

The Vidda Foundation

Final Report Form

The purpose of the Report Form is to help Vidda Foundation's Trustees understand the activities and outcomes of your grant. This form is now part of the proposal process. **Your application for funding will be considered incomplete without it.** Please upload this form along with your grant proposal via the Information Upload link at <https://www.vidda.org>. If you have any questions about the process, please contact grants@vidda.org.

Instructions

Grantees may choose to complete the form below or format their own Word document. Both allow for copy-paste from existing reports to other funders. Regardless of approach, we request that all grantees please:

- Type and single-space all reports.
- Use headings as provided.
- Answer all questions in the order listed. If a question does not apply, please respond "NA" or "Not Applicable".
- Indicate if information is being provided in a separate attachment (e.g. budgets or financial statements). If requested attachments are not available, please include an explanation.
- Use as much space as needed, while being as concise as possible.

The Vidda Foundation
Final Report of
The New York Historical
on grant period beginning 7/1/25

NARRATIVE

I. Major Objectives

List the major objectives of the grant as specified in your original grant proposal. Describe the progress toward accomplishing your objectives and note the number of persons affected by your activities (when appropriate).

As proposed, The New York Historical (The Historical) maintained our dedication to presenting a variety of multidisciplinary exhibitions and programs that contribute meaningful humanities scholarship and attract a diverse and broad base of constituents—including local visitors, tourists, families, and K-12 students and their educators—in order to facilitate discussion and examination of our national history, its legacy, and our capacity to shape the history being written today. Achievements in the past year include:

Exhibitions

The Historical mounted an exciting suite of exhibitions that reached 107,588 visitors. These exhibitions covered a broad range of topics concerning American history, art, and culture, including:

- *Blacklisted: An American Story* (June 13 – November 2, 2025), an exploration of the intersection of politics, art, culture, and social dynamics during Hollywood’s Red Scare through photographs, objects, and film. The exhibition sparked reflection, conversation and engagement about civil liberties and patriotism by exploring a time in which art, artistic expression, and speech were no longer protected.
- *Dining in Transit* (June 20 - October 19, 2025), a trip through the history of travel and the innovative ways ocean liners, trains, and airplanes catered to passengers’ appetites and expectations during the first half of the 20th century.
- *The New York Sari* (September 12, 2025 – April 26, 2026), a reflection on how the sari has become an essential part of the cultural fabric of New York City, using it as a metaphor for the ways that the individuals who wear and create saris have straddled tradition, culture, and modernity in their work, art, and lives. This exhibit offered a powerful opportunity to think more expansively about the history of migrant communities and gender in New York City.
- *The Gay Harlem Renaissance* (October 10, 2025 – March 8, 2026), a look at the vibrant and dazzling world of Harlem’s queer Black community during the 1920s and 30s. To mark the centennial of *The New Negro*, Alain Locke’s groundbreaking edited volume of literature and art,

this exhibition invited visitors to enmesh themselves in the richness of LGBTQ+ Black life during the height of the Harlem Renaissance.

