

MASS HUMANITIES' MISSION

Mass Humanities uses history, literature, philosophy, and the other humanities disciplines to enhance and improve civic life throughout the Commonwealth.

THREE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- I. *Mass Humanities will be a forceful advocate for the public humanities, for humanities institutions that play a vital role in their communities, and for the incorporation of humanities values (e.g., critical thinking, self reflection, diversity of viewpoints, etc.) and perspectives in all aspects of public life.*
 - Serve as a funder, facilitator, and catalyst for projects that bring humanities perspectives to bear on issues of concern in Massachusetts;
 - Encourage projects that involve collaboration between humanities institutions and other types of institutions and agencies, both public and private (e.g., hospitals, social service agencies, prisons, state government);
 - Use the press and other media to increase public awareness of the role of the humanities in public life;
 - Enhance the Foundation's visibility and reputation as an important resource for those who make, interpret, and implement public policy in Massachusetts.
- II. *Mass Humanities will periodically identify a crucial social, political or cultural issue or theme and bring its programmatic resources to bear on increasing public understanding of and engagement with that issue. The goal will be to foster both personal reflection and civic engagement.*

For 2014-2015 the Foundation's thematic focus will be "Negotiating the Social Contract"
Programmatic initiatives will include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- RFPs and other incentives for grant proposals addressing the theme;
 - Library reading and discussion programs exploring related issues;
 - Annual public symposium addressing the theme;
 - Mass History programming related to the theme;
 - *Public Humanist* essays related to theme;
 - Issues of *Mass Humanities* devoted to the theme.
- III. *Mass Humanities will seek to expand the power and pleasure of the humanities by reaching out to those whose access to the humanities has been limited by social, cultural, economic, educational, geographic or other circumstances.*
 - Grant proposals that demonstrate a strong potential for expanding audiences for the public humanities will be eligible for up to \$10,000.

OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES

1. Humanities content must be central and substantial in all MFH programs.
2. Treatment of controversial issues will be balanced and even-handed.
3. Preference is given to projects designed for underserved audiences.
4. Preference is given to projects likely to leverage outside funding.
5. Preference is given to projects likely to raise the Foundation's visibility.
6. The Foundation will allocate roughly equal resources between the grant program and Foundation initiatives.