

## Wyoming Crossroads Grants Frequently Asked Questions

### What are Wyoming Crossroads Grants?

Wyoming Crossroads Grants are part of the larger, multi-year thematic initiative of Wyoming Humanities. These grants will support programs, publications, preservation, and digital media projects that dig deep into the larger themes and goals of the Wyoming Crossroads initiative.

Those themes are:

- Wyoming's identity
- Wyoming's sense of community
- Wyoming's connection to the land
- Wyoming's persistence, and
- Wyoming's ability to manage change

Wyoming Crossroads goals are:

- Increase Wyoming's intellectual, community, social and civic wealth as the state restructures its economy.
- Apply humanities programming in new and innovative ways to reach audiences that do not typically engage in public humanities
- Develop new partnerships with groups and associations not typically considered "humanities" or cultural organizations

Ultimately, Wyoming Crossroads Grants will expand the public humanities available across the state to encourage future growth of Wyoming culturally, socially, politically, and economically.

### Who is eligible for a Wyoming Crossroads Grant?

Eligibility is open to nonprofit organizations (as reported to the IRS and with an existing EIN), accredited public and 501(c)(3) institutions of higher education (as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1001), local governmental agencies, and federally recognized Native American tribal governments. Humanities-focused organizations, organizations that routinely conduct humanities programming, and non-humanities focused organizations interested in conducting humanities programming are eligible for Wyoming Crossroads. Not-for-profit organizations (status other than 501(c)(3)) may apply with the support of a tax-exempt fiscal sponsor.

### My organization has never conducted a humanities program, but is interested in doing so.

#### Would my organization be eligible for a Wyoming Crossroads Grant?

Yes. We recommend that you first identify the program/project your organization wants to execute and identify an appropriate humanities scholar or expert that will support the creation, implementation, and execution of the program/project. Wyoming Humanities will review draft applications and provide feedback up to the application deadline; to ensure that your draft is reviewed in a timely manner we recommend contacting us at least two weeks prior to the deadline. Please feel welcome to contact Grants and Programs Director, Chloé Flagg, any time for any programmatic or grants-related questions or concerns at [chloe@thinkwy.org](mailto:chloe@thinkwy.org)

### **Who is not eligible for a Wyoming Crossroads Grant?**

For-profit organizations and individuals are not eligible for Wyoming Crossroads Grants.

### **What does Wyoming Humanities mean by programs, publications, preservation and digital media projects?**

Programming Grants will be awarded to public humanities programs and projects that include an event that is open to the public. *Programming grant applications are **due Friday, October 14, 2022***. Examples of programs and/or projects that would be supported by a Wyoming Crossroads Programming Grant include, but are not limited to:

- Discussions
- Lectures
- Reading/writing series
- Exhibitions
- Conference/symposiums

Publication Grants will be awarded for the creation and public distribution of humanities-focused written publications reflective of the themes and goals of the Wyoming Crossroads initiative. *Publication grant applications are **due Friday, October 14, 2022***. Examples of publications that would be supported by a Wyoming Crossroads Publication Grant include, but are not limited to:

- Print media: books/articles
- Online print media: blogs/articles/websites

Digital Media Grants will be awarded for humanities-focused projects that utilize a digital media medium to present public humanities content. Projects should be reflective of the themes and goals of the Wyoming Crossroads initiative. *Digital Media grant applications are **due Friday, April 14, 2023***. Examples of projects that would be supported by a Wyoming Crossroads Digital Media Grant include, but are not limited to:

- Documentaries
- Short films
- Apps/Games
- Digital Series

Preservation Grants will be awarded for humanities projects that preserve historical narratives that will be displayed, presented, or readily available to the public. Projects should be reflective of the themes and goals of the Wyoming Crossroads initiative. *Preservation grant applications are **due Friday, April 14, 2023***. Examples of projects that would be supported by a Wyoming Crossroads Preservation Grant include, but are not limited to:

- Oral histories
- Exhibitions
- Collections

**Can I review previous Wyoming Crossroads Grant recipients?**

Yes, of course! Please visit the grants page of our website, <https://www.thinkwy.org/grants>. A list of previous grant recipients can be found under Wyoming Crossroads Grants information section.