- *Declaring the Revolution: America's Printed Path to Independence* (November 14, 2025 - April 12, 2026), an examination of how the democratic ideals of liberty, equality, and self-determination were developed in the years leading up to the American revolution, and how their dissemination via print both strengthened the cause for American independence and assisted the military victories of the Continental Army and Navy.
- *Stirring the Melting Pot: Photographs from The New York Historical Collections* (November 28, 2025 - March 29, 2026), a showcase of The Historical's vast photography collections that revealed insights into the immigrant experience in New York. More than 100 photographs depicting children at play and in school, seniors at recreational centers, workers in sweatshops and factories, families at home, and visitors to festivals and parades demonstrated how immigrants built lives for themselves in their new home.
- *The Recordings: Voices from the "Shoah" Tapes* (November 28, 2025 - March 29, 2026), a powerful new audio installation planned in collaboration with the Jewish Museum Berlin that presented, for the first time, selections from the audio archive of *Shoah* (1985), the landmark Holocaust documentary by French journalist and filmmaker Claude Lanzmann.
- *Old Masters and New Amsterdam* (May 1 – August 30, 2026), a dazzling array of Old Masters paintings from the Leiden Collection, featuring works by Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Hals. The exhibition provides viewers with clues into New York's early society, with scenes of everyday people, homes, careers, and food depicting what life may have looked like in New Amsterdam.
- *Revolutionary Women* (May 29 - October 25, 2026), a look at the indelible marks women left on both the fight for—and against—US Independence and on the building blocks on the new nation, despite being written out of the story of the nation's founding. The exhibition asks: How did the Revolution and living through the experience of war impact New York's women—and how did women impact the Revolution in New York and beyond?
- *Democracy Matters* (June 18 - November 1, 2026), an exploration of the original promise of and continuing progress toward American Revolutionary ideals of liberty and equality through the lens of art. The exhibition puts prized permanent collection objects in conversation with recent acquisitions and promised gifts to examine how the concept of democracy has stretched, contracted, and shifted through key moments in the history of the nation.

Education Initiatives

In the past program year, The Historical continued to offer a full suite of K-12 programs, including:

K-12 FIELD TRIPS

As part of our field trip program, Museum Educators guided classes through our galleries to explore a number of historical themes. Those based on our permanent collection included: "Slavery in New York," "The American Revolution in New York," and "New York & the Civil War." Field trips based on special exhibitions included: *The Gay Harlem Renaissance*; *Stirring the Melting Pot: Photographs from The New York Historical Collections*; *Old Masters, New Amsterdam*;

Revolutionary Women; and *Democracy Matters*. During the last school year, 651 school groups participated in field trips, with 12,596 students served.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Enrichment programs sent Museum Educators equipped with replica artifacts, paintings, and documents to NYC classrooms for a series of one-hour lessons on a historical theme. These programs covered topics such as “Then and Now” and “Geography of NYC” for Grades K-2, “History of NYC” and “Exploring New Amsterdam” for Grades 3-5, and “Reconstruction to the Civil Rights Movement” and “Uncovering Black History” for Grades 6-12. Enrichment programs were also offered on Zoom for schools unable to host external educators. These sessions were designed to complement the New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE) Social Studies Scope and Sequence, and covered history from the 16th century to the present day. Enrichment initiatives served 37,214 students and teachers in person and 69 virtually last year.

CHANG CHAVKIN ACADEMY FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY (CCAAD)

The Historical’s free civics and history program for sixth graders served 5,012 students through 227 residencies. Residencies were offered onsite at the Museum, in school classrooms, and virtually. In October 2025, we launched a new digital curriculum, enabling teachers to now access the civic content and teaching pedagogy of CCAAD year round.

TEEN PROGRAMS

The Historical’s teen programs included internship opportunities, digital humanities courses, and access to our Tech Commons lab and professional mentorship for NYC high school students. Our Student Historian High School Internship Program served 50 students across a summer and academic year cohort, providing them with valuable research experience using our collections and collaborating to create public-facing projects, such as podcasts, digital exhibitions, and interactive maps to highlight their findings. Last year’s interns worked on our exhibition *Composite Nation: Frederick Douglass’ America*. As planned, we reserved at least 60% of spots for students from Title I schools and/or low income households and compensated all Student Historians with a \$700 stipend to incentivize participation.

Meanwhile, our Tech Scholars program offered free parallel, week-long courses on web design, game design, and podcasting for students not yet prepared to make a full internship commitment. Sessions took place during school breaks in the fall, spring, and summer and served 246 students. By participant request, all teen programs took place in person.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Family programs served The Historical’s youngest visitors and their caregivers. Programs were free with museum admission and included artmaking workshops, historical reenactments, and Family Book Club. Family programs were offered solely onsite at the Museum last year, and served 5,370 visitors.

