



NATIONAL
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FOR THE
HUMANITIES

Sundance Institute | Humanities Sustainability Fellowship Application Questions

Eligibility

To be eligible, you must be able to answer “true” to the prompts listed below:

- I am a practicing mediamaker able to demonstrate a sustained commitment to my work, career, and public audiences.
- I am a humanities professional who possesses formal education or training in the humanities as defined in the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965.
- I am experiencing dire financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- I am currently depending on deferred income from my current project and not otherwise currently employed in my field.
- I am 18 years of age or older.
- I am a U.S. citizen or foreign national who has lived in the United States or its jurisdiction for at least the three years prior to December 31, 2021.
- I am not currently enrolled in a degree-granting program.
- I do not currently hold an award from the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- I am not a full-time employee, board member, director, officer, or immediate family member of the Sundance Institute.

Project and Applicant Information

Project title

Previous title (if applicable)

Project international title (if applicable)

Director name (if other than applicant)

Co-director name (if applicable)

Producer name (if applicable)

Additional producers (if applicable)

Project type:

Select one:

- Feature-length documentary film
- Podcast/audio



NATIONAL
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- Immersive/emerging media

Production stage:

Select one:

- Development (less than 10% of production completed/early draft/dev-early prototype)
- Production (between 10% and 90% of production completed/has had some workshop or development opportunities)
- Post-production (more than 90% of production completed and/or project is in edit or nearly ready for public exhibition)

Keywords:

List one to five keywords categorizing topics, places, issues, or themes in your project.

Have you met any member of the Sundance Institute’s staff at a festival, forum, or other event? If yes, please name the staff member and event.

Logline

(2 to 3 sentences)

Provide a brief summary of the project.

Story synopsis and story structure

(up to 1,000 words)

Give an overview of your story, introducing the main characters and potential plot points. Describe the anticipated story structure and narrative trajectory, or potential character arcs for your project. If the project is experimental or not narrative-driven, describe how it will be constructed. For audio documentaries, please describe overall structure and narrative trajectory for each episode.

Topic summary

(up to 1,000 words)

Explain the relevant cultural, historical, political, or social context for the project. Detail the topics, issues, themes, challenges, stakes, or questions that your project will cover.

Connection to the story

(up to 500 words)

What is your creative team’s access and connection to the story and the specific communities your story is about? Why is the core creative team uniquely positioned to make this project? Explain the collaboration with the protagonists and reflect on the film team’s engagement with the community.

[Humanities](#) themes, content, and approach



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(up to 500 words)

Describe the humanities ideas and themes that the project will address. How will the humanities be used to inform this process? Describe the project's significance to the humanities. What sources will you consult and what research will you undertake to prove insight and context?

Applicant's statement

(up to 500 words)

Explain who you are as a mediamaker, and if applicable, how this project is expanding or evolving your creative practice and deepening your humanities scholarship. What does success look like for you? What challenges are you facing?

Artistic approach

(up to 500 words)

Describe your creative vision for the finished project. What are the visual and audio elements that will bring your project to life? Explain your intended use of cinematic language or any particular artistic approach that informs the storytelling. Describe your creative process.

Project stage and timeline

(up to 500 words)

Explain the current status of the project. Outline the projected production timeline from the project's current state to the anticipated completion date. Your timeline should detail major project activities, production schedules, and anticipated post-production and release/exhibition dates.

COVID-19 considerations

(up to 300 words)

Please describe how you, personally, have been adversely affected by COVID-19. Please include a reflection on the adverse impact on your income. Please reflect on how COVID-19 has impacted your humanities project in film, immersive media, or audio? How would this grant allow you to restore and recover from the impacts of COVID and move the project forward?

Intended audience

(up to 200 words)

Describe the audience you'd like your project to reach and why. How do you plan to reach your target audience? Please include comments on age, ethnicity and other identifying characteristics for your target audience.

Target geographical area served

Identify the primary service region of this particular project.



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Key creative personnel

(one paragraph per bio)

Provide brief biographies for the director(s), and if attached, the producer(s), key technologist, cinematographer, editor, and/or other key creative personnel as appropriate. For each key creative team member, include information about relevant expertise and the individual's role in the project. Bullet-list names and titles of any confirmed advisors who are attached.

Humanities advisors

(one paragraph per bio)

Please include bios for the humanities advisors involved in the project. For each advisor, describe their area of expertise, relevant scholarship, research or writing, and position and institutional affiliation, if applicable. Explain the role each advisor will play in the project.

Who has creative control over the project?

(2 sentences)

Additional materials

Upload any additional materials, such as visual treatments, lookbooks, or written materials not included in other parts of the application. This section is optional, but highly recommended.

Financial information

Total project budget (USD)

Funds secured (USD)

Funding sources and respective amounts (USD)

Include all sources and amounts raised to date. Clearly distinguish between potential sources of funding and secured amounts. List the status of other sources of funding currently under consideration, whether to be applied for or pending.

Fundraising strategy

(up to 200 words)

Describe the overall fundraising strategy for the project.

Grant impact

(up to 200 words)

Granting funds may be used for living expenses as well as production-related costs. Should you receive a grant, describe how you anticipate granting funds would be used.



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Comprehensive line-item expense budget

(upload one document)

VISUAL MATERIALS

Applicant's previous work

Applicants with no previous directing experience may choose to apply without a previous directing sample.

Previous work description

(up to 200 words)

Discuss the relevance of the work to the current project. If the current project is a departure from the prior work, how will this project differ?

Title of previous work:

Total run time in minutes:

Link:

Password:

Current sample

Please provide up to 30 minutes of edited material in support of your application.

Current sample description (up to 200 words)

What should reviewers be looking for in your sample? Explain what is present and absent in the sample, and how it will differ as a finished project. Describe how it is representative of the intended story, style, subject, or other aspect of the project.

Total run time in minutes:

Link:

Password :



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