

2024 Hands on Humanities Awards

Every year Arizona Humanities honors and celebrates outstanding contributions to the humanities in our state. Since the inaugural awards in 1990, Arizona Humanities has recognized individuals who have advanced the humanities in Arizona through their scholarship, leadership, support, and advocacy. We encourage you to nominate an individual or organization who is advancing the humanities in your community!

Nominations are reviewed by a panel of AH board members and community partners. Award recipients participate in a video interview, celebrate with friends and family in an awards reception in the fall, and receive a \$2,000 cash award to further their work in the humanities.

HOW TO NOMINATE

All nomination materials must be submitted electronically through our [online application here](#). Please note that the online application must be completed in one sitting and cannot be saved. Please see the award categories and criteria below. Complete nomination submissions include the following:

- Contact information
- Brief bio of nominee
- Brief explanation for nomination
- *Two (2) letters of support. Letters should address the criteria described in the award category. Letters must be uploaded with the online application.

**Nominations for the K-12 Humanities Educator Award can submit examples of teaching in lieu of the second letter. Examples can include but are not limited to student testimonials, class projects, lesson plans, etc.*

The deadline for nominations is Friday, April 5, 2024.

Application: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AZawards24>

Questions? Contact Julianne Cheng, Programs Manager, at jcheng@azhumanities.org or 602-257-0335.

AWARD CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA

Humanities Public Scholar Award

Purpose

This award recognizes a distinguished humanities scholar who enhances public understanding of the humanities, transforms lives, and strengthens communities through civil discourse and community engagement. The award recognizes the dedication and contribution of former executive director Dan Shilling's 19 years of service to Arizona Humanities.

Criteria

Letters of support should address how the nominee meets the following criteria:

- Sustained research (3-5 years), publications, creative activity, and humanities service in Arizona.
- Consistently serves as a humanities scholar, or public advocate for humanities.
- Actively and consistently engages the Arizona public in one or more humanities disciplines.
- Actively and consistently promotes opportunities for people to learn, experience, and explore diverse issues through public programs that foster civil discourse and community engagement.

Friend of the Humanities Award

Purpose

This award recognizes a public individual who makes a lasting contribution to the cultural life of Arizona communities through active support of, and involvement in, promoting the humanities. The award recognizes the dedication and contribution of Juliana Yoder during her 21 years of service to Arizona Humanities.

Criteria

Letters of support should address how the nominee meets the following criteria:

- Actively promotes understanding and appreciation of the humanities in the community through their work, volunteerism, or leadership at cultural, civic, educational, or other organizations.
- Exemplary outreach and/or advocacy supporting the humanities and access to the humanities.
- Significant contribution to the community by promoting civil discourse and/or community engagement.

Humanities Rising Star Award

Purpose

This award recognizes a young professional, student, or volunteer who demonstrates outstanding and creative approaches to engaging the public with the humanities, and whose humanities scholarship and public service, has enhanced public understanding of the humanities.

Criteria

Letters of support should address how the nominee meets the following criteria:

- Nominees must be 18-35 years of age.
- Actively promotes awareness and understanding of the humanities in the community through scholarship, creativity, leadership, or volunteerism, and actively advocates for others to support the humanities.
- Evidence of impact on diverse issues/communities.
- Actively and consistently promotes opportunities for people to learn, experience, and explore diverse issues through public programs and creative activities that foster civil discourse and community engagement.

K-12 Humanities Educator Award

Purpose:

This award recognizes an outstanding K-12 educator who engages students with the humanities through teaching in the classroom or leading humanities-based school programs.

Criteria

Letter(s) of support and/or example of teaching should address how the nominee meets the following criteria:

- Nominees must be a teacher, school librarian, or administrator at a K-12 school.
- Fosters an understanding of the humanities through innovative classroom teaching and/or implementing creative, humanities-based school programs.
- Encourages active student engagement.
- Evidence of impact on students and school community.