



Let's Talk About It – Grant Application

Library:

Contact Name & Library Contact Person (if different):

Shipping & Mailing Address:

Phone ___ * E-mail _____ Library hours

*** We will be in contact primarily via e-mail. If phone is better, please check here: **8** phone is best**

Please answer the following questions:

1) We'd like to host a program in: (please check one)

___ Summer * Applications for Summer due January 15

___ Fall, * Applications for Fall are due by May 15

___ Winter/Spring, * Applications for Winter/Spring are due by September 15

2) We would like: ___ a full *Let's Talk About It* Program ___ to borrow books to use on our own.

3) Has the library ever hosted a full *Let's Talk About It* program with a facilitator provided by Maine Humanities Council? ___ No ___ Yes. The date of our last series was _____

4) We're interested in the following series:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

For a complete list of available series, please visit www.mainehumanities.org or call the Council: 1-866-MEreader

5) Our publicity plans include: ___ Newspaper articles ___ Newsletter article ___ Posters in community ___ Notices on local radio or cable station ___ Other: _____

6) We could present the series in cooperation with the following other community organizations: _____

7) (optional) PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ATTACH AN ADDITIONAL SHEET explaining in a few paragraphs why you would like this program in your library.

Let's Talk About It is an adult reading & discussion program sponsored by **Maine Humanities Council's Center for the Book** in partnership with the **Maine State Library**. Programs are offered free of charge to Maine libraries thanks to funding from the Belvedere Fund of the Maine Community Foundation & the citizens of Maine through the New Century Community Program, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Thank you for your interest in hosting a program!

PLEASE SEND OUR COMPLETED FORM TO:

Let's Talk About It

Maine Humanities Council • 674 Brighton Avenue • Portland, Maine 04102

Let's Talk About It Please read this before you apply!

BACKGROUND: Many of you are familiar with *Let's Talk About It*, a much loved reading and discussion program for adults offered by the Maine Humanities Council in partnership with the Maine State Library and libraries across the state since 1985. Each *Let's Talk About It* series consists of 4 to 5 theme-based titles and a facilitator provided by the Council who guides discussion of the readings. Although state budget cuts threatened to cut-back the program, generous funding from the *Belvedere Fund* of the *Maine Community Foundation* will allow us to offer **35** different libraries a series each year over the next two years.

CHANGES: There are a few changes to the program which, we hope, will make *Let's Talk About It* even more effective for libraries. These changes are a result of our meetings with the 3 District Consultants and several librarians.

- We have divided the year into 3 seasons, each with its own application deadline. You and your facilitator can decide how to schedule your series within the allotted 4 months. The books will need to be returned by the 18th of the last month of that particular season.

<p><u>WINTER/SPRING</u> (Jan.-April): Applications must be in by Sept. 15 <u>SUMMER</u> (May-August): Applications must be in by January 15 * <u>FALL</u> (September-December): Applications must be in by May 15</p>

- A committee of 1 District Consultant, 2 librarians representing the other districts and 2 representatives of Maine Humanities Council will review applications for each season. We can grant up to 12-13 libraries a program each application period. Applicants will be notified of decisions within 2 weeks after the application deadline.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR WHEN REVIEWING APPLICATIONS:

1. Has the library hosted a program before? While all libraries are encouraged to apply, those who have never hosted a program before will receive preference.
2. Geographic & population distributions- we hope to offer this program to people throughout the state in each library district.
3. Will the library promise to do the following (and if this is a returning library, were the following criteria met when previously hosting a program?):
 - ♦ Publicize the program effectively (we can help you with this!)
 - ♦ Recruit a reasonable number of participants
 - ♦ Provide a library staff person as a contact person
 - ♦ Have a staff person present for each session, taking care of set-up & closing
 - ♦ Return needed evaluation forms in a timely manner
 - ♦ Return books on time
 - ♦ Work with the facilitator and, as needed, with MHC staff
4. Are you partnering with another library? For smaller libraries, partnering with libraries in nearby towns is a good way to pool resources and allow communities that might not otherwise be able to host a series to have one.
5. Availability of requested series.

BORROWING BOOKS ONLY: Series are available for libraries to borrow for use on their own. Please fill out an application and indicate that you want to borrow the books only (question #2). **The same deadlines will apply.** If a series that you want is available, you may borrow the books for that season.

MENTORS: Let us know if you want to talk with other librarians who have hosted a series.
We welcome questions! Contact Lizz Sinclair: lizz@mainehumanities.org / 773-5051, x 210