TEACHER PROGRAMS

The Historical offered low-cost professional development experiences that introduced teachers to our vast collections, empowered them to bring museum education-based strategies into their own classrooms, and supplied them with credits towards maintaining professional certification from NYS and NYC. Programs included a full calendar of virtual and in-person open-enrollment workshops, custom professional learning workshops, and multiple in-depth professional learning communities, including: Teacher Ambassadors, a group dedicated to bringing more women's voices into their lessons through our Women & the American Story (WAMS) curriculum; Teacher Institutes, a multi-week, intensive convening of educators that provides them with new scholarship and primary resources; and our Center for Teaching Democracy, a free professional development series for teachers interested in bolstering civics content in social studies curricula. Teacher programs served 2,803 teachers during the 2025-2026 academic year through 88 in-person and 40 virtual workshops.

The Historical also continued to disseminate high-quality, deeply informed digital curricula based on our collections and exhibitions to help teachers enhance classroom learning, with all curricular materials freely available on our website (<https://www.nyhistory.org/education/curriculum-library>). Altogether, these resources were viewed 1,148,789 times by 640,371 unique users last year. Of particular note is our flagship WAMS women's history curriculum (wams.nyhistory.org), which relaunched in March 2026 after undergoing a significant revitalization effort.

Public Programs

The Historical also presented a robust slate of public programs, drawing unprecedented, regularly sold-out crowds. Offered in a variety of in-person and virtual formats—lectures, conversations, films, musical performances, and walking tours—and featuring some of the nation's most eminent historians, authors, and thinkers, these programs addressed a wide range of topics and explored some of the most vital issues in contemporary America within a historical context. Listings of all past public programs, including an archive of presentations available for streaming, can be found here <https://www.nyhistory.org/programs/past>. Notable highlights included:

- *Our Fragile Freedoms: Essays by Eric Foner*, September 30, 2025
Featuring: Eric Foner, Heather Cox Richardson (moderator)
- *Filming New York: A Conversation with the Team Behind "Marty Supreme,"* April 20, 2026
Featuring: Sara Rossein, Josh Safdie, Naomi Fry (moderator)
- *Ken Burns on the American Revolution*, June 26, 2026
Featuring: Ken Burns, David Rubenstein (moderator)

Citizenship Project

The Citizenship Project provides free civics and American history classes and a suite of related resources grounded in The Historical's rich Museum and Library collections to help Legal Permanent Residents seeking to naturalize. The well-researched and object-based pedagogy of this groundbreaking program encourages active engagement with the principles of American history, civics, and government, strengthening content retention and the language skills required to pass the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services test. Last year, Citizenship Project courses were offered

in-person and online and in both English and Spanish. The Historical served 1,457 participants during this period, who reported a 97% pass rate on their exam, in line with previous years.

2. Outcomes

What outcomes have been achieved over the grant term? Was it necessary to make any modifications to the program? Are you on schedule? If the grant did not achieve some of the objectives above, please explain.

The Historical mounted fifteen major exhibitions and dozens of smaller installations that reached over 100,000 visitors, served over nearly 800,000 K-12 students and teachers through myriad education programs and resources, and facilitated a robust schedule of programs, including panel discussions, women's history salons, movie screenings, and more. With these results, we have successfully fulfilled all our grant objectives, with only slight modifications, such as changes in our exhibition opening and closing schedules.

3. Evaluation & Learning

Briefly summarize the evaluation process for the effectiveness of the grant. What have you learned from your own evaluation? Describe any lessons you learned in carrying out the objectives (improved processes, new strategies, unexpected obstacles or results, etc.)

