



**News 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)** Guidelines for \$950,000 in grants under the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program were released today by the California State Library.

The release follows the annual Day of Remembrance, commemorating President Franklin Roosevelt's signature on February 19, 1942 of Executive Order 9066, authorizing the removal of civilians and others from "military zones" established in Washington, Oregon, and California during World War II. Roosevelt's signature led to the forced removal of some 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry from their homes to desolate relocation camps that were de facto incarceration facilities.

California's Civil Liberties program provides 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.

The deadline for applications is April 20, 2018. 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.

### **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 that 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.

Legislation in 2017 by Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, AB 417, clarified administrative details, 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](mailto: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](mailto:Marybeth.barber@library.ca.gov).

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