



Due to the ongoing partial shutdown of the federal government, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) stopped providing federal-state partnership funding to state affiliate humanities councils, including the Idaho Humanities Council, on December 8, 2018. At present, the NEH offices are closed and the IHC is without access to further NEH partnership funding until the shutdown is resolved and federal agencies that are now closed receive their appropriations approval and resume operations.

The NEH's federal-state partnership funding provides a critical component—approximately 70%—of IHC's annual operating budget. That funding supports IHC's mission to provide public humanities programming statewide.

But because of the present shortage of NEH funding, and to ensure that the limited non-federal funding available to the IHC lasts as long as possible, the IHC must suspend, beginning Monday, January 14, 2019, two popular humanities programs. IHC is suspending the processing of applications for the Council's popular Speakers Bureau program and applications for opportunity and teacher incentive grants. These suspensions will remain in place until the partial federal government shutdown is resolved. Also, the Council has suspended funding for requests from previously approved regrants for local, community, and university sponsored events until federal funding from the NEH is resumed. This step is consistent with the grant award letters for those projects and activities indicating that such awards are contingent on federal funding availability.

When the shutdown began, IHC began cost saving measures to conserve available funding and minimize the public humanities programming effect on Idaho communities. These measures included temporarily reducing overhead costs and staff travel. However, as the federal shutdown enters its fourth week, these initial measures are no longer adequate and the IHC must take these additional steps.

The IHC offices remain open and other IHC activities and programs are not currently affected. These include our upcoming Distinguished Humanities Lectures in Twin Falls and Idaho Falls; our 2019 Summer Teacher Institute; and our upcoming Museum on Main Street exhibit which kicks off in Moscow this August.

We will update the status of the IHC's cost-savings efforts and any additional impact to Council programming activities in this space, posting updated status reports weekly during the duration of the shutdown.

Please contact David Pettyjohn, IHC Executive Director, with any questions at 208.345.5346 or david@idahohumanities.org.

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