

ORAL HISTORY GRANTS 2023

ORAL HISTORY GRANTS 2023: UNLOCKING STORIES FROM THE PAST

ORAL HISTORY GRANTS 2023 HAVE BECOME A VITAL RESOURCE FOR HISTORIANS, EDUCATORS, ARCHIVISTS, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS EAGER TO PRESERVE FIRSTHAND ACCOUNTS OF OUR SHARED HISTORIES. THESE GRANTS PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FUNDING TO CAPTURE, ARCHIVE, AND SHARE PERSONAL NARRATIVES THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE BE LOST WITH TIME. AS THE FIELD OF ORAL HISTORY CONTINUES TO GROW AND EVOLVE, 2023 OFFERS EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROJECTS DEDICATED TO CAPTURING DIVERSE VOICES, FROM MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES TO LOCAL LEGENDS.

IN THIS ARTICLE, WE'LL DELVE INTO THE LANDSCAPE OF ORAL HISTORY GRANTS IN 2023, EXPLORING WHAT'S AVAILABLE, HOW TO APPLY, AND WHY THESE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES MATTER MORE THAN EVER. WHETHER YOU'RE A SEASONED ORAL HISTORIAN OR AN ENTHUSIASTIC NEWCOMER, UNDERSTANDING THE CURRENT GRANT SCENE CAN HELP YOU BRING YOUR STORYTELLING PROJECTS TO LIFE.

UNDERSTANDING ORAL HISTORY GRANTS 2023

ORAL HISTORY GRANTS ARE FINANCIAL AWARDS AIMED AT SUPPORTING PROJECTS THAT COLLECT, PRESERVE, AND DISSEMINATE PERSONAL MEMORIES AND TESTIMONIES. IN 2023, THESE GRANTS OFTEN EMPHASIZE INCLUSIVITY, DIGITAL INNOVATION, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, REFLECTING THE GROWING RECOGNITION OF ORAL HISTORY AS A POWERFUL TOOL FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION.

TYPES OF ORAL HISTORY GRANTS AVAILABLE

IN 2023, THERE'S A WIDE VARIETY OF FUNDING OPTIONS CATERING TO DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS:

- **PROJECT-BASED GRANTS:** THESE SUPPORT SPECIFIC ORAL HISTORY INITIATIVES, INCLUDING FIELD INTERVIEWS, TRANSCRIPTION, AND PRODUCTION OF MULTIMEDIA CONTENT.
- **ARCHIVAL GRANTS:** DESIGNED TO HELP WITH THE PRESERVATION AND DIGITIZATION OF EXISTING ORAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS.
- **COMMUNITY GRANTS:** TARGETED AT LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS, SCHOOLS, AND NONPROFITS TO FOSTER GRASSROOTS STORYTELLING INITIATIVES.
- **RESEARCH GRANTS:** FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS OR INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS FOCUSING ON ORAL HISTORY METHODOLOGIES OR THEMATIC STUDIES.

THESE CATEGORIES OFTEN OVERLAP, AND MANY GRANT PROVIDERS ENCOURAGE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES THAT BLEND TRADITIONAL INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES WITH NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

WHO OFFERS ORAL HISTORY GRANTS IN 2023?

SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS ARE NOTABLE FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO FUNDING ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS THIS YEAR:

- **THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH):** A MAJOR SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL

PROJECTS, INCLUDING ORAL HISTORY.

- **INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS):** OFFERS GRANTS FOCUSING ON ARCHIVAL PRESERVATION AND DIGITAL ACCESS.
- **LOCAL AND REGIONAL ARTS COUNCILS:** MANY STATES AND CITIES HAVE ARTS COUNCILS THAT PROVIDE GRANTS TO COMMUNITY-BASED ORAL HISTORY INITIATIVES.
- **PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS AND TRUSTS:** ENTITIES LIKE THE ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OR THE AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER OCCASIONALLY OFFER TARGETED GRANTS.

KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON THESE ORGANIZATIONS' CALLS FOR PROPOSALS CAN OPEN DOORS TO MUCH-NEEDED FUNDING.

HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY APPLY FOR ORAL HISTORY GRANTS 2023

APPLYING FOR GRANTS CAN FEEL DAUNTING, ESPECIALLY FOR NEWCOMERS. HOWEVER, WITH CLEAR GOALS AND A WELL-THOUGHT-OUT PLAN, YOU CAN INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF SECURING FUNDING.

