



Library Innovation Lab 2019

*Exploring New Ways of Engaging Immigrant Communities
Through Public Humanities Programming*

Program Information and Application Instructions

Applications accepted January 1 – March 1, 2019

Grant Period: April 1 – December 31, 2019

Program Description

Library Innovation Lab (LIL) aims to build the capacity of California public libraries to provide responsive and relevant public humanities programming through a practice-based professional development experience and cultivation of a peer-oriented learning community. During the first two years (2017 and 2018), two cohorts of programming librarians from all parts of the state participated in the program. Each participant designed, implemented, and assessed an innovative project to engage immigrants in their community (see [list](#)). This year, a new cohort will be selected through an open call process (see application instructions and details below).

Program Purpose

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. Public libraries play and have long played an important role in welcoming newcomers by providing citizenship classes, English language instruction, and other valuable services and programs.

The LIL program aims to build on these efforts by supporting library-based public humanities programs* that will enable immigrants to express and share their experiences, stories, traditions, values, dreams, and hopes for the future. By providing opportunities for all community members to develop greater understanding of what it means to make a new life and a new home in a new place, public programming can help build bridges between new and long-term residents of our state.

More generally, California Humanities hopes to encourage more libraries to provide engaging humanities learning opportunities and experiences that will reach and interest all Californians.

Our principal objectives with this program are to:

- Foster innovative and creative public humanities programming in and by libraries;
- Build the capacity of participating librarians and libraries to provide welcoming experiences for immigrants that will contribute to building more inclusive communities;
- Use collaborative learning and reflective practice as a means of professional growth and development

Program Overview

Building on past success, LIL 2019 will support a cohort of 10 public library programmers as they research, design, implement and assess a small scale, short-term public humanities program between March and December 2019. Working in a collaborative learning environment that will include face-to-face and virtual group meetings as well as individualized advising, participants will acquire new skills and knowledge in programming and project management, build confidence and develop capacity in working with immigrants and other target audiences, and exercise creativity and imagination through experimenting with new programming approaches. This process of learning and discovery will be facilitated by library and humanities field experts, including peer mentors from our previous cohorts, and supported with material resources.

Specifically, the LIL program will provide participants with:

- A framework for collaborative learning (in-person meetings, virtual communications, consultations, and site visits). Advice and support will be provided by peers, project staff, library mentors, and consulting library and humanities experts;
- A \$5,000 grant to each participating library to support project-related research, planning, implementation, and assessment;
- Additional support for travel and other expenses associated with program meetings

Program Timetable

2019

Jan – Mar	Recruitment and selection of participants (statewide application process)
Mar- Apr	Notification and virtual orientation
Early May	1 st convening: Introductions and skill-building activities (in-person)
May – Jul	Research and design of program plans – ongoing support
Jul	2 nd convening: Plan presentations and feedback (in-person)
Aug – Dec	Project implementation and assessment – ongoing support

2020

Jan	3 rd convening: Project presentations and debrief (in-person)
Mar	Final reports due

Eligibility and Requirements

A California public library or affiliated nonprofit organization (e.g. Friends group) must serve as the “applicant organization.” Participation in the cohort is limited to programming librarians or library staff members with *direct* programming responsibilities; this person will serve as the “Project Director.”

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 humanities programming. Applicants should demonstrate a strong desire to strengthen library-community connections, an interest in immigrant populations, openness to innovation and experimentation, and enthusiasm about being part of a group-learning professional development experience.

Participants (librarians and their sponsoring libraries) will be expected to:

- Research, design, implement, and assess a public humanities program in alignment with LIL goals over the project period
- Prepare for, attend, and actively participate in three face-to-face project meetings
- Actively participate in ongoing project activities, including virtual meetings and maintaining regular communication with other participants and project staff
- Submit a written plan and budget at the conclusion of the planning phase
- Match grant funds (1:1 minimum ratio) over the life of the project with local cash or in-kind contributions of labor, goods, or services
- Maintain records and supply requested programmatic and budgetary information as part of the final reporting process
- Cooperate with California Humanities' grantmaking and publicity protocols

Application Instructions

To apply, please visit <https://ch-grants.smapply.io/prog/LIL2018/> to complete the online application form and required attachments.

This url is also accessible on the [Library Innovation Lab homepage](#):

When you click on the "Apply" button (available as of January 1, 2019).

The form requires information about the applicant library and Project Director (the person who will plan and oversee the project and participate in cohort activities) as well as confirmation of approval from the Authorizing Official of the applicant library or sponsoring organization.

Prospective Project Directors should provide responses to the following questions:

1. Why would you like to participate in this program? What especially interests you about it? How do you imagine this experience 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 you serve?
2. What immigrant group, population, or constituency in your community would you like to engage through your project? Why? What do you already know about their needs, circumstances, and interests?
3. Have you ever developed a new program based on a needs assessment or other type of research? If so, please describe.
4. Have you had any previous experience with public humanities programming? If so, please describe.
5. What local resources will you be able to draw on for support? If you will be working with a team, who will be involved? What resources do you anticipate your library and/or

community will be able to contribute to provide the required budget match by the end of the project?

In addition, applicants should submit a resume (two pages or less) showing relevant interests and experience.

NOTE: Prospective Project Directors are strongly encouraged to become familiar with grants management systems and protocols at their library in order to facilitate the application and award process at their institutions.

Notification and Award

Applicants will be notified of their status **by April 1, 2019**. An initial installment of funds will be issued upon return of the signed grant agreement; the second installment will be disbursed upon approval of a proposed program plan and budget to be submitted at the conclusion of the planning phase (summer 2019).

For More Information

An informational **webinar** will be held **Thursday, January 17, from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. Register [here](#)**. A recording will be archived and made available on the [Library Innovation Lab webpage](#) if you are unable to attend the live event.

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

* **Public humanities programs** provide opportunities for people to experience, engage with, and participate in the humanities outside formal educational environments. The humanities encompass a wide range of activities that enable us to understand, explore, and communicate about the human experience, including such “everyday” activities as reading, conversation, and reflection. Public humanities programs can take many forms depending on the subject matter at hand, the programmer’s goals and intent, as well as the characteristics, interests, and needs of the intended audience. California Humanities encourages experimentation and innovation with new approaches to public humanities programming along with time-tested formats, such as oral history, photovoice or participatory documentary projects, reading- or film-and- discussion programs, interpretive exhibits, presentations or interactive demonstration or performances,, storysharing events, and cultural festivals. For more ideas, see the [list](#) of projects implemented by the 2017 and 2018 LIL cohorts.