**What is the maximum awards amount for a Wyoming Crossroads Grant?**

The maximum award amount for Wyoming Crossroads grants is \$10,000 for each grant category.

**How many Wyoming Crossroads Grants are available?**

The number of awards and award amounts will be determined by the availability of funds. Wyoming Humanities has allocated \$100,000 for awarding 2023 Wyoming Crossroads grants. Final awards may be granted in the full requested amount (max \$10,000) or as partial awards; final award decisions and award amounts are determined by the Grants and Programs Committee.

**What is the deadline to apply for a Wyoming Crossroads Grant?**

Applications for Wyoming Crossroads Grants will be available on August 15, 2022. Wyoming Crossroads Grants will be awarded biannually, with applications due:

- October 14, 2022, for all Programming and Publication applications
- April 14, 2023, for all Digital Media and Preservation applications

**What is the timeline of activities for a Wyoming Crossroads Grant?**

Organizations will have one year from the time a grant is awarded to complete activities associated with the award.

**If I receive a Wyoming Crossroads Grant, what are my responsibilities?**

- Sign a grant agreement letter
- Complete the activities you outlined in your grant application within the grant period.
- Acknowledge Wyoming Humanities in all public communications and other marketing materials
- Submit a final report and participate in other evaluation conversations. The grantee will meet with Wyoming Humanities to review the success of the program and the implementation of Wyoming Crossroads themes.

**What is the application and review process?**

Wyoming Humanities is no longer requiring a Letter of Intent. If you believe that you are eligible for a Wyoming Crossroads Grant, please apply. If you are unsure, please contact Wyoming Humanities Director of Grants and Programs, Chloé Flagg at [chloe@thinkwy.org](mailto:chloe@thinkwy.org). We encourage you to [schedule a time with Chloé](#) to talk through your proposal prior to applying.

Once submitted, applications will be screened by a panel of Wyoming Humanities staff to verify eligibility status. There will be an Application Conversation between the organization and

Wyoming Humanities following the initial screening of the application; interviews will take place over Zoom. The Grants and Programs Committee of the Wyoming Humanities Board will review all eligible applications and make decisions for awarding. Awards will be based on available funds. Applicants will be notified via email of the application award status six to eight weeks following the respective deadline.

**Will Wyoming Humanities give feedback on a grant draft?**

Absolutely! Staff is happy to work with you as you develop your idea into a project. However, we cannot guarantee first reads on drafts less than two week from the submittal date.

**How do I apply?**

Wyoming Humanities uses an online grant application system, [Foundant](#). If you haven't already, you will need to register for a user name and login as well as submit information about your organization. *Please do not register yourself as associated with any other organization other than your own.*

**How many Wyoming Crossroads Grants will be awarded to one organization?**

One. Wyoming Humanities values making grants available to as many organizations as possible throughout the state. Eligible organizations are limited to winning only one Wyoming Crossroads Grant as the sponsoring organization per fiscal year (Nov. 1 – Oct. 31).

**Do Wyoming Crossroads Grants require cost share?**

All Wyoming Crossroads grant funds must be matched 1:1 with non-Federal dollars. This match can be both cash and in-kind (for example, the dollar value of facilities or time that people contribute to your project).

**What's the difference between "in cash" and "in kind" cost share?**

"In cash" include the actual dollars and organizational resources (e.g., staff time) that the sponsoring organization(s) directs to the project. Cash contributions also include money contributed to the sponsoring organization(s) from sources such as local and state governments, businesses, foundations, and individuals. "In kind" cost may include time and materials, office space and equipment, travel, donated services and other non-cash donations. If a lower-than-normal fee is charged for goods or services, the dollar value of the discount can be considered as an in-kind contribution to the project.

**Can my organization count general operating funds toward cost share?**

Yes, but with limits. You can count general operating funds toward cost share only for expenses associated with the completion of the project and within the timeframe of activities for the grant. General operating funds applied toward cost share cannot be federal funds. All funds, gifts, in-kind contributions, and general operating funds associated with the project and counted toward cost share must be tracked and documented.

**Can I use grant funds to pay for salaries?**

Yes, but with limits. The project director, fiscal agent, and clerical support staff may be paid from grant funds provided that such work is outside of their normal duties for which they are being compensated by an employer; provided that at least one half of their time working on the project is a cost share (either in-cash or in-kind); and provided that the amount requested for payment to such personnel is less than one-half of the total amount requested from WYH.

