

New York/New Jersey Area Common Application Form *Cover Sheet*

Date of application: August 5, 2026

Name of organization to which grant would be paid. Please list exact legal name:
New-York Historical Society

Purpose of grant (one sentence): General operating support

Address of organization: 170 Central Park West, New York, NY 10024

Telephone number: 212-873-3400 Fax: (212) 874-8706 E-mail: info@nyhistory.org

Executive director: Louise Mirrer, President & CEO

Contact person and title (if not executive director): Donju Min, Director of Institutional Giving

Is your organization an IRS 501(c) (3) not-for-profit?: Yes ☒ or No ☐

If no, please explain: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Grant request: \$ 10,000

Check one (based on the organization's priorities and the funder's guidelines):

General support ☒

Project support ☐

Total organizational budget (for current year): \$42,939,000

Dates covered by this budget (mo/day/year): 7/1/2026-6/30/2027

Total project budget (if requesting project support):\$ N/A

Dates covered by project budget (mo/day/year): N/A

Project name (if applicable): N/A

Vidda Foundation General Operating Support Request
August 2026

I. PROPOSAL SUMMARY

For over a decade, the Vidda Foundation's steadfast support has enabled The New York Historical (The Historical) to expand its reach through a comprehensive suite of exhibitions, public programs, K-12 and early childhood education initiatives, and scholarly research. Today, we look ahead to a transformative time for our institution after unveiling our new Tang Wing for American Democracy in June 2026. This monumental addition expands The Historical's landmark campus, introducing much-needed galleries, classrooms, conservation and collections areas, and outdoor spaces. As we activate these spaces over the next year, we look forward to welcoming thousands more visitors and students to engage with the stories of our city and nation's diverse populations and to expand their understanding of who we are as Americans and how we came to be. We hope that we may count on your important partnership once again during this time of institutional growth, and we respectfully request the Foundation's consideration of a renewed or increased grant to support our general operations.

II. NARRATIVE

A. Background

1. History and Mission

Founded in 1804, The Historical is New York's first museum and a nationally-renowned research library. Our holdings include over 14 million works of art, artifacts, documents, and ephemera relating to the founding of the United States and the history of its peoples. These collections span four centuries and reflect the continuing evolution of New York and the nation—all in support of The Historical's mission to elevate the perspectives and scholarship that define the United States' democratic heritage and challenge us all to shape our ongoing history for the better. Our core activities include: groundbreaking exhibitions that contribute important scholarship and present new ways of looking at the past, education initiatives that enhance history and humanities learning, over 100 public lectures and panel discussions on history and current events, and rich digital resources as well as a traveling exhibition program that extend the reach of our work nationally and internationally.

2. Need Addressed and Population Served

The Historical is dedicated to the presentation of multidisciplinary exhibitions, educational initiatives, public programming, and digital resources that contribute meaningful humanities scholarship and foster examination and discussion of issues surrounding the making and meaning of history. Through these offerings, we proudly serve approximately 400,000 individuals annually. We have a robust membership program of approximately 8,000 households and provide access to the remarkable treasures in our collections for some 10,000 academics and researchers across the globe each year. Approximately 75% of our usual visitors are from the New York City Metropolitan area, 20% are tourists from other parts of the United States, and 5% are international tourists. In addition, The Historical has a vast online audience, with our website garnering views from over 1,000,000 unique users per year.

We have also forged a strong working relationship with the New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE), delivering direct services to students in the City's public school system, which is one of the largest and most diverse in the country. Of nearly one million students, approximately 42% are Hispanic, 19% are Black, 19% are Asian and Pacific Islander, 16% are White, 2% are multi-racial, and 1.2% are Native American; in addition, approximately 75% of students are economically disadvantaged, 22% have a recorded disability, and 17% are English Language Learners.

3. Current Programs and Accomplishments

Museum Exhibitions

The Historical has a rich tradition of developing path-breaking exhibitions that explore American identity, culture, and expression and help audiences understand the most challenging questions about the American past. Our ambitious slate of exhibitions in the 2026-2027 program year will span a wide range of historical and cultural themes, including continued celebrations of America's semiquincentennial. Highlights include:

- *Irish Literature: History & Myth since 1789* (September 18, 2026 - January 17, 2027), a celebration of the integral role Irish literature has played in the formation of ideas about Irish history, myth, nationhood, and identity, particularly for the small island's diasporic population in New York and beyond.
- *You Should Be Dancing: New York, 1976 and Beyond* (October 2, 2026 - April 4, 2027), a journey back to 1976, when New York was the main stage for America's 200th birthday while also facing near-bankruptcy, spiking crime, and a housing and drug crisis. Out of this moment emerged three musical genres driven by the city's youth—disco, punk, and hip hop—which would forever change American culture. This exhibition will surround the visitor with music, fashion, and ephemera illustrating the glitz and grit of this transformative year in New York's history.
- *John Quidor: New York Stories* (October 30, 2026 - April 4, 2027), an exploration of the life and career of this visionary but historically overlooked 19th-century artist, whose paintings use the Netherlandish lore of the Hudson Valley to wrestle with our nation's complex colonial past and industrializing and expanding national present, and who helped shape the visual culture of American Romanticism.
- *Bill Cunningham* (November 25, 2026 - March 21, 2027), a presentation honoring the 60-year career of photojournalist and fashion chronicler Bill Cunningham, to celebrate The Historical's recent acquisition of his extensive photographic archive.
- *Marilyn Monroe 100th Anniversary* (November 20, 2026 - March 28, 2027), a showcase of images by photojournalist Lawrence Schiller to juxtapose the legendary star's on-camera and off-camera persona, in honor of her 100th birthday.
- *Leading Nations: Gayétwahgeh and Sagoyewatha* (April 30, 2027 - September 2027), a re-examination of two renowned portraits of these powerful Seneca leaders to analyze their differing viewpoints and the early North American visual and material culture of diplomacy in which they engaged, presented in collaboration with the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum.
- *American Girl Doll at 40* (May 21, 2027 - January 30, 2028), a playful exhibition celebrating the fortieth anniversary of American Girl dolls. Uniting materials from Mattel's archive with objects and art from The Historical's collections, the show will immerse visitors in the diverse stories from American history that inspired the historical character doll line, highlighting in particular the collaboration between our organizations that brought about one of the first dolls: Samantha Parkington.

Public Programs

The Historical's programming for the public has experienced unprecedented popularity in recent years, regularly drawing sold-out crowds. Programs address a wide range of topics and tackle some of the most vital issues in contemporary America with an eye to their historical context. Offered in a variety of formats—from lectures and conversations, to films and musical performances, to curator-led gallery tours and walking tours of the city—these programs feature some of the nation's most eminent historians, authors, and thinkers. They are offered in person in our Robert H. Smith Auditorium, or virtually as either live-streams or previously-recorded events. Previously recorded programs can be viewed at <https://www.nyhistory.org/media> or on our [YouTube](#) channel. Upcoming public programs can be found here: <https://www.nyhistory.org/programs/upcoming>. Select highlights include:

- *Boss Lincoln: The Partisan Life of Abraham Lincoln*, August 26, 2026
Featuring: Matthew Pinsker

- *The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11*, September 2, 2026
Featuring: Garrett Graff
- *Fire in the Heart of the City: The Triangle Shirtwaist Tragedy and the Origins of Modern Charity*, September 9, 2026
Featuring: David Conrad-Peréz

Patricia D. Klingenstein Library

One of only 21 members of the prestigious Independent Research Libraries Association, the Patricia D. Klingenstein Library is widely recognized as a principal source of primary and secondary materials for the study of New York history and one of the foremost American history research institutions in the world. Our physical and digital collections are a vital resource for scholars and the general public, and are accessible both at the Museum and online at <http://digitalcollections.nyhistory.org>. The Library is open by appointment Wednesdays - Fridays, 10:30 am - 3:30 pm, and Library staff are also available remotely to assist researchers with finding materials and resources.

Education Initiatives

For more than 20 years, our Education Department has partnered with the NYC DOE to deliver high-impact programming. The Historical's signature object-based museum pedagogy, which uses art and objects to turn history and humanities content into tangible subject matter, is proven to be effective in engaging a wide variety of learning styles. Our programs also foster the development of essential leadership skills like critical thinking, literacy, and problem solving while expanding learners' knowledge of U.S. history and responsible civic engagement. To accommodate school budgets and needs, programs are offered on-site at the Museum, in-person in New York City classrooms, or virtually. Offerings include:

- **K-12 Field Trips:** These programs bring school groups to the Museum to visit our galleries, exploring historical themes, people, and events while being guided by our expert Museum Educators. Field trips based on our permanent collection include: "Slavery in New York," "The American Revolution in New York," and "New York & the Civil War," and are tailored to every grade level. Field trips are also offered in conjunction with major temporary exhibitions, including *Old Masters, New Amsterdam*, currently on view, during which students explore what life in New Amsterdam might have looked like and how the Dutch colony transformed into New York. This summer and fall, The Historical will offer youth group visits to *Democracy Matters* and *Revolutionary Women*, in time to celebrate the nation's semiquincentennial.
- **Social Studies Enrichment:** Through this program, Museum Educators are dispatched to schools in every borough. Equipped with replica artifacts, paintings, and historical documents, these Educators lead one-hour lessons as part of a series on a historical theme. Themes include "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, among others. All enrichment programs are designed to complement New York City Public Schools' Social Studies Scope and Sequence. With generous support from our partners, enrichment programs will continue to be offered free of charge over the next school year, ensuring accessibility to underresourced schools.
- **Chang Chavkin Academy for American Democracy (CCAAD):** This free four-day civics residency engages local sixth-graders in deep exploration of ancient Athenian democracy and its interpretation and evolution in the U.S. from the Founding Era to today. Schools can choose between three program delivery formats: in-person at the Museum, onsite at schools, and synchronously online. A new digital curriculum, launched in late 2025, now provides teachers with year-round access to its civics content and teaching pedagogy as well. Two new dedicated CCAAD classrooms in the Tang Wing will also allow The Historical to expand program capacity.
- **Teen Programs:** These programs enhance history and civics learning for participating youth while also providing opportunities to develop in-demand digital and career skills under the