CRAFTING A COMPELLING PROPOSAL

YOUR GRANT PROPOSAL SHOULD TELL A STORY—JUST LIKE THE ORAL HISTORIES YOU WANT TO COLLECT. HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO MAKE YOUR APPLICATION STAND OUT:

- **DEFINE YOUR PROJECT CLEARLY:** EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF YOUR ORAL HISTORY PROJECT, THE COMMUNITIES INVOLVED, AND THE EXPECTED OUTCOMES.
- **DEMONSTRATE IMPACT:** HIGHLIGHT HOW YOUR PROJECT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO HISTORICAL PRESERVATION, EDUCATION, OR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT.
- **OUTLINE A REALISTIC BUDGET:** BE TRANSPARENT ABOUT HOW FUNDS WILL BE USED, WHETHER FOR EQUIPMENT, TRAVEL, TRANSCRIPTION SERVICES, OR OUTREACH.
- **SHOWCASE YOUR EXPERTISE:** PROVIDE YOUR BACKGROUND OR THE QUALIFICATIONS OF YOUR TEAM TO ASSURE FUNDERS OF YOUR CAPABILITY TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT.
- **INCLUDE A TIMELINE:** PRESENT A CLEAR SCHEDULE THAT BREAKS DOWN EACH PHASE OF YOUR ORAL HISTORY WORK.

LEVERAGING DIGITAL TOOLS IN YOUR APPLICATION

GIVEN THE INCREASING FOCUS ON DIGITAL STORYTELLING AND ONLINE ARCHIVES IN 2023, INCORPORATING TECHNOLOGY INTO YOUR PROJECT CAN BE A STRONG SELLING POINT. CONSIDER MENTIONING:

- USE OF AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING EQUIPMENT FOR HIGH-QUALITY INTERVIEWS.
- PLANS TO CREATE ONLINE EXHIBITS OR DIGITAL ARCHIVES ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC.
- INCORPORATION OF TRANSCRIPTION SOFTWARE OR AI TOOLS TO STREAMLINE PROCESSING OF INTERVIEWS.

FUNDERS APPRECIATE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES THAT BROADEN ACCESS AND PRESERVE ORAL HISTORIES IN SUSTAINABLE FORMATS.

TRENDS AND INNOVATIONS IN ORAL HISTORY GRANTS 2023

THE LANDSCAPE OF ORAL HISTORY FUNDING IS ALWAYS EVOLVING. THIS YEAR, SEVERAL TRENDS STAND OUT, SHAPING THE WAY PROJECTS ARE CONCEIVED AND SUPPORTED.

FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SHIFTS IN ORAL HISTORY GRANTS IN 2023 IS A STRONG EMPHASIS ON ELEVATING UNDERREPRESENTED VOICES. GRANTS INCREASINGLY PRIORITIZE PROJECTS THAT DOCUMENT THE EXPERIENCES OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, IMMIGRANTS, LGBTQ+ INDIVIDUALS, AND OTHERS WHOSE STORIES HAVE OFTEN BEEN OVERLOOKED.

THIS FOCUS NOT ONLY ENRICHES THE HISTORICAL RECORD BUT ALSO FOSTERS SOCIAL EQUITY BY VALIDATING DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES.

EMBRACING DIGITAL STORYTELLING PLATFORMS

THANKS TO ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY, ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS ARE NO LONGER LIMITED TO TRADITIONAL AUDIO RECORDINGS. MODERN GRANTS OFTEN ENCOURAGE THE USE OF INTERACTIVE WEBSITES, PODCASTS, VIRTUAL REALITY, AND OTHER DIGITAL MEDIA TO ENGAGE WIDER AUDIENCES.

FOR EXAMPLE, SOME GRANT RECIPIENTS ARE CREATING IMMERSIVE VR EXPERIENCES THAT PLACE USERS IN HISTORICAL MOMENTS NARRATED BY THOSE WHO LIVED THEM. OTHERS DEVELOP PODCASTS THAT BLEND ORAL HISTORIES WITH EXPERT COMMENTARY AND ARCHIVAL MATERIALS.

COMMUNITY-CENTERED APPROACHES

IN 2023, THERE'S A GROWING RECOGNITION THAT ORAL HISTORY IS MOST IMPACTFUL WHEN IT'S COMMUNITY-DRIVEN. GRANTS OFTEN REQUIRE OR ENCOURAGE COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL GROUPS, SCHOOLS, AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS. THIS APPROACH ENSURES PROJECTS ARE RELEVANT AND RESPECTFUL OF THE COMMUNITIES INVOLVED, FOSTERING TRUST AND DEEPER ENGAGEMENT.

