



# California Civil Liberties Grant Program Open

*Funding available for projects that educate Californians about civil liberties through projects in education, public media, preservation, and the arts*

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**Sacramento, Calif.** – The California State Library is pleased to announce another round of funding for the California Civil Liberties Public Education program, whose purpose is to ensure that the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal, and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II are remembered so that they are never repeated against any American.

The program's purpose is to educate the public about civil liberties injustices carried out against various communities and individuals in the past as well as today. Projects may provide information about civil liberties injustices perpetrated based on an individual's race, national origin, immigration status, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, as well as the forced internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

The guidelines, application links and other vital information about the Civil Liberties program are on the [California Civil Liberties program website](#). 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 grant request of \$30,000. Deadline is February 24, 2020.

A list of educational projects funded from the California Civil Liberties program since 2016 is on the program's website, and the State Library created a simulation tool of the experience of forced relocation and imprisonment during World War II at [internmentexperience.library.ca.gov](http://internmentexperience.library.ca.gov).

"Fear and bigotry were the root of internment in World War II. Both are still around," said Greg Lucas, California's state librarian. "Better understanding of past mistakes and connecting them with current events helps make sure we remember we're always stronger together."

## **History of the California Civil Liberties program**

California's Civil Liberties Program was created to educate the public about the rights violations that occurred in the wake of Japan's December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, which put more than 120,000 Japanese Americans into relocation camps throughout the United States.

Congress re-examined the issue in the early 1980s, which led to a federal law requiring both a public apology for internment, the awarding of individual restitution to those

incarcerated and the creation of a public education fund. The California Civil Liberties program continues these public education efforts.

California established the California Civil Liberties program in 1998, and funding continued until a hiatus between 2011 and 2016. The budget for the fiscal year that began July 1, 2017, contained \$3 million with the expectation that \$1 million would be spent annually for three years. This is the third and final round of grants with the 2017-18 funds.

Since the creation of the California Civil Liberties program, artists, writers, public television stations and other non-profit organizations as well as state and local government agencies have undertaken more than 300 projects. These include the creation and broadcast of video, films and audio storytelling (narrative and documentary); books, including graphic novels; 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 performances and recordings.

Members of the media may contact Alex Vassar at 916-653-3663 or [alex.vassar@library.ca.gov](mailto:alex.vassar@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](mailto:Marybeth.barber@library.ca.gov). The State Library website is at [www.library.ca.gov](http://www.library.ca.gov), and the Civil Liberties program may be found under the "grants" tab.

END RELEASE TEXT

**About the State Library:** Founded in 1850, the California State Library has an extensive collection of documents from and about the state's rich history, ranging from books, maps, miners' diaries, newspapers, and periodicals to photographs, paintings and posters. The State Library also holds federal and state publications, is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library and the Braille and Talking Book Library, and serves as the lead state agency for library-related services throughout California. [State Library website](#)