

## CALLING ALL PUBLIC SCHOLARS!

Each year, the New Jersey Council for the Humanities subsidizes at least 200 public humanities programs for host organizations throughout the state, providing opportunities for New Jersey communities to explore human history, values, culture, and beliefs, and to engage in discussions about key questions with the support of a scholarly perspective. The Public Scholars Project provides high-quality, humanities-based programs for organizations like libraries, community centers, senior centers, civic associations, and schools.

NJCH public scholars are our humanities ambassadors—those who see great value in the humanities to encourage thoughtful exploration of ideas for all people around New Jersey.

NJCH is currently seeking proposals from scholars for new programs to be added to the catalogue for the 2019 program year, beginning in November 2018. We seek proposals that offer new program formats and humanities topics that reach a wide variety of people, encourage participation and discussion, and bring people of different perspectives and backgrounds together.

We are seeking program proposals that provide humanities perspectives on:

- Journalism, “fake news.”
- Climate and environmental stewardship, particularly related to water.
- Contemporary pop culture and contemporary music.
- Visual and performing arts.
- Cultural values surrounding drug use and drug policy, both in contemporary culture (e.g., marijuana legalization, opioid crisis, pharmaceutical prices) and historically.
- The politics of the census; the census in relationship to ideas about identity, nation, and the common good.

In addition, we particularly seek non-lecture program formats including:

- Short workshops.
- Game-based programs.
- Discussion programs.

Program proposals that do not involve at least one of the topics or formats above are very unlikely to be selected at this time. Scholars may submit more than one program application, however, we are only likely to select one proposal per scholar. Scholars may have up to three programs in the catalogue at any given time. You will need to submit a separate application for each proposed program.

Program proposals must have a strong foundation in the humanities and seek to explore topics with nuance and complexity. Humanities disciplines examine human history, culture, values, and beliefs. Programs do not need to be about New Jersey.

## WHAT IS A PUBLIC SCHOLAR?

Public scholars have a deep knowledge of a particular subject, a broadly humanistic perspective and practice, and an objective point of view. For example:

- **University faculty, graduate students, or researchers** who have an advanced degree in a humanities field and are employed by an institution of higher learning.
- **Public humanists** who have an advanced degree in a humanities field, but are not affiliated with a college or university. They may work for organizations like museums, libraries, or cultural centers, or they may work independently.

- **Humanities experts from non-traditional backgrounds** may not possess or be working towards an advanced degree. They are still defined by their own communities as keepers of knowledge, cultural resources, and understanding.

Scholars best suited to this program are those who are interested in connecting with the public and are willing to adapt their programs to reach a wide variety of audiences. They consider how both the topic and format will make the program most accessible. They understand that many people simply cannot sit through a long lecture. They are able to make adjustments as needed to best serve the needs of the people participating in the program.

Public scholars do not need to live or work in New Jersey; however, all programs take place in the state.

## IF I AM ACCEPTED AS A PUBLIC SCHOLAR, HOW DOES IT WORK?

Public scholars work with host organizations to schedule programs on a mutually agreeable date and time. They also work with NJCH staff to keep the catalogue up to date, market programs, and troubleshoot problems. Presenters must respond to emails in a timely fashion.

All public scholars must be willing to travel statewide to participate in the Public Scholars Project.

Each program selected will be included in the catalogue for a 3-year term, renewable once.

Public scholars receive an honorarium of \$250 plus travel expenses for each program presented.

## WHAT DOES A TYPICAL PSP PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

Programs should last 1-2 hours total. Organizations that run these programs often have strict time limitations, so it's important to stick to the time allotted for your program.

Preference will be given to programs that substantially involve the audience in discussion or activity (i.e., not just a lecture). Workshops, facilitated conversations, reading and discussion, film or TV and discussion, or a short presentation with a related activity—any of these types of programs might fit the bill. We encourage you to be creative! (Looking for inspiration? [Look no further.](#))

If you have an idea that still needs development, we encourage you to submit the idea. We will work with you to develop the program.

We sometimes receive proposals designed to “benefit humanity” through self-help and motivational speeches, financial counseling, or similar programs. While these are interesting and useful topics, they are not humanities programs. Read more about [NJCH and the public humanities](#).

## WHO ORGANIZES THESE PROGRAMS? WHO ARE THEY FOR?

Programs are typically hosted at libraries, community and senior centers, historical societies, civic organizations, and schools. NJCH remains committed to these organizations and also hopes to expand our offerings to groups who are much less likely to come across dynamic humanities programs, such as prison populations, homeless shelters, people with disabilities, and children and teen programs.

## READY TO APPLY?

Public scholar applications are due by April 9, 2018. NJCH will respond to all applicants by May 31, 2018.

Apply via <https://njhumanities.wufoo.com/forms/x51v3lq1vuvvml/>. You will need to fill out this form for each program proposed.