



California Civil Liberties Grant Program Open

Funding available for projects that educate Californians about civil liberties through projects in education, public media, preservation, museums 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.

“Eighty years ago, the United States government rounded up and incarcerated thousands of its citizens and legal residents based on nothing more than their ancestry,” said State Librarian Greg Lucas, speaking of Executive Order 9066 that was issued by President Roosevelt at the onset of World War II on February 19, 1942. In the 1980s, Congress recognized the civil liberties violations of Executive Order 9066, and California launched the California Civil Liberties Public Education program in the 1990s.

“The State Library’s California Civil Liberties Program funds education and arts projects that remind us of the injustice of these actions of the past to prevent similar actions in the present and future.”

The program’s purpose is to fund projects that 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 \$125,000 can be made for large-scale preservation, public media, education or museum projects.

Community projects have a maximum grant request of \$50,000. Deadline is April 25, 2022.

A list of educational projects funded from the California Civil Liberties program since 2016 is on the program’s website at <https://www.library.ca.gov/grants/civil-liberties/>.

“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.

While the program was not funded in the June 2020 budget due to concerns about the pandemic, the Legislature and Governor agreed to fund the program once it became apparent the state budget would not decrease from COVID. In June 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom approved \$5 million in program funds for three years through to June 30, 2024, with programming through to June 30, 2026.

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 the press office at press@library.ca.gov. Questions about the Civil Liberties program for potential applicants can be directed to civil.liberties@library.ca.gov. The State Library website is at 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 art, books, diaries, maps, newspapers, periodicals, photographs, and posters from throughout California’s rich history. The State Library is also California state government’s information hub and 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](#)