TIPS FOR SUSTAINING ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS BEYOND GRANTS

WHILE SECURING AN ORAL HISTORY GRANT IS A CRITICAL STEP, MAINTAINING AND EXPANDING YOUR PROJECT AFTER THE FUNDING ENDS IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS TO HELP YOUR WORK HAVE LASTING IMPACT:

- **BUILD PARTNERSHIPS:** COLLABORATE WITH LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, UNIVERSITIES, AND CULTURAL CENTERS TO SHARE RESOURCES AND REACH BROADER AUDIENCES.
- **CREATE ACCESSIBLE ARCHIVES:** USE OPEN-ACCESS PLATFORMS OR DIGITAL REPOSITORIES TO MAKE YOUR ORAL HISTORIES AVAILABLE TO RESEARCHERS AND THE PUBLIC.

- **ENGAGE VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS:** INVOLVE STUDENTS OR COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN TRANSCRIPTION, CATALOGING, AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.
- **SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDING:** AFTER YOUR INITIAL GRANT, APPLY FOR FOLLOW-UP FUNDING OR EXPLORE CROWDFUNDING TO SUSTAIN ONGOING WORK.
- **PROMOTE YOUR PROJECT:** USE SOCIAL MEDIA, LOCAL EVENTS, AND PUBLICATIONS TO RAISE AWARENESS AND ATTRACT NEW SUPPORTERS.

BY THINKING BEYOND THE GRANT CYCLE, YOU CAN KEEP YOUR ORAL HISTORY PROJECT VIBRANT AND RELEVANT FOR YEARS TO COME.

RESOURCES TO FIND ORAL HISTORY GRANTS IN 2023

IF YOU'RE EAGER TO START APPLYING, HERE ARE SOME USEFUL RESOURCES TO HELP YOU FIND CURRENT ORAL HISTORY GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

- **GRANTS.GOV:** A COMPREHENSIVE DATABASE OF FEDERAL GRANTS, INCLUDING THOSE RELEVANT TO HUMANITIES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE.
- **ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:** OFFERS INFORMATION ON GRANT PROGRAMS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND PROJECT FUNDING.
- **FOUNDATION CENTER BY CANDID:** A SEARCHABLE DIRECTORY OF PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS THAT SUPPORT ORAL HISTORY AND RELATED FIELDS.
- **LOCAL ARTS COUNCILS AND HUMANITIES COUNCILS:** MANY HAVE WEBSITES LISTING GRANT DEADLINES AND REQUIREMENTS.
- **UNIVERSITY GRANT OFFICES:** IF AFFILIATED WITH AN ACADEMIC INSTITUTION, CHECK YOUR RESEARCH OFFICE FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FUNDING ALERTS.

REGULARLY MONITORING THESE SOURCES CAN HELP YOU STAY AHEAD OF DEADLINES AND TAILOR YOUR PROPOSALS TO THE PRIORITIES OF FUNDERS.

ORAL HISTORY GRANTS 2023 REPRESENT A POWERFUL GATEWAY TO PRESERVING THE VOICES AND STORIES THAT SHAPE OUR COLLECTIVE MEMORY. BY UNDERSTANDING THE TYPES OF GRANTS AVAILABLE, EMBRACING NEW TECHNOLOGIES, AND FOCUSING ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, YOU CAN CREATE MEANINGFUL PROJECTS THAT RESONATE FAR BEYOND THE INITIAL FUNDING PERIOD. WHETHER YOU'RE DOCUMENTING LOCAL HERITAGE, EXPLORING SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, OR CAPTURING PERSONAL NARRATIVES, THE OPPORTUNITIES THIS YEAR ARE RIPE FOR STORYTELLERS READY TO BRING HISTORY TO LIFE.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE ORAL HISTORY GRANTS IN 2023?

ORAL HISTORY GRANTS IN 2023 ARE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT PROJECTS THAT COLLECT, PRESERVE, AND SHARE PERSONAL STORIES AND TESTIMONIES THROUGH RECORDED INTERVIEWS.

WHICH ORGANIZATIONS OFFER ORAL HISTORY GRANTS IN 2023?

IN 2023, ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH), THE ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION, AND LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OFTEN OFFER GRANTS FOR ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS.

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR AN ORAL HISTORY GRANT IN 2023?