The Historical measured success on this grant through the following benchmarks:

- A. Increased visitorship of our website and linked digital resources
- B. Maintaining a base of 250,000 students and educators benefiting from our education initiatives
- C. A visitorship representative of New York City, including demographic and economic diversity
- D. Strengthened partnerships with New York City public schools and community organizations, and an increased number and geographic reach of schools served
- E. Innovative program delivery to over 150 teens through afterschool programs
- F. Over 1,000 students served through Citizenship Project courses

The Historical is pleased to report that we have maintained a robust remote audience through our website and digital resources, enabling us to expand our reach beyond our geographic limits and minimize barriers to engagement. Our curriculum library continues to grow year over year, as described in more detail below, offering remote users ever more resources to draw upon. We have also successfully maintained a base of at least 250,000 students and teachers served through all our education initiatives combined, with 63,360 of those receiving direct instruction from The Historical's Museum Educators either in our galleries, in classrooms across New York City and beyond, or through live virtual programs. Through professional development programs and digital resources that provide educators with the tools to bring object-based pedagogy into their own classrooms, we were able to serve an estimated 725,117 more indirectly.

To promote economic diversity, we offered Pay-As-You-Wish Friday evenings (5-8pm); free passes to NYC public library cardholders through the Culture Pass program; discounted admission to seniors, students, and active military personnel; and discounts to schools on a need-basis. The Historical also maintained our strong partnership with the NYC DOE, with which we have worked closely for over twenty years. In particular, the 2025-2026 academic year represented the second year of a significant five-year contract with the NYC DOE Social Studies Office to support the creation of teacher programming.

Our teen programs have seen continued growth, and we were able to increase enrollment by 34% in the last year alone. Changes introduced within the United States' immigration policy landscape have affected naturalization application and approval rates, and by extension enrollment rates for our free Citizenship Project courses at The Historical and partner sites. However, we were still able to reach 1,457 participants and remain committed to helping Lawful Permanent Residents unlock the civic, social, and economic benefits of citizenship.

In addition to quantitative evaluations, The Historical regularly collects qualitative feedback in the form of visitor comments and student and teacher surveys, to ensure our programming is having its desired impact and to identify any changes that should be incorporated into future program delivery. Our offerings consistently receive positive reviews, with one recent teacher who participated in our CCAAD residency sharing, "This immersive experience will leave a strong understanding of democracy in students. They will retain the knowledge and the experience for years."

4. Notable Accomplishments

What do you consider your most notable accomplishments during the past year?

After nearly two years of construction, on June 22, 2026, The Historical officially unveiled our new Tang Wing for American Democracy. This project expands our landmark campus, with the addition of new galleries, classrooms, conservation and collections areas, and outdoor spaces that are expected to increase our visitorship by approximately 20% going forward. In particular, with two dedicated classrooms in the new wing, we anticipate more than doubling the capacity of our popular CCAAD program to 10,000 students served annually.

In addition, we made numerous investments in our virtual programming and resources in order to increase the accessibility of our offerings nationwide. As mentioned above, we launched a digital curriculum version of CCAAD in October 2025. Each unit in the curriculum includes a toolbox of pre-made lessons with thought-provoking questions, visually stimulating slides, ready-to-print handouts and readings, and enriching classroom activities that equip teachers to replicate this groundbreaking program in their own classrooms. The website also serves as a digital hub to streamline our communications, recruitment, and registration processes for local public schools. The Historical also completed a major revitalization of our WAMS women's history resource in March

2026 to boost its user experience for the 600,000 unique users it serves annually. A new host website ensures its content meets educator needs and classroom use with enhanced search functions, improved navigation, and web-based sharing. Lastly, in May 2026 we added another new curriculum to our library: First Jewish Americans, based on our blockbuster 2016 exhibition of the same name. The curriculum traces the trajectory of a people forced from their ancestral lands in Europe, as well as their homes in South America and the Caribbean, to their controversial arrival in New Amsterdam in 1654 and the unprecedented political freedoms they gained in early 19th-century New York, Philadelphia, and Charleston.

5. Challenges & Obstacles

What were the greatest challenges/obstacles you faced while developing and implementing the program(s)?

While The Historical was able to reach our anticipated service numbers last year through a combination of in-person and virtual programs and resources, education budgets—particularly in New York City public schools—continue to be tight as schools grapple with new reading and math curricula, changing student enrollment rates, and uncertainty about federal funding. As such, fundraising to subsidize free programming has been necessary to ensure accessibility to all schools. We have seen excellent results with offering our in-school enrichment workshops free of charge, made possible by a targeted campaign during the 2024-2025 program year, but we see a need to apply this strategy across our K-12 education initiatives and to ensure we can sustain it long term.

