



Application Deadline: December 5, 2025

Do you have a plan for the future? *History Makers: The Future is Now* is a free, hands-on strategic planning and doing opportunity for rural museums. Inspired by America's 250th and in recognition of the importance of local history in telling America's stories, Humanities Kansas is inviting rural history museums and historical societies to apply to participate in a forward-thinking, energetic, tailor-made year-long strategic planning process led by a professional small museums consultant.

This is a competitive application with the expectation that five will be selected for the first round of strategic planning and doing in 2026. A call for participation in a second round will be announced in 2026 and will begin in 2027.

This project is supported in part by a 2025 grant from The Patterson Family Foundation.

About History Makers

It's all about rural! *History Makers* pivots traditional strategic planning into today's need for strategic doing. Rooted in capacity building and resilience training, this initiative will work with rural museums to create a plan that will help them navigate opportunities and challenges as they come up. Participating museums will make statewide connections with others in similar situations, receive one-on-one help, participate in giveback opportunities, and learn the tools that will help lead their organizations into the future.

Participating museums will be required to work with their local economic development, tourism organization, or other community-wide partner outside the museum sector and will receive \$2,500 from Humanities Kansas at the conclusion of the training to be used to chart a new future for the museum.

This is a year-long commitment and Humanities Kansas will provide stipends to help with travel or other expenses related to the project.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be a museum or historical society in a rural community with a population of 20,000 or less
- Be located in a Kansas county with a population of 50,000 or less (*excludes Butler, Douglas, Leavenworth, Reno, Riley, Saline, Sedgwick, Shawnee, and Wyandotte counties*)
- Be a Kansas nonprofit organization
- Be available to participate in two mandatory statewide meetings (dates and locations TBA), two meetings with the consultant in home community, and monthly Zoom meetings with the consultant
- Have a partnership with at least one community organization outside the museum sector: economic development, tourism, chamber of commerce, library, school district, city/county government, or other community-wide organization

Participants Receive

- A yearlong strategic doing process facilitated by a professional nonprofit consultant
- Travel stipends to attend two statewide meetings
- \$2,500 to implement a project idea from strategic planning
- Tools to plan and implement future projects
- Increased community buy-in

Participant Responsibilities

- Attend two statewide meetings, two meetings at organization with consultant, and monthly Zoom meetings with consultant
- Engage local community partners in the strategic doing process
- Develop and implement an innovative project at the conclusion of the project
- Complete project assessment surveys and a final report
- Create a plan for your museum that is ready to implement

Apply

Application available at humanitieskansas.org. Deadline: 5pm on December 5, 2025.

Contact

For more information, contact Tracy Quillin at 785-357-0359 or tracy@humanitieskansas.org.

About Humanities Kansas

Humanities Kansas is an independent nonprofit leading a movement of ideas. Since 1972, HK's programming, grants, and partnerships have documented and shared stories to spark conversations and invite new insights. Together with statewide partners and supporters, HK encourages Kansans to draw on diverse histories, literatures, and cultures to create connections with one another and strengthen Kansas communities and our democracy. humanitieskansas.org