TO APPLY FOR AN ORAL HISTORY GRANT IN 2023, YOU TYPICALLY NEED TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL OUTLINING YOUR PROJECT, ITS GOALS, METHODOLOGY, BUDGET, AND HOW IT CONTRIBUTES TO PRESERVING HISTORY, FOLLOWING THE SPECIFIC GUIDELINES OF THE GRANT PROVIDER.

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS QUALIFY FOR ORAL HISTORY GRANTS IN 2023?

PROJECTS THAT FOCUS ON COLLECTING, RECORDING, TRANSCRIBING, AND ARCHIVING PERSONAL NARRATIVES, COMMUNITY HISTORIES, OR SPECIFIC CULTURAL EXPERIENCES ARE GENERALLY ELIGIBLE FOR ORAL HISTORY GRANTS IN 2023.

ARE THERE ANY ORAL HISTORY GRANTS SPECIFICALLY FOR STUDENTS IN 2023?

YES, SOME ORGANIZATIONS AND UNIVERSITIES OFFER ORAL HISTORY GRANTS OR FELLOWSHIPS TARGETED AT STUDENTS TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS IN 2023.

WHAT IS THE TYPICAL GRANT AMOUNT FOR ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS IN 2023?

GRANT AMOUNTS VARY WIDELY IN 2023, RANGING FROM A FEW HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR SMALL COMMUNITY PROJECTS TO TENS OF THOUSANDS FOR LARGER INSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES.

CAN NONPROFITS APPLY FOR ORAL HISTORY GRANTS IN 2023?

YES, MANY ORAL HISTORY GRANTS IN 2023 ARE OPEN TO NONPROFITS, LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AIMING TO DOCUMENT AND PRESERVE HISTORICAL NARRATIVES.

WHAT ARE SOME POPULAR THEMES FOR ORAL HISTORY GRANTS IN 2023?

POPULAR THEMES INCLUDE SOCIAL JUSTICE, INDIGENOUS HISTORIES, IMMIGRANT STORIES, ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES, AND DOCUMENTING UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES IN 2023.

HOW IMPORTANT IS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN ORAL HISTORY GRANT PROJECTS IN 2023?

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IS HIGHLY VALUED IN 2023 ORAL HISTORY GRANT PROJECTS, AS IT ENSURES AUTHENTICITY, INCLUSIVITY, AND MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH THE NARRATIVES BEING PRESERVED.

WHERE CAN I FIND A LIST OF ORAL HISTORY GRANTS AVAILABLE IN 2023?

YOU CAN FIND A LIST OF ORAL HISTORY GRANTS AVAILABLE IN 2023 ON WEBSITES LIKE THE ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION, GRANTS.GOV, AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES GRANT LISTINGS.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ORAL HISTORY GRANTS 2023: NAVIGATING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESERVING VOICES OF THE PAST

ORAL HISTORY GRANTS 2023 CONTINUE TO PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN SUPPORTING PROJECTS THAT SEEK TO DOCUMENT, PRESERVE, AND DISSEMINATE FIRSTHAND NARRATIVES FROM DIVERSE COMMUNITIES. AS THE PRACTICE OF ORAL HISTORY GAINS

MOMENTUM IN ACADEMIA, CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, AND GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS ALIKE, SECURING FUNDING THROUGH THESE GRANTS HAS BECOME VITAL FOR BOTH EMERGING AND ESTABLISHED ORAL HISTORIANS. THIS ARTICLE PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OF THE LANDSCAPE OF ORAL HISTORY GRANTS IN 2023, EXPLORING AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, AND STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR APPLICANTS AIMING TO CAPTURE THE VOICES THAT SHAPE OUR COLLECTIVE MEMORY.

UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE OF ORAL HISTORY GRANTS 2023

THE YEAR 2023 HAS SEEN A STEADY FLOW OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES DEDICATED TO ORAL HISTORY INITIATIVES, REFLECTING A GROWING RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE. THESE GRANTS ARE OFFERED BY A VARIETY OF SOURCES INCLUDING FEDERAL AGENCIES, PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS, UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS, AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS. THE DIVERSITY IN FUNDING BODIES MEANS APPLICANTS HAVE A WIDE ARRAY OF OPTIONS TAILORED TO DIFFERENT PROJECT SCOPES, GEOGRAPHIC FOCUSES, AND THEMATIC PRIORITIES.

A NOTABLE TREND IN ORAL HISTORY GRANTS 2023 IS THE INCREASED EMPHASIS ON PROJECTS THAT ENGAGE WITH UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES AND MARGINALIZED VOICES. FUNDERS ARE PRIORITIZING INCLUSIVITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, ENCOURAGING APPLICANTS TO DESIGN PROJECTS THAT NOT ONLY COLLECT HISTORIES BUT ALSO FOSTER COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND DIALOGUE.

