College of Humanities | **THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA HUMANITIES SEMINARS**

Funding Your Vision:
A Practical Guide to Grant Success

Spring 2026
Dr. Ken McAllister and Minda Dettman

Ready to take your research from concept to funded project? *Funding Your Vision: A Practical Guide to Grant Success* is a 6-week course designed to help faculty, graduate students, and community members across disciplines understand the grant process better, as well as how to use that understanding to write more competitive proposals. Through six interactive, two-hour sessions, participants will explore the full lifecycle of proposal development—from identifying the right opportunity to submitting a proposal with confidence.

Each week builds critical skills: refining your project vision, aligning with funder priorities, structuring narratives, developing budgets, and understanding how proposals are reviewed. Whether you are new to grants or seeking to improve your success rate, this course equips you with tools, strategies, and real-world insights to make your proposal stand out.

While focused on humanities grants, most of the concepts apply across disciplines. All are welcome, including beginners!

Course Details
Fridays from 2 - 4 PM, on April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, and 8, 2026
Location: Rubel Room in the Poetry Center (1508 E Helen St, Tucson, AZ 85719)
Format: Hybrid (live in-person and online)

Questions? Email the Humanities Seminars Program team at hspstaff@arizona.edu

Schedule	

Friday, April 3, 2026
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
	Showing You The Money
	What kinds of grants are there and what will they fund?
	● Welcome
	● Introductions
	● Science/Magic/Gambling
	● Stats about Grant Writing
	● Current grant landscape—Why you should still apply!
	● Overview of Grant Types
	  ○ Federal/State
	  ○ Private Foundation
	  ○ Donors (not the scope of the course, but many of the principles apply)
	[break]
	● Finding Grants
	  ○ Program discovery (i.e., tools)

	○ Project discovery (i.e., how the PI conceives of project)
	 ● Considerations for Winning Grants
	  ○ Sponsor's Requirements
	  ○ Sponsor's Intentions
	  ○ Project Complexity
	  ○ Your Resources
	 ● 12 hours in 5 minutes
	 ● Q&A

Friday, April 10, 2026
 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
	Fun with NOFOs!
	 How do you get the information you need to apply?
	 ● NOFO example
	 ● NOFOs distilled (all NOFOs have these key sections)
	 ● NOFOs in detail
	 [break]
	 The Grant Review Process
	 What are reviewers **really** *looking for?*
	 ● Activity: Abstract judging
	 ● Review process
	  ○ Who are the reviewers/how to write to them
	  ○ *This perspective isn't just about learning the process; it's about winning.*

Friday, April 17, 2026 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	***Grant Elements, Part 1*** ● Activity: NOFO quiz (find the key sections in a foundation NOFO) ● Budget ● Compliance and regulations in your organization [break] *Making the Case for Your Project* ● Introduction ● Needs Assessment ● Team ● Budget justification
Friday, April 24, 2026 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	***Grant Elements, Part 2*** *Selling the reviewers on your project* ● Goals ● Activities ● Evaluations ● Timelines
Friday, May 1, 2026 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	***Grant Elements, Part 3*** *The remaining (important!) application components.* ● Title ● Abstract ● Institutional information and forms ● Professionalism/First impressions [break] ***Analyzing Sample Grants*** ● Close and distant reading of recent proposals (including reviewer feedback)

Friday, May 8, 2026
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
	Searching for Grant Opportunities
	Maximizing your grant-seeking success from the outset.
	    ● Summary
	    ● AI usage
	[break]
	    ● Ensuring long-term grant success
	        ○ Discipline of writing grants–number of grants per year
	        ○ What happens once you get a grant–executing your grants well so they become more evidence for subsequent grants
	    ● Final Q&A

About the Instructors:

KEN MCALLISTER is Associate Dean of Research and Program Innovation in the College of Humanities and a professor across multiple interdisciplinary programs at the University of Arizona. A nationally recognized scholar of digital humanities, history of technology, and game studies, he is the author of six books and numerous articles on media theory and innovative research practices. Ken's grant writing experience spans academic, K-12, and nonprofit sectors, and he has worked with dozens of community organizations, museums, archives, and religious institutions to identify and apply for grants—from small local foundations to national governments and international agencies. He has particular expertise in grant-oriented project development related to digital preservation, and has helped many prospective applicants shape ambitious ideas into impactful, fundable, and doable projects.

As the Research & Award Coordinator for the College of Humanities, **MINDA DETTMAN** has successfully helped guide dozens of grant applications from idea to proposal submission to funded project. Minda has backgrounds in both science (geology) and the humanities (museum studies and Japanese language studies), and worked for several years in Japan as a translator and cultural ambassador for Kōchi Prefecture. With a particular expertise in proposal development, Minda loves collaborating with people from all institutional and disciplinary backgrounds as they develop competitive applications. From small grants funding scholarly travel to medium-sized awards for community revitalization to large federal grants supporting state infrastructure renewal, Minda is a highly skilled and adaptable sponsored project professional eager to help you up your grant-writing game.