

Vision, Action, and Multiplier Grants LOI Form [#737]

Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>

Fri 5/15/2020 6:17 AM

To: Mark Hallett <Mark.Hallett@ilhumanities.org>; Zerline Thompson <zerline.thompson@ilhumanities.org>; Jenn Yoo <jennifer.yoo@ilhumanities.org>

Grants Category (choose one): *	Action
Request Amount: *	\$4,000.00
Do you wish to be considered for this additional grant? *	No
Will you be using a Fiscal Agent for this project? *	No
Organization Name: *	Lawrence County, Illinois, Historical Society
Address: *	<input type="checkbox"/> 619 12th Street P.O. Box 425 Lawrenceville, IL 62439 United States
Year Founded (yyyy): *	1961
# Full-Time Employees: *	0
# Part-Time Employees: *	0
Revenue Budget current year: *	\$25,000.00
Expenses Budget current year: *	\$20,000.00
Revenue Prior year actual: *	\$30,912.65
Expenses Prior year actual: *	\$40,504.00
Top 5 funders for the past year, with amount and what support was 'for': (If your organization has received funding from fewer than five donors/grantors in the past year, please just list those from whom you have received funding.) *	Ladner Foundation – \$10,000 – New Roof & 2d Floor Repairs Lawrence County Farm Bureau – \$1,000 – Sponsor Agriculture Exhibit Dr. Clair Cox – \$500 – New Roof Pam Nolan – \$500 – New Roof Alan J. Denison – \$500 – General Support

Does your organization have a Cultural Data Project profile? * No

Does your organization have a formal Strategic Plan? * No

Does your organization have an active Accessibility Plan (ie a plan for engaging with people with disabilities)? * No

Your organization's Mission: * The mission of the Lawrence County, Illinois, Historical Society is to promote and to tell local history.

In 200 words or less, describe your organization as it relates to the following:

- Your organization's history**
- In what ways are your mission and programming related to the humanities**
- Any significant collaborations with other organizations**
- Your organization today and where you hope your organization will be in 3–5 years ***

The Lawrence County, Illinois, Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) community-based membership organization with a growing membership of approximately 150 people. The LCHS owns and operates two buildings in Lawrenceville—a museum and a library.

Our website has 37,600 viewers and our blog has over 600,000 hits. Further outreach to our community, located in rural Southeastern Illinois, is through museum exhibits, online video presentations, newspaper articles, the holdings of our Research Library, and monthly speaker meetings. Our audience is also diverse—school children through senior citizens, with our work reaching far beyond our local area.

The LCHS has won numerous awards from the Illinois State Historical Society. In 2016, the LCHS, working with Illinois Humanities, hosted a Smithsonian Museum on Mainstreet Exhibit—"Waterways". We successfully reached over 3,000 visitors through multi-media exhibits and local presentations. In 2018, the LCHS, with partial funding by Illinois Humanities, wrote the book "A Documentary Record of the First Woman Hanged in Illinois" and the original script "The Hanging—The Saga of Betsey Reed". The play was staged by the Lawrence County Arts Council before record audiences.

We hope to strengthen and expand our many activities over the next few years.

Are the project director and organization director the same person? * No

Organization Director Name: * James M. Neal

Organization Director Position/Title: * President

Organization Director Email: * jmnlaw@frontier.com

Project Director Name: * John M. King

Project Director Position/Title: * Treasurer

Project Director Email: * john.m.king1947@gmail.com

Project Director Phone Number: * (618) 240-2020

Phone Type: *

Mobile

Project Name: *

An Eagle on His Button: The Story of the African-American Civil War Soldiers from Lawrence County, Illinois

Project Abstract:

Please write a paragraph that includes a basic description of the project, what you hope to accomplish, and what you hope to learn from it. If the grant is approved, this may be used in public-facing communications, such as website, press release, etc. (maximum length: 100 words) *

Free African-Americans have been part of Lawrence County, Illinois, for over 200 years. Discovering that nearly 35 local African-American residents had served in the Civil War was a complete surprise to us several years ago—none of their enlistments were credited either to our county or state, rather to Indianapolis Indiana. Many reasons motivated these men to enlist and then fight to save our nation, to end slavery, and to make things better back home. Several local African-American soldiers were either killed-in-action or wounded during the infamous Battle of the Crater, near Petersburg Virginia, on July 30, 1864.

