

Online Application Deadline - Extended to Friday, July 23, 2021

AZ Speaks Application Guidelines

for

Fall 2021-Fall 2022 Catalog

Arizona Humanities (AH) supports public programs in the humanities that promote understanding of the human experience. We collaborate with cultural and educational organizations to bring humanities programs to residents across Arizona. AZ Speaks presenters deliver virtual presentations and/or travel statewide to give in-person presentations to public audiences at non-profit organizations. These include public libraries, museums, historical sites, historical and archaeological societies, parks, tribal entities, K-12 schools, community colleges, community centers, and other organizations at AH's discretion.

AZ Speaks is comprised of one presentation type:

Road Scholars

The *Road Scholars* program brings the best in humanities scholarship to every corner of Arizona. Presentations are designed to connect local experts to an inquiring public and foster lively discussions on cultural and historical topics. Speakers may choose to present as a particular historical figure as it fits their presentation.

AH Responsibilities

All AZ Speaks presentations are published in a catalog on AH's website. Catalogs consist of brief biographical data on each speaker, as well as a synopsis of each speaker's presentations. AH distributes information on AZ Speaks to hundreds of libraries, museums, schools and other educational, community, and cultural groups in the state. AH covers the costs of a \$200 speaker honorarium, travel, lodging (if applicable), and meals. For more information on reimbursement details, please contact info@azhumanities.org.

Speaker Responsibilities

AZ Speaks programs will be conducted in person and virtually depending upon request, availability of the speaker, and the capacity of venues. Speakers should be prepared to travel to locations across the state unless otherwise indicated in their application. Speakers must be able to use video conferencing platforms, such as Zoom, for virtual events. Organizations must coordinate presentation schedules with the speaker directly. While speakers are not required to meet all requests for their presentations, they should make themselves as available as possible in terms of presentation dates and times. Applicants must be available for bookings from 2021 through 2022.

Application Instructions

Eligibility

Eligible speakers are those individuals considered to be humanities scholars. A humanities scholar must have expertise in the field(s) related to the humanities content of his/her/their presentations. A humanities scholar, as defined by AH, is an individual who

- a) has at least a master's degree in a humanities discipline, or
- b) is a Native American or community elder or traditional teacher, or
- c) is a recognized expert who has a verifiable record of teaching, research, or publications on a particular topic.

Eligible speakers must live or work in Arizona. Eligible speakers must be genuinely interested in addressing public audiences and be available November 1, 2021 through October 31, 2022.

Presentation Proposals

Among other materials (listed below), applicants are required to submit presentation descriptions. Strong proposals will describe presentations that create a relevant, compelling, and interactive experience for audiences across Arizona.

Presentations must be designed to last about an hour:

- *Interactive Talk*: 45 minutes for the presentation with 15 minutes of question-answer conversation with the audience either built into the talk throughout, or at the conclusion of the presentation.

Although AH considers all presentations based on humanities disciplines, presentations focusing on themes and topics from the following fields of study are highly encouraged:

- Archaeology and anthropology
- Arizona and Arizona history
- Art, architecture, dance, and music history
- Storytelling and folklore traditions
- Film and media
- Environmental sustainability (as it relates to the humanities)
- Globalism (including but not limited to economics, war, migration, technology, and ethics)
- Immigration, border issues
- Justice studies/jurisprudence
- Native American studies (including but not limited to contemporary Native literature and literary criticism, art, and culture)
- Race, gender, and ethnicity
- Science, technology, and culture (as it relates to the humanities)
- Water resources, rights, management, etc.
- Women's studies

Speakers should provide necessary background information and definitions to the audience, who may not have prior knowledge of the subject. AH encourages speakers to select topics that are specific rather than general. Creative presentations involving Arizona's cultural diversity, community and culture, women's issues, and art and literature produced in the Southwest are highly encouraged. In addition, presentations that include material artifacts, visual aids, demonstrations, and/or participatory activities (aside from the question-answer dialogue) are also encouraged, as are presentations that use the humanities to provide context for contemporary issues. Please keep in mind that presentations may be delivered virtually and plan accordingly.

AH *cannot support presentations that advocate specific political, social, or public policy positions*. Speakers can examine different political, historical, or philosophical perspectives on an issue, but speakers must be neutral and unbiased in their presentation of the facts and various perspectives.

Speaker cannot use AZ Speaks presentations as a platform for fund-raising. Speakers may not promote their own business interests during their presentations or use the presentation to promote book sales. If speakers have authored books related to their presentation topic, they may mention publications at the end of the presentation but are not permitted to sell books. However, speakers may ask the host site to facilitate the transactions of speaker publications through the host site's gift shop or store.

Required Application Materials

The following materials are required for the online application. **Paper applications will not be accepted.**

- **Contact Information**, including short biography and headshot
- **Current Resume or Curriculum Vitae** that speaks to applicant competency as a humanities scholar:
 - Relevant volunteer and community experience that illustrates the applicant's ability to work with diverse public audiences and/or facilitate community conversations should be included. Current Employer Information if applicable.
- **Presentation Titles and Descriptions**
 - At least one but no more than three proposals per applicant. AH reserves the right to restrict the final number of topics chosen.
 - Applicants who are returning speakers must submit **new** topics not currently offered in the catalog.
- **Presentation Length**
 - Road Scholars - Presentations must be designed to last about an hour, with roughly 45 minutes allotted for presentation, and at least 15 minutes allotted for a question-answer interaction with the audience.
- **Optional Supporting Materials:** These include video clips, digital images, and/or media clippings that relate to the applicant's experience as a public scholar.
- **Two (1-page) Letters of Reference** are required **for new applicants only**.
 - Please include only peer references that can appropriately share their history and experiences of your work as a scholar/expert/tribal elder

Application Submission

Submit applications via the online application. **Paper applications will not be accepted.**

[click here for online application.](#)

AZ Speaks Application Process Timeline

- Application opens – June 15, 2021
- Application Informational Webinar – June 30, 2021
- Application closes – ~~July 16, 2021~~ Extended to July 23, 2021
- Applicant Decision Notification – August 16, 2021

AH receives many more proposals than can be accommodated as the application process is competitive. In reviewing applications, we consider not only an applicant's background and expertise, but also take into account variety in geography, discipline, topic, gender, and ethnicity. AH values inclusion, diversity, equity and access for Speakers and program participants.

The review committee seeks speakers/presentations that best adhere to criteria below:

- Humanities Content - presentations that align with the Arizona Humanities mission
- Speaker Experience – speaker expertise and ability to speak knowledgeably about their topic
- Presentation Impact – overall impact and originality of presentation topic
- Speaker's Presentation Skills and Delivery – history of public speaking record and presentation style
- Audience – topics appeal to and are inclusive of the diverse audience in Arizona.

Please consult the accompanying PDF with a preview of the application to view the questions asked beforehand and prepare your responses accordingly. We advise you to save your responses in a Word doc and have all materials ready at the time of application, as the application form must be completed in one sitting and cannot be saved or updated later. Thank you!

For more information on applying for the AZ Speaks program, please contact Julianne Cheng by phone at 602-257-0335 x26 or by email at jcheng@azhumanities.org.