

2027 Community History

New Jersey Council for the Humanities

Narrative

Project Name*

Please use the name of your organization as the project name, as it will only be used internally to identify your application.

Character Limit: 100

Mission and Audience*

What is your organization's mission and/or vision? Briefly describe your program areas or services offered and the audience(s) who usually participate, including geographic areas or particular communities served.

Character Limit: 1500

Organizational Structure*

Who does the work that your organization does? Please give us information about the set-up of your paid staff, volunteers, and board members, providing numbers when possible. Please use a list if that is easier than writing a narrative response.

Character Limit: 1500

Budget*

What is your organization's operating budget?

Character Limit: 100

Program Interest*

How do you imagine the Community History program will benefit your organization? Why are you interested in incorporating history and/or new community-engagement models into your work? Have you done any history work in the past?

Character Limit: 5000

Topics and Community*

What are some of the people, places, and/or events that either your organization or your community may be interested in exploring? Is there a goal you hope to achieve by working with a certain community (or members of that community) with your project?

Keep in mind that your ideas are meant to evolve throughout the program. It is not only okay but recommended to only have a vague idea for a topic or to be considering multiple ideas at this point. Organizations committed to a very specific project will not be strong applicants for Community History.

Character Limit: 5000

Project Team*

Organizations accepted into the Community History program must commit to having at least one (and preferably 2-3) project team members represented at all learning sessions, meetings, and program activities. Having more than one participant gives you coverage in case of sickness, family emergencies, or other conflicts with program activities. Participants may be staff members, volunteers, board members, or anyone else interested in contributing to your project and attending program events.

Who will commit to participating from your organization? Will you have a leader for the project? If you are not yet certain who will participate, please give us as much information as you know to date.

Character Limit: 2000

Learning and Engagement Agreement*

Community History requires a significant time investment from participants. Each organization must commit to having at least one, and preferably 2-3, project team members represented at all sessions. There is also project work that happens in between sessions, which is why we recommend setting aside at least 2 hours per week for this program, even during weeks when there are no program meetings. Learning sessions will take place on Fridays. Important program dates:

- Feb 26, 10am-3pm: Session 1 (in person)
- Mar 12, 10am-3pm: Session 2 (in person)
- Apr 2, 10am-12pm: Session 3 (virtual)
- April 30, 10am-12pm: Session 4 (virtual)
- May 21, 10am-12pm: Session 5 (virtual)
- June 11, 10am-2pm: Session 6 (in person)
- July-August: Individual meetings & project planning
- Sept 3: Project proposals due
- Sept 17 or 24: In-person project proposal presentation and celebration

We will do our best to accommodate everyone's needs, but scheduling for a large group of people will require flexibility from everyone involved. Organizations that do not wish to participate in these learning experiences and meetings should not apply for this program; they are required for all participants.

Choices

My project team will attend all sessions and complete project work on this schedule.

My project team is unable to manage this schedule.

Funding Agreement*

Community History is NOT a traditional grant program. The emphasis of this program is on skill-building, project development, and cohort support.

All organizations participating in the core program receive a \$1000 participation award at the beginning of the program. And all organizations who complete the program are eligible to receive additional funding (up to \$5000) to pilot the project created during the program, pending approval of the project plan and budget by the cohort and NJCH program staff. Organizations may opt out of piloting their project if they do not have the capacity to continue with the program beyond the learning sessions and/or project development stages.

Please check the boxes to confirm your agreement to each statement.

Choices

We understand that this is not a grant program.

We are committed to participating in all program activities.

We will not begin project implementation until project proposals have been approved (October 2026).

Required Interview*

All applicants must attend a required 30-minute interview as part of the application process. One team member must attend; others are welcome as well but not required. The interview will be conducted by the program director and one past program participant. It is intended to be a casual conversation to answer questions, get to know each other a bit, and ensure that each applicant understands the expectations of the program. You are welcome to schedule your interview before or after you submit your written application, as best fits your needs.

Interviews may be scheduled most days through December 11. Please use this [Calendly link](#) to schedule a time slot for your interview and include the names of those who will attend the interview below. If you have any questions about the program that you would like to be addressed in the interview, feel free to include the information below.

Character Limit: 3500

Evaluation of Applications*

All applications will be reviewed by program staff and a group of previous program participants.

The most competitive applicants will be those who:

- o Show a strong interest in learning how to do community-based history work and have a need for guidance and learning in this type of work.
- o Make a compelling case for the value of the program to their work.
- o Demonstrate their commitment to attend all learning sessions and fully contribute to cohort-style learning.
- o Indicate an existing relationship with the community they wish to investigate AND/OR the desire to build that relationship.
- o Express a desire to allow the community to help shape their project.

Choices

The applicant acknowledges the evaluation criteria.

Certification

Applicant Signature*

By signing and submitting this project proposal, the applicant is acknowledging compliance with the New Jersey Council for the Humanities' Community History Guidelines.

Participation in this program requires a significant investment of time on the part of individuals selected as representatives of their organization. The applicant acknowledges that these individuals have permission to participate fully in this program if selected, including during regular work hours. Distribution of funding is contingent upon organizational commitment to the program and active participation in all program activities, including learning sessions, project development, and community work.

By typing my name, I confirm that all information contained in this application is true to the best of my knowledge.

Character Limit: 50