In 500 words or less, describe the proposed project, audience, evaluation, and budget as stated above.

Also include how this public humanities project will teach you about engagement.

- How will this project further your mission?*
- In what way does this project represent an effort to engage with new audiences or harness digital tools?*
- If this is a media or story telling project, how will it be used to spur public engagement?*
- How do you intend to provide interactive and engaging programming? What do you hope to learn from this initiative? **

“An Eagle on His Button: The Story of the African-American Civil War Soldiers from Lawrence County, Illinois” will be a multi-media presentation by an African-American Civil War reenactor. Featured will be a video about the story of African-American Civil War soldiers from Lawrence County. The hope of freedom and equality that brought free African-Americans to our county in the early 1800s was soon countered by such realities as the fear of being kidnapped and sold South as slaves; the animosities triggered by racial discrimination; the contempt towards Illinois laws that denied free African-American residents the right to vote, the ability to testify in court, and the right to serve on juries; and the injustice of having to pay property taxes for schools that their children could not attend. Such events, as the auctioning of William Brown on the Courthouse steps in 1855 for not being able to prove his free status in Illinois and the vicious murder of Mathias Anderson by Copperheads in 1862, help explain the rush of African-American men from Lawrence County to enlist in the Union army, once serving became legal for African-Americans, starting in 1863. Actual words taken from primary sources such as Civil War Pension Files and letters, will be coupled with old photos and interviews. One interview segment will feature a descendent of Oliver Russell pointing to his picture on her living room wall.

This project aligns with many areas of consideration: recognizing and highlighting the resilience and contributions of local African-American Civil War soldiers; acknowledging the impact of slavery and the Illinois Black Laws on the free African-American settlers of Lawrence County; and educating the public to ensure that the story of local African-American Civil War soldiers is understood, providing both a lasting legacy and long-term public benefit. The relentless courage and bravery among the African-Americans who fought in the Civil War, continues to inspire each succeeding generation, providing the willingness to help defend this great land of the free, regardless of racial identity. That some of these soldiers were actually from Lawrence County, Illinois, has really gained our attention. From 1863 to the present, African-Americans from Lawrence County continue providing military service to our nation.

The timeline for this project will be:

- Further Research, Finding More Primary Documents, Writing the Video Script: June–September 2020
- Producing the Video and Refining the Script: October 2020 – March 2021

- Preparing the Teacher Packets and the Script for the Presenter: April 2021
- First Presentation to a School Group: May 2021
- Further Presentations to School and Community Groups: May–December 2021
- Posting the Video on the LCHS website and YouTube Channel: January 2022

More funding, in addition to potential funds from this grant application and our matching “in-kind” support, is necessary and is being sought. The success of this project will be judged by the response and feedback of local students and county residents and by the number of invitations to give this multi-media presentation.

Community Grants Full Proposal Application Form [#226]

Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>

Wed 6/24/2020 8:24 AM

To: Mark Hallett <Mark.Hallett@ilhumanities.org>; Zerline Thompson <zerline.thompson@ilhumanities.org>; Jenn Yoo <jennifer.yoo@ilhumanities.org>

