Library Innovation Lab:
Exploring New Ways of Engaging Immigrant Communities

Program Information and Application Instructions
October 2016

Program Overview

This new program of California Humanities will build the capacity of California's public libraries to reach and engage recent immigrants, in order to deepen and broaden community connections. California has the largest immigrant population of any state; 27% of current residents are immigrants, and almost half the state's children have at least one immigrant parent. Historically, America's public libraries have played an important role in welcoming newcomers and fostering the development of more inclusive communities through programs and services. This program will build on this rich legacy by supporting creative and innovative public programming that responds to the needs and circumstances of today's immigrants and immigrant communities and promotes their inclusion within the social fabric of our state. Our principal objectives are to:
- Foster innovative and creative public humanities programming in libraries
- Build the capacity of participating librarians and libraries to work with immigrants and immigrant communities
- Explore the potential of collaborative learning and reflective practice for professional growth and development

Over the course of the 2017 calendar year, California Humanities will provide support, guidance, and resources to a cohort of ten (10) public programming librarians as they design and implement (field test) a new public humanities program to engage immigrants in their communities. Working in a collaborative learning environment with peers that will involve face-to-face meetings as well as virtual communication, participants will acquire new skills and knowledge, make use of prior experience and insight, provide mutual support and encouragement to one another to experiment with new programming strategies and approaches, and share the results of their work with the group and the broader library field. This 12-month process of learning and discovery will be further enriched by library and humanities field experts, and supported with material resources, including a grant to each participating library that will provide "venture capital."

Specifically, California Humanities will provide:
- A framework for collaborative learning (meetings and virtual communications) and project assessment
- Content resources, expert knowledge, and guidance from library and humanities field advisors

- A $5,000 grant to each participating library to support project-related research, planning, implementation, and evaluation
- Support for travel and other expenses associated with mandatory program meetings

Program Activities and Timetable

Following the recruitment and selection phase in fall 2016, the program will kick-off early in 2017 with a two day in-person convening and orientation. The meeting will provide opportunities for reflection, discussion, instruction and other types of learning experiences, as well as an introduction to techniques and other resources that will enable participants to begin the process of research and design of their individual projects over the next few months. During the spring planning period, participants will be able to draw upon the knowledge and expertise of the group and project experts as they design their programs. Once their individual plans are finalized, participants will experiment by field-testing them during the implementation phase of the program during the summer and fall. Again, feedback and support from other participants and project staff will continue to enrich this process. The group will reconvene at the end of the year to share the results of their individual projects and reflect on what they have learned from them as well as from the entire experience. Project and program findings will be disseminated to the library community at the conclusion of the project through a dedicated website as well as through meetings and other communications vehicles.

2016	
Oct – Dec	Recruitment and selection of participants (statewide application process)
	Grant funds disbursed to selected libraries
2017	
Feb	Two-day orientation and kick-off convening (in-person)
Feb – May	Research and design of program plans
May	Plan presentations and feedback (in-person or virtual)
Jun – Dec	Field-testing and formative assessment
2018	
Jan	Final convening (in-person) and project presentations
Mar	Final reports due

Program Requirements and Expectations

Participation in this program is limited to programming librarians or library staff members with programming responsibilities -- any level of experience or service -- based in California public libraries. We seek participants who will represent the geographical and cultural diversity of the state, and are curious, open-minded, and eager to experiment with new approaches to public programming. Applicants who manifest a strong desire to strengthen library-community connections, an interest in immigrant populations, and enthusiasm about being part of a group-learning professional development experience will be particularly welcome.

In additional to designing, implementing, and assessing a public humanities program for immigrants over the project period, participants (and their sponsoring libraries) will be expected to:
- Prepare for, attend and actively participate in three project meetings (est. four days total)
- Actively participate in ongoing project activities, including online communication with other participants and project staff, keeping a project reflection journal, documenting activities, and assessing project outcomes,

- Match grant funds (1:1 minimum) over the life of the project with local cash or in-kind resources
- Maintain records and supply requested programmatic and budgetary information as part of the final reporting process

Application Instructions

To apply, please visit https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_348/?SA=SNA&FID=35051 to complete the online application form and required attachments by November 28, 2016

In addition to completing the online application form, which requires information about the applicant library and Project Director (participating librarian), as well as provision of the applicant organization's DUNS number, applicants are asked to submit a narrative statement (2 pages or less) and a resume (2 pages or less).

The narrative statement should address the following questions:
1. Why would you like to participate in this project? What especially interests you about it?

2. What immigrant groups, populations, or constituencies in your community would you like to engage through this project? Why?

3. What previous programming experiences have you or your library had with and for recent immigrants? What has been successful? Where/how do you think you could improve your efforts?

4. How do you imagine this project will benefit you (the programming librarian or library staff member), your library, the immigrant community/communities you will engage, as well as the broader community and the library profession?

An informational webinar will be held **Wednesday, November 2, 2016, from 10 – 11 am**. Register at https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2773808730199767041 A recording will be archived and made available on our website if you are unable to attend the live event.

Applicants will be notified of their status mid-December, 2016 and award funds will be disbursed to recipients before the end of the year.

For additional information or assistance please contact Felicia Kelley, Project and Evaluation Director, at fkelley@calhum.org or 213-346-3239.