

## **Independent Research Mini Grant**

**What is an Independent Research Mini Grant?** Independent Research Mini Grants are awards of up to \$2000, given since spring of 1999 directly to individuals, with or without an academic institutional affiliation, to conduct original research in the humanities and bring that knowledge to the public. (Please note: Affiliated scholars should not seek funds for research expected by their employing institutions.)

Applicants may normally request RICH funds to pay themselves for research activity and costs associated with making their research available to the public. Funds may be applied to expenses such as: library access fees, project materials and supplies, photocopying and printing, consultation with humanities scholars, travel and accommodation, and project publicity. Although individuals are not required to demonstrate matching funds to be eligible, many projects require additional contributions. When this is true, the Council asks applicants to indicate their anticipated project budget, breaking out total cash and in-kind cost-share contributions from sources other than RICH as requested in the RICH budget form.

**What are the Humanities?** In its grant-making activity, the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities subscribes to the definition of the humanities set forth by Congress in the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965. In preparing your application and activities, you should consider the humanities to include the study of the following: Language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; and those aspects of the social sciences which employ historical or philosophical approaches. This last category may include cultural anthropology, sociology, political theory, international relations and other subjects concerned with questions of value and not with quantitative matters.

**Funding Restrictions.** RICH does NOT fund: creation of art or performances in the arts; permanent staffing expenses, salaries, or overhead; equipment purchases; construction or restoration; direct social or political action (examples include but are not limited to counseling, legal or medical services, economic development activities, lobbying); foreign or extensive domestic travel; academic fees, courses, degree-related expenses; academic research, fellowships, or scholarships; book publication; fundraising or for-profit endeavors; food or beverages. Other restrictions may apply.

**Independent Research Grant Application and Deadlines.** The deadlines for this grant category occur monthly. Applications should be received by the 1st of each month, but before submitting an application, you should discuss your intended application with grants staff. Additionally, applicants are encouraged to submit a draft for comments; although we can not guarantee feedback on drafts, there is a greater likelihood that we will be able to offer feedback if your draft is received at least a month before the deadline you have chosen. For deadlines that fall on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is extended to the next business day.

## **Independent Research Project Narrative**

Please limit your narrative to four (4) double-spaced typed pages in twelve (12) point.

Please indicate that you are applying for an Independent Research Mini Grant on the Application Cover Page form.

Note: Intent Form is not required for any mini-grant application including the Independent Research Mini.

You must answer **ALL** of the following questions **IN ORDER** and **NUMBER** your responses.

### **Questions:**

1. What is your project title?
2. What is your research topic? Tell us about your interest in the topic and why it is important to the humanities.
3. What is your research plan?
4. Where will you conduct your research? Please describe your workplan/timeline.
5. What do you propose as your public product or program? (Describe briefly and complete the Event Information Form)
6. What are your qualifications to undertake this project? (If you are currently affiliated with an academic institution, please describe this affiliation with particular regard to the period covered by this grant request.)
7. Who else will participate? (Additional participants are not essential.)
8. What is the total cost of this project, and what is the total value of contributions to this project that will not be charged to RICH?
9. How much money do you need from RICH? How do you plan to spend this money? (Please describe your project expenses and budget and complete the Budget Form). For example, your budget may include your research time, related travel, library access fees, and costs of producing or publicizing a public product or event. Approximate expenditures are sufficient.)
10. Your name, address, phone number, e-mail address
11. Signature

Submit either 1 original and e-mail a copy or 1 original and 5 copies of: your narrative responses to the above questions and your completed application cover page, event information, and budget forms to:

Rhode Island Council for the Humanities 385 Westminster Street Providence, Rhode Island 02903.

If you have any questions, please contact the RICH office at 401-273-2250.

Applicants will be notified of awards approximately 4-8 weeks after the application deadline.

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