Organization Name: (primary grant applicant only) *	Lawrence County, Illinois, Historical Society
Project Name: *	An Eagle on His Button: The Story of the African-American Civil War Soldiers from Lawrence County, Illinois
Contact Name: *	John M. King
Contact Email: *	john.m.king1947@gmail.com
Organization Director *	James M. Neal
Please upload a list of your organization's current Board Members, with name, organizational affiliation and title in that organization. *	<input type="checkbox"/> officers_directors_of_lchs.docx 12.30 KB · DOCX
Please upload a completed W-9 form on behalf of the Fiscal Agent, Applying Organization, or Applying Individual. *	<input type="checkbox"/> form_w9.docx 4.59 MB · DOCX
Upload your organizational logo. Should the project receive funding, Illinois Humanities would use this in communications.	<input type="checkbox"/> logo.docx 44.66 KB · DOCX
Upload any photos that represent the organization or the program for which they are seeking funding. Should the project receive funding, Illinois Humanities would use this in communications.	<input type="checkbox"/> pictures.docx 2.24 MB · DOCX

In 1,000 words or less, describe your organization and the proposed project: *

The Lawrence County, Illinois, Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) community-based membership organization formed in 1961 with a growing membership of approximately 150 people. The LCHS owns and operates two buildings in Lawrenceville—a History Center with 2,000 square feet of exhibit area and a Research Library in a 2,500 square foot building containing both primary and secondary research material. Our mission is to promote and to tell the history of our rural county located in Southeastern Illinois.

The LCHS continues to demonstrate our skills and abilities to tell the history of Lawrence County, Illinois. Our website has 37,600 viewers and our blog has over 600,000 hits. Further outreach to our community is through museum exhibits, online video presentations, the holdings of our Research Library, newspaper articles, and monthly speaker meetings. Our audience is also diverse—school children through senior citizens, with our work reaching far beyond our local area. Although this project is targeted to students in Grade levels 6–12 in the two school districts of Lawrence County, many adult community groups, both in Lawrence and surrounding counties, will benefit, as well. Our online presence provides outreach everywhere.

The LCHS has won numerous awards from the Illinois State Historical Society. In 2016, the LCHS hosted a Smithsonian Museum on Mainstreet Exhibit—“Waterways”. We successfully reached over 3,000 visitors through multi-media exhibits and local presentations. Well-completed projects, such as the one that we are proposing, are what will sustain and grow our Society.

The hope of making things better is what motivated local African-American men to enlist and fight in the Civil War. That hope of making things better still continues and is only made stronger by continuing to tell the unique history of local African-Americans. Our community benefits when better understanding is achieved about our early African-American settlers and their struggle for equality and better conditions.

The title of our proposed project derives from the famous quotation

Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder, and bullets in his pocket, and there is no power on the earth or under the earth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship.
Frederick Douglass, April 6, 1863

LCHS volunteers are eager to begin and finish this project that will not only honor the local African-American soldiers who served in the Civil War, but to better understand the conditions that motivated them to enlist and then fight to save our nation, to end slavery, and to make things better. Some of our earliest settlers were free African-Americans, coming here starting in the late 1790s. Telling their 200-year history in Lawrence County has been an important part of our work.

Discovering that nearly 35 local African-American soldiers, residents and former residents, had served in the Civil War was a complete surprise to us several years ago—none of the enlistments from our county were credited to our county. Their patriotic service from Lawrence County was unknown because enlistment records falsely indicated that these men were residents of Indianapolis, Indiana. Parts of our proposed multi-media presentation will focus on several local African-American soldiers who were either killed-in-action or wounded during the infamous Battle of the Crater, near Petersburg VA, on July 30, 1864.