**What does “fiscal agent” mean?**

This is the person who will be managing the grant money: receiving, disbursing, and accounting for all grant and cost-share funds. If there your organization is using a fiscal sponsor, the fiscal agent should generally be associated with that organization (usually the board treasurer or fiscal staff person). Whenever possible, the Project Director should NOT serve as the fiscal agent.

**What does “fiscal sponsor” mean?**

A fiscal sponsor is a nonprofit organization that provides financial oversight and management and other administrative services for the applying organization for the benefit of the program or project. Applying organizations should select an involved fiscal sponsor whose mission is aligned with the program or project. Depending on the capacity of the applying organization, applicants may or may not have a fiscal sponsor. Should your organization receive a Crossroads Grant, fiscal sponsors will be required to submit a Letter of Involvement as part of the grant agreement.

**Are Spark, Expansion and Cross-pollination grants still available?**

Wyoming Humanities is no longer offering Expansion or Cross-pollination Grants; Wyoming Crossroads Grants are replacing both of these grant lines. Wyoming Humanities will continue to offer Spark Grants monthly, due the first business day of each month.

**Can my organization apply for both a Spark Grant and a Wyoming Crossroads Grant?**

Yes, but with limits. An eligible not-for-profit organization can apply for, and receive, both a Spark Grant and a Wyoming Crossroads Grant. However, the applying organization must demonstrate that there is no funding overlap between the two grants. This means that each grant must support different activities; those activities may be a part of the same overarching project. In addition to preventing funding overlap, Wyoming Humanities also wants to ensure that organizations have the capacity and resources to carry out multiple projects in a given year.

**Do Wyoming Crossroads Grant applications require a humanities scholar or expert?**

Yes. Humanities Scholars and Experts are required for all grants awarded through Wyoming Humanities. A humanities scholar should be an acknowledged expert in a humanities field related to your project typically, with an advanced degree (MA or above) in a humanities subject. Depending on your project, other humanities experts may also be appropriate; a humanities expert may or may not have an advanced degree but demonstrate extensive

knowledge and/or independent research in their respective field of expertise. Some examples of humanities scholars and experts include:

- Teaching and/or research faculty at a college or university.
- Historians or independent scholars who are widely accepted as experts in their field of study by their community.
- Professional librarians, writers, and others who have an established record of research and/or scholarship in the Humanities.
- Any person representing various cultural traditions, e.g., a tribal leader or elder that has been recognized as a spokesperson for their traditions, a traditional tradesman like a cowboy/rancher with historical knowledge of the skills and/or land they steward.

**Are there requirements for what the humanities scholar or expert will do for my project?**

The humanities scholar or expert should encourage dialogue, analysis, and critical thinking in your project. They might help to conceive and design the project, shape the program's content, make a public presentation, lead a discussion, write interpretive materials for brochures, or review exhibition text, copy for catalogues or brochures, among other activities. Lifelong or multigenerational residents of Wyoming are not considered humanities experts unless they have demonstrated extensive knowledge and independent research of their communities or respective field of expertise. If you have any questions about what constitutes a humanities scholar or expert, please do not hesitate to contact Chloé Flagg at [chloe@thinkwy.org](mailto:chloe@thinkwy.org).

**Can I use grant funds to compensate humanities scholars or experts?**

Yes, honoraria are acceptable requests for Wyoming Humanities grant. Wyoming Humanities believes strongly in the role of the humanities scholars and experts in our own Wyoming Humanities programming as well as the work of the grantees. Wyoming Humanities encourages an honorarium for the time and expertise sought to ensure quality public humanities programming. It is important to remember that honoraria are an act of gratitude and goodwill and are intended to help cover the scholars or experts' expenses associated with bolstering your program; honoraria should not be considered or treated as a salary. Honoraria grant requests should not exceed \$300 unless approved by Wyoming Humanities.

**I can't find a humanities scholar/expert in my area, what should I do?**

Try talking with staff at your local library, museum, and/or community college; they can often help you locate someone. Wyoming Humanities staff can also help recommend someone or point you to someone who can.