

If you are recommended for a grant, your project may be subject to the [National Environmental Policy Act](#) (NEPA) and/or the [National Historic Preservation Act](#) (NHPA). The NEA will conduct a review of your project to ensure that it is in compliance with NEPA/NHPA.

Some of the common project types that garner a NHPA review are:

- A project involving or occurring near a district, site, building, landscape, structure or object that is 50 years old and therefore eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.
- The commissioning and installation of temporary or permanent outdoor furnishings such as benches or market structures or art such as a sculpture or mural.
- An arts festival in a park.
- Design planning and services for projects that may involve a historic site, structure, or district.

This is the first step in the NHPA review process. Based in your responses, the NEA will determine one of the following outcomes:

1. There are no anticipated adverse effects on historic properties or resources;
2. Based on an agreement that the NEA has with the [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#) (ACHP), one or more approved exemptions can be applied to the project, confirming that there are no anticipated adverse effects on historic properties or resources; or
3. The project has the potential to have adverse effects on historic properties or resources, so you are asked to contact and work directly with your [State Historic Preservation Office](#) (SHPO), and potentially initiate a Section 106 Review.

Please answer all of the following questions with as much detail as possible. For questions that do not apply to your proposed project, please denote in your response that it is not applicable (N/A). Save your responses in a word document that includes the organization name and application number, and send to the [discipline specialist](#) that manages your program. For Our Town, please email responses to ot@arts.gov.

1. Please provide a very clear description of the district, building, site, landscape, structure, or object in which you will be working, including the address(es). If you don't have a physical address, please provide the block or other area of potential effect. Describe the nature of your site, whether activities will take place in public space, streets, vacant lots, historic structures, etc. You may include a map.
2. Please describe your project activities, including whether the planned activities are temporary or permanent. Provide a short assessment of whether your project has the potential to have an effect on environmental or historic resources and whether that effect is an adverse effect.
 - If your project will physically alter a district, site, building, landscape, structure or object, or if you are working on a plan or design for such a site, please describe. For example, if you are commissioning permanent public art, murals, or the design of a permanent structure, your project has the potential to have an adverse effect on environmental or historic resources under NEPA/NHPA.
 - If your project will never physically alter a district, site, building, landscape, structure or object, or if you're not working on a plan or design for such a site, please state this as the reason why your project does not have the potential to have an adverse effect on environmental or historic resources. For example, if you are producing a poetry festival in an existing space and will not use the space for anything but temporary programming, your project may not have the potential to have an adverse effect on environmental or historic resources under NEPA/NHPA.
3. For the purposes of questions (a)-(i) below, a National Historic Register Site or a NRHP Site includes any district, site, building, structure, landscape or object that is included or eligible for inclusion on the [National Register of Historic](#)

[Places](#), whether individually or as a contributing element. Generally, NRHP Sites will include (1) any place 50 years old or older, (2) any place included or eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, or (3) located in a historic district.

Additionally, please note that for a project to be temporary it must be 100% reversible.

- a. Does your project involve a festival/public event of limited size or duration? If so, will there be any permanent effects on a NRHP Site(s) or any structures/installations erected or installed on an NRHP Site(s)?
 - b. Does your project involve outdoor murals or other art on a NRHP Site(s) or adjacent to a NRHP Site(s)?
 - c. Does your project involve temporary public art on a building 50 years or older (e.g., sculpture, statuary, banners, mixed media, painting)? If so, does the project necessitate the installation of hardware on a NRHP Site(s)?
 - d. Does your project involve erecting or placing permanent wayfinding signs (e.g., artistic directional signs) adjacent to or on a NRHP Site(s)?
 - e. Does your project involve installing small structures (e.g., benches, bus shelters, produce stands) attached to or dependent on a NRHP Site(s)? If so, please describe the ground disturbance necessary for such an installation.
 - f. Does your project involve landscape maintenance or rehabilitation (e.g., community garden, urban park) on a NRHP Site(s)? If so, where? Will it include the addition of new large-scale landscape elements?
 - g. Does your project involve in-kind replacements or repairs?
 - h. Does your project involve conceptual planning/design/research (e.g., feasibility and planning studies, early design development work/conceptual drawings and renderings, asset mapping, design charrettes)?
 - i. Does your project involve information gathering/data analysis/information dissemination (e.g., historic and cultural demonstrations, public affairs actions, studies, reports, document mailings, data analysis)?
4. If you are proposing a temporary or permanent public art project, or you are designing or planning a district, building, site, landscape, structure or object, you must provide us with the following detailed information:
 - If any element of the district, building, site, landscape, structure or object (or adjacent properties) is 50 years old or older, describe that element in detail. For example, if you are working on a historic building or district (or there is one adjacent), describe the age (give year built if available), whether or not it's included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and the type of activities being planned or designed for your project.
 - Provide a detailed description of any project activities that might now or someday have an effect on the environment so that we may review the actions under the NEPA. Be very specific. For example, if you will be doing cleanup of a site, describe exactly what needs to be cleaned. Is it litter on the site or toxic waste that needs to be cleaned up? If you will be installing public art, describe the previous use of the property and why you think the land is not likely to be contaminated.
 - If you have any correspondence from your State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or other authorities who monitor historic assets, please attach the correspondence.
 - If you have conducted a review according to your state's environmental quality laws or soil testing on your own, please attach an executive summary of that review. Do not submit a report.
 - If local authorities have issued any permits for your project, describe them. If you don't have documentation, but you have talked to state or local authorities regarding historic or environmental concerns, describe your efforts, including when they took place.
5. If an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization might attach religious and/or cultural significance to historic properties touched by your project, please describe.
 - Make this assessment regardless of the location of the property, as the circumstances of history may have resulted in an Indian tribe now being located a great distance from its ancestral homelands and places of importance.
 - If a property is owned by a tribe or Native Hawaiian organization, let us know.
 - Identify the names of the tribe(s) or Native Hawaiian organization(s) you refer to, if any.