Additionally, the 2025-2026 program year coincided with final work on The Historical's new Tang Wing project, requiring the occasional closure of spaces within our original facility and therefore impacting our programming, although to a much lesser extent than in previous years. Our Curatorial, Education, and Program teams remained flexible, adjusting exhibitionary schedules, the delivery of school programs, and event plans as necessary. With construction on the new wing now complete, these interruptions should no longer be a concern going forward.

6. Partnerships

What other organizations/coalitions have you worked with to achieve these goals?

The Historical has long collaborated with the NYC DOE to provide innovative, high-quality educational programming. Partnerships with AARP New York, the United Federation of Teachers - Retirees, and school networks serving low-income students—such as KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program), Success Academy, and Urban Assembly High Schools—assist us in reaching out to underserved communities and ensuring that they receive access to our initiatives. The Historical also frequently collaborates with peer museums and community organizations to ensure our programs and exhibitions are accessible to the broadest possible audience. As mentioned previously, we have partnered with the Jewish Museum Berlin and the Leiden Collection around recent exhibitions and

education initiatives; we have also built a dynamic range of partnerships with organizations serving immigrant communities for the Citizenship Project, such as Dominicanos USA, CUNY Citizenship Now!, and Emerald Isle Immigration Center. Since 2019, The Historical has partnered with the American LGBTQ+ Museum (ALM), New York's first museum dedicated to LGBTQ+ history and culture, to present collaborative educational and public programming. We look forward to deepening that partnership once ALM opens its physical location on the fourth floor of The Historical's new wing, anticipated to happen in 2028. Summer public programs are also presented in partnership with Bryant Park every year.

7. Looking Ahead

What opportunities and challenges do you foresee for the near future?

With the new wing now open, The Historical has ambitious plans to activate its numerous new educational and exhibitionary spaces and engage expanded audiences in collective discourse and expression about history and its impact today. As previously mentioned, we will now be able to begin growing the Museum residency model of our popular CCAAD program towards an overall goal of 10,000 students served through all three program models annually. The recent acquisition of celebrated street photographer Bill Cunningham's archive will also form the basis of the second ever exhibition in our new Klingenstein Family Gallery, slated for November 2026.

At the same time, we are in the advanced design stages of a comprehensive overhaul of our DiMenna Children's History Museum on the lower level of our original building, for which construction will begin this winter. To ensure The Historical can serve young learners while the space is under construction, our family programs team will find alternative spaces to host their usual schedule of offerings for children ages 2-6. The DiMenna Children's History Museum is currently slated to open in the summer of 2027.

Finally, we anticipate that schools will continue to face challenges in accessing our programs without waivers or significant discounts. The Historical is dedicated to serving as an accessible community resource and destination for audiences underserved by cultural institutions. Accordingly, we intend to follow the successful model of our in-school enrichment workshops and conduct targeted fundraising over the next year to offer even more of our K-12 programs free of charge.

8. Financial

Please provide income and expense information to date for the program(s) funded by the grant. Describe any budget changes or financial adaptations.

Grant funds from the Vidda Foundation supported The Historical's general operations. The Historical maintains a years-long tradition of ending our fiscal years with a balanced budget.

9. Suggestions

Do you have suggestions for ways to improve the Vidda Foundation's grant, proposal, and evaluation processes? Feel free to answer in the space provided below. Alternatively, these may be submitted anonymously by mail to:

*The Vidda Foundation
c/o TCC Group
333 Seventh Avenue, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10001*

Click or tap here to enter text.

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS

If you wish to attach relevant materials, newsletters, articles, etc. that you feel would provide Trustees with a better understanding of your activities and accomplishments, please include here. If materials are attached in a separate document, please include a list of attachments.

Click or tap here to enter text.