To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office
            Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: National Endowment for the Humanities: Infrastructure and Capacity Building
            Challenge Grants Program (20210518-CHA)

Date: March 24, 2021

The purpose of the Challenge Grants program is to strengthen the institutional base of the humanities by enabling infrastructure development and capacity building. Awards aim to help institutions secure long-term support for their core activities and expand efforts to preserve and create access to outstanding humanities materials. Expected outputs include buildings; equipment; digital infrastructure.

Activities supported by the Challenge Grant program include:

- **Capital Projects** supports the design, purchase, construction, restoration, or renovation of facilities for humanities activities. This includes the purchase and installation of related moveable and permanently affixed equipment for exhibiting, maintaining, monitoring, and protecting collections (whether on exhibit or in storage), and for critical building systems, such as electrical, heating ventilation and air conditioning, security, life safety, lighting, utilities, telecommunications, and energy management.
- **Digital Infrastructure** supports the maintenance, modernization, and sustainability of existing digital scholarly projects and platforms.

Fundraising is a critical part of NEH Challenge grant awards: up to 10% of total funds (Challenge matching funds plus certified gifts) may be used for fundraising costs during the period of performance.

Applicants may request up to $750,000, with a **required matching ratio of one to one (<u>from nonfederal third-party donors</u>.) To be eligible for matching, gifts may <u>not</u> derive from the grantee institution itself**. Hispanic-serving institutions of higher education may request a period of performance of up to five (5) years for capital improvement projects, beginning as early as March 1, 2022 and no later than June 1, 2022.

Complete program and eligibility guidelines are available at: https://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/infrastructure-and-capacity-building-challenge-grants.

The agency deadline for submitting proposals is May 18, 2021.

This is a limited competition. **Institutions may apply <u>for only one NEH Challenge Grant</u> per calendar year (either Capital Projects <u>or</u> Digital Infrastructure).** Please submit your **pre-proposal (3 pages in length**), plus budget, CV, and <u>cost sharing commitment plan</u>, all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, by **NOON on Thursday, April 8, 2021** to limited@unm.edu with the subject line indicating: NEH - your name.

I. For **<u>Capital Projects</u>**, the pre-proposal narrative should include the following criteria:

- **Project overview**
  - Name the type of activity being proposed (either Capital Projects or Digital Infrastructure)
  - Summarize the proposed project, describe how it will directly and indirectly help the applicant achieve long-term goals for its work in the humanities, and identify the project team, collaborators, partners, and specialists involved in capital project activities, including fundraisers.
- **The humanities significance and audience**

- o Provide a brief description of the current and proposed building, site, collections, activities, and/or programs. Make a case for why they are important for the humanities at a local, national, and/or international level.
  - o Describe the current and intended audiences to be served and the estimated size. Explain how the capital project will benefit these constituents, and attract new audiences.
- **Long-term impact and institutional commitment**
  - o Describe how the proposed capital project will impact the institution's building, site, humanities collections, and/or its humanities activities.
  - o Explain how it aligns with institutional strategic plans, and whether it is part of a larger initiative.
  - o Describe how the capital project will directly and indirectly help achieve the institution's long-term goals for its work in the humanities.
- **Capital Project activities and planning**
  - o Describe the capital project activities to be supported by the Challenge Grant.
  - o Explain the history of the project's development and any pre- planning to date.
- **Financial Capacity and fundraising plans**
  - o Describe the **plans for raising funds** to meet the NEH matching requirement. Offer evidence of long-term financial stability at the institution.
- **Deliverables, outcomes and sustainability**
  - o Describe the deliverables, outcomes, and how the project will be sustained beyond the project period.

II. For **Digital Projects**, the pre-proposal narrative should include the following criteria:

- **Project overview**
  - o Name the type of activity being proposed (either Capital Projects or Digital Infrastructure)
  - o Summarize the proposed project, describe how it will directly and indirectly help the applicant achieve long-term goals for its work in the humanities, and identify the project team, collaborators, partners, and specialists involved in capital project activities, including fundraisers.
- **The humanities significance and audience**
  - o Provide a brief description of the existing digital infrastructure platform, repository, or enterprises. Make a case for why they are important for the humanities at a local, national, and/or international level.
  - o Describe the current and intended users to be served (e.g., scholars, students, the public) and the estimated number. Explain how improvements to the digital infrastructure will benefit these constituents, and attract new audiences.
- **Long-term impact and institutional commitment**
  - o Describe how the proposed project will impact the institution's existing digital infrastructure platform, repository, or enterprise.
  - o Explain how it aligns with institutional strategic plans, and whether it is part of a larger initiative.
  - o Describe how the digital infrastructure project will directly and indirectly help achieve the institution's long-term goals for its work in the humanities.
- **Digital Infrastructure Project activities and planning**
  - o Describe the architecture of the existing digital project or platform, including software and hardware.
  - o Explain how it is currently maintained and guidelines or standards for accessibility and universal design for the digital environment.
- **Financial Capacity and fundraising plans**
  - o Describe the **plans for raising funds** to meet the NEH matching requirement. Offer evidence of long-term financial stability at the institution.
- **Deliverables, outcomes and sustainability**
  - o Describe the deliverables, outcomes, and how the project will be sustained beyond the project period.

Please distribute this notice to departments and individuals whom you believe would be interested.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford (CFord@salud.unm.edu) or Cassandra Misenar (CMisenar@salud.unm.edu) for more information.