



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Grant Program for Civil Liberties Projects Now Open

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

(Sacramento) The application and guidelines for \$900,000 in grants under the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program were released today by the California State Library. **Application deadline is March 15, 2017.**

State law says:

“The purpose of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Act is to sponsor public educational activities and development 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 circumstance of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood,” states the California Education Code.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations and local and state government agencies. Grant requests may be made for major preservation and public media projects, with a maximum grant request of \$150,000 and community projects with a maximum of \$40,000.

Past projects have included 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.

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Guidelines, the online application portal and other resources are available at the [California State Library website](#). The California State Library will conduct an optional informational webinar on February 17, 2017.* (This webinar, originally slated for February 15, was rescheduled due to staff illness.)

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.

Almost 40 years after Executive Order 9066 was signed, Congress conducted a bipartisan review of the executive order's impacts. The resulting publication, *Personal Justice Denied*, was published in 1982 (Part 1) and 1983 (Part 2) by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and the Internment of Civilians.

The report led to a federal law was enacted to issue a public apology for internment, make individual restitution to those interned and create a public education fund. The federal public education funding lasted for approximately three years, and related projects concluded by the end of the 1980s.

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.

Members of the media may contact Kim Brown, Information Officer, 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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Founded in 1850, the California State Library enriches lives and connects people, libraries and government to information and resources. The State Library has an extensive collection of documents from and about the state's rich history. The library also holds federal and state publications and is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library and the Braille and Talking Book Library. For more information, go to www.library.ca.gov.