



CALLING ALL ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The New Jersey Council for the Humanities is launching **Community Conversations**, an opportunity for New Jersey communities to explore topics in the public humanities through public presentations and dialogue. Our 2025 focus will be on environmental humanities. We are looking for public speakers passionate about environmental humanities topics viewed through the public humanities lens to provide scholarly presentations and facilitate conversations across New Jersey. Speakers will be compensated for their time, expertise, and travel at a rate of \$325 per event. Presentations typically take place in libraries, community and senior centers, historical societies, civic organizations, and environmental organizations.

NJCH Community Scholars are our ambassadors—those who want to share their knowledge broadly and see great value in the humanities as a means to encourage thoughtful exploration of ideas for all people around New Jersey.

PROGRAM CRITERIA AND SELECTION

NJCH is currently seeking proposals from scholars for environmental humanities focused programs for the 2025 calendar year. We are looking for proposals that encourage participation and discussion that seek to bring people of different perspectives and backgrounds together.

We seek proposals for public programs that provide environmental humanities perspectives, creating links between science/technology and the disciplines and practices of the humanities. This includes themes such as:

- Climate change
- Environmental stewardship
- Social and environmental justice
- Placemaking
- Access to parks/green spaces
- Literature and the environment
- Environmental history
- Environmental philosophy and ethics
- Cultural traditions and constructions concerning the environment
- Water
- Food systems and urban agriculture

It is essential that speakers explore these timely and significant themes through humanities-based methods such as history, literature, cultural studies, and other practices that help people see the world through other people's eyes.

Program Criteria and Restrictions

- Programs should be 60-75 minutes in length, with at least twenty-five percent of the program devoted to significant audience interaction (*i.e.* not just lecture with a short Q&A).
- Programs **do not** need to be about New Jersey; however, preference will be given to topics that focus on New Jersey.
- Program proposals **must** have a strong foundation in the humanities and seek to explore topics with nuance and complexity. Read more about our mission and the public humanities: <https://njhumanities.org/about/>
- Proposals that can be offered in a language other than English are welcome and could valuably help us reach new audiences.
- NJCH programs must be non-partisan and cannot advocate for direct social action or political position, including the advocacy for support of specific public policies or legislation, or lobbying.
- We sometimes receive proposals designed to “benefit humanity” through self-help and motivational speeches, financial counseling, or similar programs. While these are useful topics, they are not humanities programs.
- Scholars may submit more than one program proposal; however, we are only likely to select one proposal per scholar. Scholars may apply for and have up to three programs in the catalogue at any given time.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY SCHOLAR?

Community scholars have a deep knowledge of a particular subject and broadly humanistic perspective and practice, 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, environmental nonprofits, 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, understand that many people simply cannot sit through a long lecture, and are able to make adjustments as needed to best serve the people participating in the program.

Community scholars do not need to live or work in New Jersey; however, all programs take place in the state. Historical interpreters will not be considered for the community scholars program at this time.

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

Community scholars work with host organizations to schedule programs on a mutually agreed upon date and time. They also work with NJCH staff to keep the catalogue up to date, support outreach efforts, and troubleshoot problems. Scholars must respond to emails in a timely fashion.

All community scholars **must** be willing to travel statewide to participate in the Community Conversations program. Programming must be delivered in person.

Each program selected will be included in the catalogue for a 1-year term and may be renewed upon mutual agreement between the scholar and NJCH, and depending on the needs of the program.

Community scholars receive an honorarium of \$325 which includes a travel stipend for each program presented.

READY TO APPLY?

Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis. Scholars whose proposals are chosen to advance to the final round will be required to audition either in-person or virtually. NJCH will respond to all applicants by December 2, 2024.

If you have an idea that still needs refinement, we encourage you to submit the idea. We will review concepts in the development stage and may request additional information.

You will need to submit a separate application for each proposed program. Apply via <https://forms.gle/xnmTrnK8Pc2xhQTr5>

Questions? Contact Amy Liberi, Manager of Special Projects, aliberi@njhumanities.org.