: NEH knows a "not-funded" decision is discouraging, but they receive more strong, fundable applications than they have the budget to award.

Q: I have not before applied to NEH but have a project idea. Whom should I contact to discuss my idea and its fit with NEH programs?

A: One suggestion is to use the match-a-project tool located on the NEH website. You are also welcome to email Jennifer Serventi, Senior Program Officer, and she will help you to find the right contact.

Q: Will CARES Act funding include programs that address the humanistic perspective of issues about public health, not just rescue funding for non-profit organizations?

A: Likely yes, but the guidelines are still being defined. The Chairman is interested in this.

Q: NEH Media Projects: Production Grants has a new category for short documentaries but films must be related to the subject: A More Perfect Union. Will this category restriction be lifted in 2021?

A: A More Perfect Union refers to NEH's upcoming celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. There will be special funding opportunities for it. As for the Production Grants specifically, nothing is currently known about any release on the restrictions.

Q: Does the NEH fund projects center around the U.S. only? Or is international documenting included?

A: International documentaries are most definitely included. However, whether U.S. or international, documentaries should be for U.S. audiences.

Q: What does NEH think about continuing projects, meaning grant submissions and awards that continue a project? An example would be several consecutive awards for a program, e.g. Dialogues on the Experience of War.

A: There is no guarantee of continuation funding. Each application is reviewed as a new project. If the application continues an existing project, tell reviewers what is new and how are you building on previous work.