



NEW JERSEY COUNCIL
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

2025 Community History

Agenda

- What is Community History?
- Who is it for?
- What are program components?
- What is the timeline for the program?
- What are some examples of Community History projects?
- How many participants does each organization need?
- When are important dates?
- How do I apply?

What is Community History?

- Community History provides the training, funding, and cohort support for organizations to develop and launch their own public history projects with their communities.
- Emphasis on learning about and sharing untold and underrepresented stories.
- **No prior history training or knowledge necessary!**

Who should apply?

- NJ-based organizations that either do not have a history-based mission OR have a history-based mission but no professional staff
 - Libraries, arts organizations, cultural organizations, volunteer-run historical societies, etc.
- Nonprofits or entities of state or local government
- Applicants with open CH award (grant, sponsorship, Humanities Lab, etc.) cannot apply until their previous project is closed.

What are the program components?

Learning + Funding + Community

Components: Learning

- Cohort sessions
- Individual meetings
- Assignments
- Final product: new project plan and budget

Components: Funding

- \$1000 participation award
- Eligible to apply for additional funding up to \$5000 to pilot new projects (optional)
 - **Contingent on participation!**

Components: Community

- Cohort of participants
- Guest speakers
- Optional meet-ups after the program

Timeline: Learning Intensive February-May 2025

- In-person Workshop 1: What is Community History?
- In-person Workshop 2: Community Engagement & Outreach
- 4 additional cohort sessions on topics that will help participants learn methods in community-engaged public history and develop their own Community History projects

Timeline: Project Development June-September 2025

- Get into your communities to develop your project plan!
- Individual meetings with staff
- Optional group meetings
- Full cohort will meet in September to present final project proposals for feedback and approval

Timeline: Pilot Projects

October 2025-September 2026

- Pilot Projects (October 2025-September 2026)
- Award of up to \$5000 to implement your projects!
- Optional one-on-one meetings with staff
- Optional group meetings
- Must submit final report and budget report following this period

Previous Projects

FAF Coalition: Researched the Carpenter Street School, built in 1840 and one of NJ's oldest existing schoolhouses for African-Americans. Displayed research findings to the community and gathered their insights on Black history in Woodbury.



Previous Projects

Montclair Public Library: Will expand local history collection to better reflect ethnic diversity of Montclair by hosting writing workshops where individuals who immigrated to the town will have the opportunity to contribute written personal stories of their experiences to the collection.



Previous Projects

All available on the NJCH website!

<https://njhumanities.org/programs/community-history/>

Participants

- Must commit to having at least one, and preferably 2-3, project team members represented at all program sessions, activities, and meetings.
- Participants may be staff members, volunteers, board members, etc.
- Eligibility to submit for pilot project funding is contingent on participation!

Remember!

Community History is not a grant program!

njhumanities.org/grants

Grant v. Community History

GRANT	COMMUNITY HISTORY
DIY	Facilitated
Project is defined	Project is not defined yet
Planning/doing	Learning/developing

When are important dates?

- Application deadline: December 12
- Interview deadline: December 20
- Notification: by January 22
- In-person workshop 1: February 13 (full-day)
- In-person workshop 2: February 27 (full-day)

How do I apply?

- Read guidelines! <https://njhumanities.org/programs/community-history/>
- Apply link on that webpage
- Log in if you've applied for a grant or other program
- Register organization if new applicant
- Schedule an interview within the application

Who can help?

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