KEY PROVIDERS OF ORAL HISTORY GRANTS IN 2023

AMONG THE MOST PROMINENT SOURCES OF ORAL HISTORY FUNDING THIS YEAR ARE:

- **THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH):** THEIR PUBLIC HUMANITIES PROJECTS GRANTS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ORAL HISTORY INITIATIVES WITH BUDGETS RANGING FROM \$30,000 TO \$300,000, EMPHASIZING BROAD PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATIONAL IMPACT.
- **INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS):** OFFERING GRANTS THAT OFTEN SUPPORT DIGITIZATION AND PRESERVATION ASPECTS OF ORAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS WITHIN LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS.
- **THE ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION (OHA):** ALTHOUGH SMALLER IN SCALE, OHA GRANTS PROVIDE CRITICAL SEED FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS.
- **PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS,** SUCH AS THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION AND THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION, HAVE ALLOCATED FUNDING STREAMS FOR ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS FOCUSING ON HEALTH NARRATIVES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE RESPECTIVELY.

THESE PROVIDERS PRESENT A RANGE OF APPLICATION DEADLINES, AWARD AMOUNTS, AND PROJECT REQUIREMENTS, NECESSITATING A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO GRANT SELECTION.

EVALUATING ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION STRATEGIES

NAVIGATING ORAL HISTORY GRANTS 2023 REQUIRES A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, WHICH CAN VARY SUBSTANTIALLY. MANY GRANTS PRIORITIZE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, OR CULTURAL HERITAGE BODIES, ALTHOUGH SOME ALSO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FROM INDEPENDENT RESEARCHERS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS.

ELIGIBILITY NUANCES

APPLICANTS SHOULD CAREFULLY REVIEW THE FOLLOWING COMMON ELIGIBILITY FACTORS:

- **ORGANIZATIONAL STATUS:** SOME GRANTS REQUIRE 501(c)(3) STATUS OR AFFILIATION WITH ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS.
- **GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:** CERTAIN GRANTS ARE LIMITED TO PROJECTS WITHIN SPECIFIC STATES, REGIONS, OR COUNTRIES.
- **PROJECT SCOPE:** FUNDERS MAY DISTINGUISH BETWEEN ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION, TRANSCRIPTION, PRESERVATION, OR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION EFFORTS.
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** INCREASINGLY, GRANTORS SEEK DEMONSTRATED COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITIES WHOSE HISTORIES ARE BEING DOCUMENTED.

THESE CRITERIA UNDERScore THE IMPORTANCE OF TAILORING PROPOSALS TO ALIGN WITH THE FUNDER'S MISSION AND PRIORITIES.

CRAFTING A COMPETITIVE PROPOSAL

SUCCESSFUL ORAL HISTORY GRANT APPLICATIONS IN 2023 OFTEN SHARE SEVERAL CHARACTERISTICS:

1. **CLEAR OBJECTIVES:** DEFINING THE PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT WITH SPECIFICITY.
2. **METHODOLOGICAL RIGOR:** DETAILING INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES, ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS, AND ARCHIVAL STANDARDS.
3. **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** DEMONSTRATING PARTNERSHIPS OR ADVISORY ROLES FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS.
4. **DISSEMINATION PLANS:** DESCRIBING HOW THE COLLECTED HISTORIES WILL BE MADE ACCESSIBLE, WHETHER THROUGH DIGITAL ARCHIVES, PUBLIC PROGRAMS, OR PUBLICATIONS.
5. **BUDGET TRANSPARENCY:** PROVIDING A REALISTIC AND DETAILED BUDGET THAT ACCOUNTS FOR PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, TRAVEL, AND TRANSCRIPTION COSTS.

ATTENTION TO THESE ELEMENTS CAN DISTINGUISH A PROPOSAL IN A COMPETITIVE FUNDING ENVIRONMENT.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN 2023 ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS

THE EVOLUTION OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INFLUENCED THE SCOPE AND SCALE OF ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY GRANTS IN 2023. MANY FUNDERS ENCOURAGE OR REQUIRE THE INCORPORATION OF DIGITAL TOOLS FOR RECORDING, ARCHIVING, AND SHARING ORAL HISTORIES.

