



News Release
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Extended Deadline for Civil Liberties Program Grants

Funding is available to educate Californians about Japanese-American internment and civil liberty issues

(Sacramento) The deadline to apply for grants under the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program has been extended to April 27, 2018.

California's Civil Liberties program provides \$950,000 in funding for public educational activities and development of a variety of educational materials to ensure that the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal, and internment of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry will be remembered so that the causes and circumstances are better understood.

The program is also intended to educate the public about the history and the lessons of civil rights violations or civil liberties injustices that have been carried out against other communities or populations including, but not limited to, civil rights violations or civil liberties injustices that are perpetrated on the basis of an individual's race, national origin, immigration status, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

Past projects have included the creation and broadcast of video and films (narrative and documentary); books (including graphic novels) and live readings; photo collections and exhibits; visual art exhibits; museum displays; arts performances of drama, dance and music; oral histories; document and material preservation; educational guides and curriculum; website tools; essay and literature projects; public art and monuments; and music and recordings.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations and local and state government agencies. Grant requests for up to \$100,000 can be made for large-scale preservation, public media or educational projects. Community projects have a maximum of \$30,000. Those who have

already submitted their applications may submit changes and additions to their application through April 27, 2018.

History of the California Civil Liberties Program

Prior to World War II, California was home to more Japanese Americans than any other state. In the wake of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, wartime hysteria led to President Franklin Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, which put more than 120,000 Japanese Americans into relocation camps for more than 18 months.

In 1998, the state legislature created the California Civil Liberties Public Education program. The program received funding of as high as \$1 million annually from 1998 through 2011, when the funding was eliminated from the California budget. At the request of Assemblyman Phil Ting of San Francisco, Gov. Brown approved \$1 million in one-time funding for the program in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Legislation in 2017 by Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, AB 417, established an advisory board and encouraged projects that provide information about civil rights violations or civil liberties injustices that are perpetrated on the basis of an individual's race, national origin, immigration status, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, as well as the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

With support from legislators like Assembly members Ting and Muratsuchi, the governor included \$3 million in the 2017-18 Budget to continue funding through June 30, 2020.

Members of the media may contact Kim Brown at 916-651-6466 or Kimberly.brown@library.ca.gov. Questions about the Civil Liberties Program for potential applicants can be directed to Mary Beth Barber, Special Projects and Assistant to the State Librarian, at 916-323-9758 or Marybeth.barber@library.ca.gov.

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