“An Eagle on His Button: The Story of the African-American Civil War Soldiers from Lawrence County, Illinois” will be a multi-media presentation by an African-American Civil War reenactor. Featured will be a video about the story of African-American Civil War soldiers from Lawrence County. The hope of freedom and equality that brought free African-Americans to our county in the early 1800s was soon countered by such realities as the fear of being kidnapped and sold South as a slave; the animosities triggered by racial discrimination; the contempt towards Illinois laws that denied free African-American residents the right to vote, the ability to testify in court, and the right to serve on juries; and the injustice of having to pay property taxes for schools that their children could not attend. Such events, as the auctioning of William Brown on our Courthouse steps in 1855 for not being able to prove his free status in Illinois and the vicious murder of Mathias Anderson by Copperheads in 1862, help explain the willingness of African-American men from

Lawrence County to enlist in the Union army, once serving became legal for African-Americans, starting in 1863. Actual words taken from primary sources such as Civil War Pension Files and letters, will be coupled with old photos and interviews. One interview segment will feature a descendent of Oliver Russell pointing to his picture on her living room wall.

We are proud to have Anna-Lisa Cox as our consultant and outside evaluator during this project. She cited some of our work in her 2018 book "The Bone and Sinew of the Land, America's Forgotten Black Pioneers & The Struggle for Equality". Anna-Lisa Cox has visited Lawrence County several times and has spoken to our Society about the national significance in the antebellum United States of early African-American settlers both here and throughout the Wabash River Valley region of Illinois and Indiana.

The timeline for this project has been revised since our first letter of inquiry in May:

- Further Research, Finding More Primary Documents, Writing the Video Script: September-December 2020
- Producing the Video and Refining the Script: January - June 2021
- Preparing the Teacher Packets and the Script for the Presenter: June 2021
- Presentations to School and Community Groups: September 2021 - May 2022
- Posting the Video on the LCHS website and YouTube Channel: June 2022

More funding, in addition to potential funds from this grant application and our matching "in-kind" support, is necessary and is being sought. The success of this project will be judged by the response and feedback of local students and county residents and by the number of invitations to give this multi-media presentation.

Salaries: *	\$0.00
Honoraria: *	\$0.00
Travel & Per Diem: *	\$0.00
Promotion: *	\$0.00
Program Materials: *	\$0.00
Supplies, Postage, Telephone, etc: *	\$0.00
Equipment: *	\$0.00
Facilities: *	\$0.00
Additional Accessibility Grant: *	\$0.00
Other: *	\$4,000.00
Total Illinois Humanities Requested Grant Funds Amount: *	\$4,000.00

Total Local Cost–Share Amount: *

\$6,000.00

All Illinois Humanities grants must be matched with at least an equal amount of Cost Share, which can be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions from non-federal sources. Cash Cost Share is any monetary donation to the project, usually from "outside" or third-party sources (such as another grant) and in-kind Cost Share is any other contribution, including but not limited to un-reimbursed travel, volunteer time, facilities use, and staff salaries not paid by the grant.

Illinois Humanities Requested Grant Funds:
Video Production -- \$4,000

Local Cost–Share:

Volunteer Labor, Unpaid – greater than \$3,000
Volunteer Expenses, Unreimbursed – greater than \$1,000
Civil War Reenactor Uniform & Accessories – approximately \$1,000
Expenses, Anna–Lisa Cox – approximately \$1,000

Please explain how your organization will match the Illinois Humanities grant in this way. *

Total Project Budget Amount: *

\$10,000.00

Project Personnel List *

[project_personnel.docx](#)

14.21 KB · DOCX

Project Events List *

[project_events_list.docx](#)

12.22 KB · DOCX

Please select up to THREE key event formats that will be used in this project.

We recognize that the event formats indicated here might not align exactly with what you're planning. In such cases, please select the closest approximation(s). *

- Digital Projects (Web, Social Media Projects)
- Local History Project (Cultural Heritage, Walking Tours, Cultural Trips, Research, Local Oral History)
- Performances and Presentations (Living History, Chautauqua, Speakers Bureau)

Please select up to THREE key audience categories targeted by this project. *

- African–Americans
- General Audience
- Students/Youth K–12

Please select up to THREE key discipline categories targeted by this project.

We recognize that the disciplines indicated here might not align exactly with what you're planning. In such cases, please select the closest approximation(s). *

- African American Studies
- History

Date

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