DIGITAL INNOVATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

GRANT RECIPIENTS ARE INCREASINGLY EXPECTED TO LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY TO BROADEN ACCESS AND PRESERVE ORAL HISTORIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. THIS INCLUDES:

- EMPLOYING HIGH-QUALITY DIGITAL AUDIO AND VIDEO CAPTURE DEVICES.
- UTILIZING TRANSCRIPTION SOFTWARE TO ENHANCE SEARCHABILITY AND USABILITY.
- CREATING ONLINE REPOSITORIES AND INTERACTIVE PLATFORMS FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.

HOWEVER, THESE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS COME WITH CHALLENGES, SUCH AS ENSURING LONG-TERM DIGITAL PRESERVATION AND ADDRESSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE THAT MAY AFFECT INTERVIEWEES’ PARTICIPATION.

ETHICAL FRAMEWORKS AND CONSENT

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS REMAIN AT THE FOREFRONT OF ORAL HISTORY PRACTICE IN 2023. GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE OFTEN REQUIRED TO OUTLINE PROTOCOLS FOR INFORMED CONSENT, PRIVACY PROTECTIONS, AND THE RESPECTFUL REPRESENTATION OF NARRATORS.

IN PARTICULAR, PROJECTS INVOLVING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES OR SENSITIVE SUBJECT MATTER MUST ADHERE TO CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE METHODOLOGIES AND LEGAL AGREEMENTS REGARDING OWNERSHIP AND ACCESS TO THE RECORDED MATERIALS. FUNDERS ARE ATTENTIVE TO THESE NUANCES, REFLECTING EVOLVING STANDARDS IN ORAL HISTORY ETHICS.

COMPARING ORAL HISTORY GRANTS 2023: SCALE, SCOPE, AND IMPACT

WHEN ASSESSING ORAL HISTORY GRANTS AVAILABLE IN 2023, APPLICANTS SHOULD CONSIDER SEVERAL FACTORS TO IDENTIFY THE BEST FIT FOR THEIR PROJECTS.

Grant Program	Typical Award Range	Project Focus	Eligibility
NEH Public Humanities Projects	\$30,000 - \$300,000	Broad public engagement; oral history collection and dissemination	Nonprofits, institutions, universities
IMLS Grants	\$10,000 - \$100,000	Museum and library collections; digitization and preservation	Museums, libraries, archives
Oral History Association Grants	Up to \$5,000	Community projects, conferences, workshops	Individuals, organizations
Private Foundations (e.g., Mellon)	\$50,000 - \$200,000	Cultural heritage, social justice narratives	Varied

THIS COMPARISON HIGHLIGHTS THE SPECTRUM OF FUNDING SIZES AND EXPECTATIONS, GUIDING APPLICANTS IN ALIGNING THEIR PROJECT AMBITIONS WITH APPROPRIATE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES.

LOOKING AHEAD: TRENDS INFLUENCING ORAL HISTORY GRANTS IN 2023 AND BEYOND

THE TRAJECTORY OF ORAL HISTORY GRANTS IN 2023 SUGGESTS SEVERAL EMERGING TRENDS THAT MAY SHAPE FUTURE FUNDING LANDSCAPES. THERE IS A GROWING EMPHASIS ON INTERDISCIPLINARITY, INTEGRATING ORAL HISTORY WITH FIELDS SUCH AS

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES. ADDITIONALLY, FUNDERS ARE INCREASINGLY ATTENTIVE TO THE SUSTAINABILITY OF ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS, ENCOURAGING APPLICANTS TO DEVELOP LONG-TERM PLANS FOR MAINTENANCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BEYOND INITIAL GRANT PERIODS.

MOREOVER, THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS LEFT A LASTING IMPRINT ON ORAL HISTORY METHODOLOGIES AND GRANT PRIORITIES. REMOTE INTERVIEWING TECHNOLOGIES AND VIRTUAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HAVE BECOME STANDARD PRACTICES, WITH SOME GRANTS NOW EXPLICITLY SUPPORTING THESE INNOVATIONS.

AS THE FIELD CONTINUES TO EVOLVE, THOSE INTERESTED IN ORAL HISTORY GRANTS 2023 WOULD DO WELL TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT SHIFTING PRIORITIES AND TO CULTIVATE PARTNERSHIPS THAT ENHANCE BOTH THE DEPTH AND REACH OF THEIR PROJECTS. THE PRESERVATION OF LIVED EXPERIENCES REMAINS A VITAL ENDEAVOR, AND SECURING THE RIGHT FUNDING IS AN ESSENTIAL STEP IN ENSURING THAT THESE VOICES ENDURE.

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