



California Civil Liberties Grant Funds Available: Applications Due April 14th

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 the availability of \$1 million in 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.

“At the start of World War II, the United States government incarcerated thousands of its citizens and legal residents based on their ancestry,” said State Librarian Greg Lucas about President Franklin Roosevelt’s [Executive Order 9066](#), “the best way to prevent repeating those flagrant civil liberty violations is making sure we remember our past mistakes.”

Created in 1998, the California Civil Liberties Program supports projects that educate the public about civil liberties injustices carried out against various communities and individuals, with the violations against Japanese Americans during the war. Projects may provide information about any civil liberties injustices perpetrated based on an individual’s race, national origin, immigration status, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, including the forced internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

The guidelines, application links and other 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. An [informational webinar](#) is scheduled for February 2, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time.

Application deadline is April 14, 2023. A list of educational projects funded from the California Civil Liberties Program since 2016 is on the program’s website at www.library.ca.gov/grants/civil-liberties/.

“Fear and bigotry were the root of internment in World War II. Both are still around,” said Lucas. “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. The program centers on the violations of civil liberties from President Franklin Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942. More than 120,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated at that time simply because of their ancestry and heritage.

Congress re-examined the issue in the early 1980s and conducted a nationwide public investigation. The subsequent results were a federal law requiring a public apology for internment, the awarding of individual restitution to those incarcerated, and the one-time funding of a public-education program. California continued these public education efforts through the California Civil Liberties Program.

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 400 projects. These include the creation and broadcast of video 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 reach the press office at press@library.ca.gov. Questions about the Civil Liberties program from potential applicants can be directed to civil.liberties@library.ca.gov. The Civil Liberties program may be found under the “grants” tab of the California State Library’s website, <https://www.library.ca.gov/>.

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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](#)

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