

Intellectual Property Policy Explained

This document provides a breakdown of the proposed Intellectual Property Policy to be considered by the CTH Board. The document is structured to review and offer contextual information for each paragraph of the policy. The text from the policy document is **bolded in black**, followed by explanatory information in *italic blue* text.

Intellectual Property Policy

Connecticut Humanities (CT Humanities) funds projects and initiatives using public money that regularly produce tangible products, such as exhibits (physical and digital), curricula, film or television documentaries, lectures, research, or data sets (“Grant Funded Products”). CT Humanities expects grantees to use grant funds in ways that advance and support the interests of our grantees, as well as CT Humanities’ mission to champion the enduring value of humanities in our lives and civil society.

CT Humanities funds projects through grant lines that use money from CT General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Humanities, which are public funds supported by taxpayers. We understand that the grants we award produce content, which we call “Grant Funded Products.” We award grants to projects that align with our mission and vision.

CT Humanities seeks to maximize the use and reach of Grant Funded Products created with funds from our competitive grant lines (Quick Grants, Planning Grants, Implementation Grants, Capacity Grants, and Partnership Grants) to broaden the impact of both our work and the work of our grantees. CT Humanities encourages broad dissemination of and equitable access to Grant Funded Products at no or minimal cost to the public or, when justified, at a reasonable price. Distribution at a reasonable fee may be justified when integral to an organization’s business plan and sustainability. CT Humanities does not seek ownership rights or any percentage of sales from past or future Grant Funded Products.

CT Humanities wants the results of the projects we fund (Grant Funded Products) through our competitive grant lines to be as widely accessible as possible. Because the grants lines use public money, any Grant Funded Product should be available to the public for free or at a reasonable cost. We want to make it clear that we are not looking to claim any copyright or revenue from anything produced out of the grants we fund.

Grant Funded Products intended for public display or dissemination should be licensed under a proper [Creative Commons \(CC\) license](#) or other similar licensing that provides for wide distribution or access to the public. CT Humanities supports and encourages licensing Grant Funded Products using a CC license that is considered appropriate for [Free Culture Works](#). Free Cultural Works are most readily used, shared, and remixed by others and go furthest toward creating a commons of freely reusable materials while also protecting the rights of the owner of the Grant Funded Product.

Content produced as part of a CTH funded grant that is meant for the public should be licensed using a Creative Commons (CC) license, preferably a license with minimal restrictions on how the content can be

reused. Creative Commons is a nonprofit organization that helps overcome legal obstacles to the sharing of knowledge and creativity to address the world's most pressing challenges. These licenses are designed to allow the reuse of copyrighted content, while also protecting the copyright holder. Each license stipulates that the copyright holder must be credited if items are reused in any fashion.

CT Humanities recognizes there may be circumstances where limited dissemination of or access to Grant Funded Products may be appropriate to protect the legitimate interests of the grantee, other funders, or other documented reasons. CT Humanities will evaluate circumstances for delayed dissemination beyond the grant award period on a case-by-case basis.

In some cases, it makes sense to delay releasing content produced by a CTH grant. We will adopt a mindset that all content produced by our funding will be open by default and we will address requests for delayed release on a case-by-case basis.

Grantees should not use ownership of intellectual property rights to limit or deny access to Grant Funded Products that would result in the exclusive use of the Grant Funded Products or creating revenue that is not essential to the sustainability of an organization. Copyright to the Grant Funded Products will ordinarily remain with the grantee. Still, CT Humanities will be granted a royalty-free, non-exclusive license to promote and share the impactful work of our grantees.

Grantees should not use their rights to Grand Funded Product to limit public access to the content with the purpose of generating revenue that is not needed to support the organization. All copyright will stay with the grantee but as part of accepting grant funds, the grantee agrees to give CTH access to the outputs of the grant free of charge so that we can promote the work of our grantees. The grantee can also give access to anyone else they want without approval by CTH.

CT Humanities recognizes that different projects have different intellectual property features. However, we are committed to our intellectual property goals and applying this policy's terms consistently among our grantees.

We recognize that all projects are not the same and we will work with grantees to answer their specific IP questions and/or concerns.

Recipients of CT Humanities competitive grant funds should have or are encouraged to craft policies consistent with the underlying philosophy and principles reflected in this policy.

We want people to have or make IP policies based off ours. We are working to create workshops to educate people about IP and how best to protect themselves. Organizations will not be shut out of CTH grant lines if they lack an IP Policy.

CT Humanities recognizes that fast-evolving technological advances influence the manner and method by which knowledge can be protected and distributed. As a result, this policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure our standards meet the realities of the current technological landscape.

We will review the policy regularly to ensure it is aligned with the current best practices in the field.