guidance of museum and digital humanities professionals. Our Student Historians High School Internship Program is a paid opportunity taking place across one school year and one summer cohort each year. Student Historians work collaboratively to conduct historical research in our collections and highlight their findings in formats beyond the traditional academic paper: podcasts, virtual tours, educational videos, etc. All Interns receive a \$700 stipend for their work and we reserve at least 60% of spots for participants living at or below the poverty line, eliminating barriers to program participation. For students not yet prepared for a full internship commitment, our Tech Scholars program offers free, week-long digital humanities classes during school breaks in the fall, spring, and summer. All programs are held in person by student demand, and we continue to expand our offerings to keep abreast of new technologies.

- **Teacher Professional Development and Classroom Resources:** The Historical offers low-cost professional development experiences that introduce teachers to our vast collections and empower them to bring museum education-based strategies into their own classrooms. Programs include a full calendar of virtual and in-person open-enrollment workshops; custom professional development workshops; and multiple in-depth professional learning communities, which provide intensive training on our two flagship programs: the Women & the American Story (WAMS) digital curriculum and the Academy for American Democracy. Due to The Historical's status as a certified sponsor of New York State CTLE hours, participation in our programming is applicable towards maintaining professional certification from the State as well as the NYC DOE. The Historical also serves educators across the country with lesson plans and digital curricula inspired by our collections and exhibitions. All materials, available free of charge at [nyhistory.org/curriculum-library](https://www.nyhistory.org/curriculum-library), are aligned with local, state, and national standards. Resources continue to be added and revised as new exhibitions open and new research comes to light.
- **Family Programs:** Anchored by our DiMenna Children's History Museum, family programs serve our youngest visitors and their caregivers. Programs are free with museum admission and include: artmaking workshops, historical reenactments, exhibition guides, Family Book Club, and tours and workshops in Spanish.
- **Citizenship Project:** Offered for free to Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs), the Citizenship Project provides lessons and resources to assist with preparation for the U.S. naturalization test and interview. To accommodate students with a wide range of personal and professional obligations and learning styles, classes are offered in-person or online, in English and Spanish, and a self-guided curriculum is also available for participants who wish to study independently. All resources are housed on a bespoke website: <https://www.nyhistory.org/citizenship-project>.

4. Organizational Information

The Historical is staffed by 176 full-time and 120 part-time positions supported by over 100 volunteers, as well as a robust paid internship program for high school, college, and graduate students.

5. Partnerships

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. The Historical frequently collaborates with peer museums and community organizations to ensure our programs and exhibitions are accessible to the broadest possible audience. We have partnered with the Jewish Museum Berlin and the Leiden Collection around recent exhibitions and education initiatives. In addition, our Citizenship Project partners with community-based organizations in Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx in order to increase the program's accessibility.

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. Come 2028, our newly opened wing will serve as ALM's first home. We look forward to deepening our partnership at that time. In the meantime, our organizations have worked closely together to develop presentations such as *Queer Joy/Gay Power*, the inaugural installation in our new James C. Hormel Hall, which leads to ALM's future home on our expanded fourth floor.

B. Funding Request

The Historical hopes the Foundation will consider continuing and possibly increasing its generous support through a grant of \$10,000 to help sustain and expand our programs in the year ahead.

C. Evaluation

The Historical measures success on a range of qualitative and quantitative benchmarks. Quantitative metrics include:

- Advanced scholarship of American history reflective of the cultural diversity of New York City and the nation
- Increased visitorship to our website and linked digital resources
- Maintaining a base of 250,000 students and educators benefiting from our education initiatives, including 5,000 middle school students served through intensive civics residencies and 150 high school students served through afterschool programs
- Strengthened partnerships with New York City public schools and community organizations, and an increased number and geographic reach of schools served
- Over 1,000 students served through Citizenship Project courses

The Historical also considers qualitative feedback from constituents through surveys, testimonials, and external assessments, as well as coverage of our activities across a range of media. This feedback enables us to track impact and assess potential improvements to future offerings.

III. ATTACHMENTS

A. Financial Information

1. Audited Financial Statement (7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024)
2. FY25 - FY27 Operating Budget (Fiscal Year is 7/1 - 6/30)
3. List of Foundation and Corporate Supporters

B. Other Supporting Materials

1. Board List
2. IRS Letter
3. Key Staff Bios
4. Supplementary Materials