Recovering Voices Community Research Grants

Overview and Proposal Instructions

I. Overview

The purpose of the Community Research Grant program is to support indigenous communities in their efforts to save, document, and enliven their languages, cultures, and knowledge systems. Grants bring groups of community scholars to the Smithsonian to examine specific objects, specimens, and documents related to their heritage, and engage in a dialogue with Smithsonian staff, in order to recover and revitalize their language and knowledge. Interdisciplinary projects are encouraged.

II. Award amounts

Applicants may request up to $10,000 (USD).

III. Deadlines

Proposals submitted by April 10 will be reviewed for projects taking place between August 10, 2015 and December 31, 2015. Award notification will be sent by May 15, 2015. The 2015 guidelines apply to proposals submitted by April 10, 2015 and supersede previous versions.

To apply, submit materials

Electronically: recoveringvoices@si.edu

Or

By post: Recovering Voices Program
Department of Anthropology
Smithsonian Institution MRC 112
P.O. Box 37012
Washington, DC 20013-7012

IV. Reporting

Successful applicants must submit a final grant report to the Recovering Voices Program. This report must include the following:

• Log of project activities
• One page summary of goals met during the visit
• Description of future research plans

V. Application Instructions

Proposal Elements
To be considered by the review committee, a proposal must contain the following elements:

1. Cover page
2. Project Description (2 pages)
3. Project Timeline (1 page)
4. Budget and Budget Justification
5. Letter(s) of Support
6. CV or bio of Project Lead and bios for all project participants

Instructions

1. **Cover page:** Please use the form provided in this packet

2. **Project Descriptions** should include the following information:
   a. **Rationale:** The significance and importance of the project and the contribution it will make to the research of endangered language practices and/or knowledge systems, their documentation or their potential revitalization.
   
   b. **Background information:** History of the project and/or research team as well as previous or related research or collaborative efforts. How does this project build upon previous work? Has any member of the team previously conducted research with the Smithsonian collections (i.e. with Breath of Life, or as an independent researcher)? If so, how would this project build upon that experience?
   
   c. **Participants:** List of participants, and their roles in the project.
   
   d. **Collections:** Smithsonian collections (NMAI, NAA, etc.) to be used in the project, and if/how the project is connected to other institutions through their collections or personnel. Applicant **must** consult with the relevant Smithsonian collections staff regarding these materials and the proposed methodology prior to submitting the proposal. Applications that do not show consultation with collections staff will be considered incomplete. The following links will be of assistance.

   - Anthropology Collections and Archives at NMNH
     http://anthropology.si.edu/archives_collections.html
   
   - National Museum of Natural History
     http://www.mnh.si.edu/rc/
   
   - National Museum of the American Indian
http://nmai.si.edu/explore/collections/

e. **Methodology:** Project plan that includes resources necessary for the duration of the visit (e.g., audio recorder, computer/internet access, etc.).

f. **Outcomes:** Description of projected outcomes, including a detailed description of community collaborations. Which community members or organizations will be involved in the project? How will the project incorporate them, contribute to their mission, and further their goals? How will the results of the project be disseminated to the community? How will this project support the applicant’s research and revitalization activities?

3. **Timeline:** Schedule of the various phases of the project and proposed dates for collections research. Please note that collections cannot be accessed on federal holidays.

4. **Budget and Justification:** Please use the budget template included in this packet and provide an itemized budget of the project, including matching funds if any. Applicants must also provide a budget justification narrative that explains the significance of all budget expenses. The budget justification narrative should correspond to the budget in the proposal and calculate expenses in an easily understood manner.

- **Disallowed Expenses**
  - Salaries or stipends
  - Laptops, tablet computers, cameras, etc.

- Please be aware that flights must be booked through the Smithsonian’s travel agents at approved government rates. For many standard airfare estimates, you can find the government rate by consulting GSA’s listing of city-pair airfares.

  **Tips:** Use the “YCA” fare price, double it for round-trips, and add $50 for taxes & fees that will be included at time of reservation. Search prices for all DC area airports by selecting “Washington, DC [WAS]”. If multiple fare options are available depending on the airports selected in the departure & arrival city, pick mid-range or higher fares to use as an estimate since there is no guarantee of availability for the lowest fare by the time your travel is booked.

5. **Letters of Support:** Applicants are encouraged to provide one to two letters of support. If possible, applicants should get letters from the community involved and/or appropriate colleagues who can attest to their community engagement.

6. **CV/Bio:** Please attach a CV or bio of the Project Lead.
VI. Evaluation Criteria

Applicants will be judged on the following basis:

1) What Smithsonian collections are being used in the project?
   Note: Proposals that do not involve Smithsonian collections will not be considered for funding.
   15 points

2) The significance and importance of the project, and the contribution it will make, if successful, to the research of endangered languages and/or knowledge systems, their documentation or their potential revitalization.
   15 points

3) The appropriateness, and effectiveness of the proposed project’s methods.
   15 points

4) The feasibility of the research with the proposed timescale and requested resources
   12 points

5) The ability of the applicant(s) to bring the project to fruition, as evidenced not only in the application itself, but also in their previous track record.
   13 points

6) The anticipated impact of the project to the community, in the context of other funding and resources available to the applicant.
   10 points

7) The level of community engagement involved in the research. How does this project build upon previous work?
   10 points