



Standards and Expectations for Grant-Funded Programs Involving First-Person Historical Reenactors

To be eligible for Oklahoma Humanities grant funding, Chautauqua-style first-person historical reenactment programs are required to take a research-based approach showing evidence of deep scholarship. These programs should also be appropriate for general, non-academic audiences.

Oklahoma Humanities recognizes the goals of first-person historical reenactment programs:

- To relate the past and relate to the past in a way that personalizes and humanizes it
- To promote empathy and deeper understanding of historical eras and figures
- To be thought-provoking and educational, rather than purely entertaining
- To promote thoughtful audience participation and further inquiry
- To introduce audiences to historical views, habits, customs, beliefs, and culture that inspire new perspectives, not only of the past but of one's own human experience

A grounding in proper research is essential for OH-grant-funded first-person historical reenactment programs. The reenactor's research should provide a repertoire of ideas, stories, and interpretations to encourage a deeper understanding of the historical era being portrayed. Adequate primary and secondary sources such as diaries, letters, newspapers, and historical accounts must be consulted and demonstrated in the grant application.

Research should also provide the following:

- Immersion in a wide range of period history, geography, and culture
- Examination of the main concepts for interpretation
- Familiarity with authentic clothing, settings, and other supplies

Research-based, first-person, historical reenactment programs should also strive to incorporate the character's worldview and historical mindset. A worldview includes the intellectual, moral, spiritual, and perceptual context of the historical character and his or her world. Reenactors should understand not only what characters are thinking, but also what they are not capable of thinking.

First-person historical reenactment programs not supported by research and scholarship are not eligible for Oklahoma Humanities grant funding.

If you have questions about a grant application for a first-person historical reenactment program, please contact Senior Program Officer Kelly Burns at kelly@okhumanities.org or (405) 501-1760.