



## AZ READS - CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2026

Arizona Humanities (AH) believes that building strong literacy skills at an early age is essential for building a just and civil society. Literacy is a fundamental life skill that ensures that children become compassionate, confident, and engaged members of our society. AH supports innovative and participatory humanities-based literacy programs in K-12 classrooms through AZ Reads. AZ Reads provides resources and funding for literacy programs led by Arizona educators in partnership with K-12 schools and nonprofits that serve Arizona schools.

We invite program proposals that foster literacy in the humanities, including but not limited to

- Reading and discussion programs
- Storytelling and creative writing
- Peer-to-peer learning and discussion
- Cultural learning/sharing

We especially encourage program proposals that incorporate active engagement with students through opportunities for discussion and reflection. Literacy programs can incorporate history, cultural studies, languages other than English, and other humanities disciplines. We will also accept proposals that combine humanities and STEAM disciplines. If you are unsure about whether your program fosters literacy and engages the humanities, please contact us!

We welcome program proposals from teachers in any discipline, school librarians, and administrators. *See eligibility below.* Literacy programs can target a specific group, class, grade, school, or district.

AH will work with K-12 partners to ensure the success of the literacy programs. We will communicate with K-12 partners regarding the progress of a program and provide support as needed, e.g., inviting guest authors, ordering books, etc. At the conclusion of the program, staff will reach out for a final follow-up to assess impact outcomes via email or phone.

**Amount:** up to \$2,000

### **How Funding Is Disbursed:**

Arizona Humanities will directly cover program costs unless otherwise agreed upon with the K-12 partner. For example, we will disburse honoraria to guest speakers, pay admissions fees, purchase program supplies, which can include but are not limited to:

- Books
- Paper, posters, miscellaneous craft supplies, etc.
- Audio/visual technology

**Eligibility:** K-12 institutions and community libraries that serve youth by providing humanities-based literacy programs.



**Funding Priorities:** Special consideration will be given to programs in public schools, especially Title I schools and those that directly serve traditionally underserved communities. Underserved communities include Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities (e.g., IEP/504); ELL students; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

**Submit a Proposal:** Please submit your program proposal through our online application available here:

The online application requires the following:

- Brief School Bio
- Program Description
- Timeline
- Budget Narrative\*

Proposals will be reviewed on an on-going basis as they are submitted. AH staff may reach out to applicants to clarify or discuss program details. **Please note that this is a competitive process, and not every program will be funded.**

**Apply online here:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/azreads26>

**Application Opens:** January 15, 2026

**Virtual Info Webinar:** TBD – please check the AZ Humanities website.

**Deadline for Submissions:** March 15, 2026

**Funding Period:** June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027

**Who We Are:** Arizona Humanities is a statewide nonprofit organization and the Arizona affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Since 1974, Arizona Humanities has supported public programs that promote understanding of the human experience with cultural, educational, and nonprofit organizations across Arizona.

**Have Questions?** Amber McCrary, [amccrary@azhumanities.org](mailto:amccrary@azhumanities.org), 602-257-0335

Visit our webpage: <https://azhumanities.org/programs/az-reads/>



\*Arizona Humanities staff will review program budget narratives to determine items eligible for funding. Activities that are **not** eligible for support include the following:

- Overlapping project costs with any other pending or approved application(s) for federal funding and/or approved federal awards
- Standard curriculum costs and materials
- Cancellation costs
- Major equipment costs, e.g. printers, copiers, etc.
- Construction, purchase of real property, major alteration and renovation
- Environmental sustainability projects (water way clean-up)
- Collections acquisition
- The preservation, organization, or description of materials that are not regularly accessible for research, education, or public programming
- Promotion of a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view
- Advocacy of a particular program of social or political action
- Support of specific public policies or legislation
- Lobbying
- Food/Meals