The New York Historical

Suggested by: Ian Fraser

Current Request	$10,000	**Organizational Budget**	$42,939,000
Previous Grant Amount	$7,500	**Last Site Visit**	n/a
Grants Since 1998	13	**Project Budget (if applicable)**	n/a
Total Grants Awarded	$75,000	**Project Title**	General operating support

Mission

To increase worldwide understanding of American history and art through exhibitions, public programs, digital engagement, and research that reveal the dynamism of history and its influence on the world today.

Organization History

The New York Historical (formerly the New-York Historical Society), founded in 1804, houses over 14 million documents, works of art, artifacts, and ephemera that cover four centuries of American history and art. The Historical reaches approximately 400,000 people annually through exhibitions, collections, educational initiatives, public programs, and digital resources, alongside a membership of more than 8,000 households and over one million online users each year. It also supports academic research for 10,000 scholars worldwide and partners with the New York City Department of Education. The Historical promotes economic accessibility through Pay-As-You-Wish Friday evenings, free admission for NYC library cardholders through Culture Pass, reduced admission for seniors, students, and active military personnel, and need-based discounts for schools. The organization employs 176 full-time and 120 part-time staff and engages over 100 volunteers.

Update on Last Grant and Current Request

Last year's grant from the Vidda Foundation helped The Historical sustain core operations, including exhibitions, education initiatives, public programs, and digital resources. The Historical mounted 15 major exhibitions and dozens of smaller installations reaching more than 100,000 visitors and reached nearly 800,000 K–12 students and teachers through direct programming, teacher training, and digital resources. Education programs involved 12,596 students on field trips, more than 37,000 students and teachers through classroom enrichment, 5,012 sixth graders through Academy for American Democracy (AAD) civics residencies, and 2,803 teachers through professional development. Teen programming grew 34%, serving 50 paid Student Historian interns and 246 Tech Scholars, while the Citizenship Project served 1,457 lawful permanent residents with a reported 97% citizenship-exam pass rate.

A major milestone was the June 2026 opening of the Tang Wing for American Democracy, which adds galleries, classrooms, conservation and collections areas, and outdoor spaces. The Historical expects the

expansion to increase the number of visitors by approximately 20% and its two new dedicated AAD classrooms to eventually more than double program capacity to 10,000 students annually. The Historical also expanded its digital resources, including a new AAD curriculum and a major update to its Women & the American Story curriculum, which serves approximately 600,000 unique users annually.

The Historical requests an increased renewal of $10,000 in general operating to sustain and expand its programs during a period of significant institutional growth following the opening of the Tang Wing. Funding will support exhibitions, public programs, education initiatives, library and digital resources, and other general operations as The Historical welcomes more visitors to its expanded campus. The increased request comes as tightening school budgets and shifting federal humanities funding have reduced resources for classroom and exhibition programs, requiring greater reliance on private philanthropy to sustain access for students, families, and underserved communities.

Notes

The Historical identified tight school education budgets and uncertainty around federal funding as ongoing challenges, with more schools requiring fee waivers or discounts. The organization plans targeted fundraising to expand free K–12 programming and will relocate family programs during the DiMenna Children's History Museum renovation, scheduled for completion in summer 2027.