



More than \$1.5 Million in California Civil Liberties Public Education Grants Now Available

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[Sacramento, Calif.] – California community groups, artists, authors and filmmakers, can now apply for more than \$1.5 million to create educational materials, documentaries, and online exhibits as part of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program. Applications for grants from the program are now available online and due back January 15, 2024

The civil liberties program pays for projects that educate the public about the history and lessons of civil rights violations and injustices, such as the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, as well as treatment of other communities and populations.

“Remembering our mistakes is the best way to keep learning from the past and the best way to prevent repeating these civil liberty violations in the future,” said California State Librarian Greg Lucas.

“Education through photo collections, artistic performances and the recording of oral histories brings the past to life and helps us renew our commitment to liberty and justice for all.”

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing the removal of civilians and others from the military zones established in Washington, Oregon, and California during World War II, leading to the forced removal of some 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry from their homes to American concentration camps.

The California Civil Liberties Public Education Program has provided funding for educational activities and the development of educational materials since 2016 to ensure that the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal, and incarceration of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry will be remembered.

The State Library welcomes grant applications from authors and artists interested in telling these important stories and their lessons to a new generation. Applicants can include nonprofit organizations and local and state government agencies. Past projects have included films; books 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.

Grant requests up to \$125,000 may be made for projects that will have statewide impact, and requests of up to \$50,000 may be made for local community projects. Projects can be related to preservation, public media, or education.

You can find examples of past programs, application guidelines, the application portal, and other resources at the California State Library website <https://www.library.ca.gov/grants/civil-liberties/>.

Questions about the Civil Liberties Program for potential applicants can be directed to Danielle Sanchez, Civil Liberties Program Coordinator, at civil.liberties@library.ca.gov.

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About the State Library: Established in 1850, the California State Library is the central reference and research library for state government and the legislature. The library collection includes more than 4 million titles, 6,000 maps and 250,000 photographs, and includes an extensive collection of documents from and about the state's rich history.

In addition to acting as a steward of California's history, the State Library supports programs and initiatives in California's local libraries through partnerships and services. The Library has partnered with California State Parks to offer free Parks Passes in public libraries for checkout and with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to bring every California child under the age of 5 books. The Library supports a variety of workforce development and upskilling resources for all Californians through CAREER pathways in their local public libraries, and building a statewide eBook library with diverse titles in 20+ languages.