



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

DIVISION OF PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

Narrative Section of a Successful Application

The attached document contains the grant narrative of a previously funded grant application. It is not intended to serve as a model, but to give you a sense of how a successful application may be crafted. Every successful application is different, and each applicant is urged to prepare a proposal that reflects its unique project and aspirations. Prospective applicants should consult the NEH Division of Preservation and Access application guidelines at <http://www.neh.gov/divisions/preservation> for instructions. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to consult with the NEH Division of Preservation and Access staff well before a grant deadline.

Note: The attachment only contains the grant narrative, not the entire funded application. In addition, certain portions may have been redacted to protect the privacy interests of an individual and/or to protect confidential commercial and financial information and/or to protect copyrighted materials.

Project Title: UCO Fashion Museum Collection: Assessment and Preservation Training

Institution: University of Central Oklahoma

Project Director: Mary Huffman

Grant Program: Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

UCO Fashion Museum Collection: Assessment and Preservation Training

A. What activity (or activities) would the grant support?

The University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) is requesting \$6,000 for a *general preservation assessment* of the UCO Fashion Museum Collection on campus, as well as for *education and training* of preservation techniques by a textile conservator. Ms. Anne Murray, with Murray Conservation Services, will be contracted to: 1) perform a collections survey; 2) serve as a mentor for an *advanced student or recent graduate*; 3) develop detailed plans for improving storage; 4) assess the conservation treatment of selected items in the collection; and 5) provide a one day workshop on preservation techniques. This workshop will be open to faculty, staff, students, and local museum employees or volunteers.

B. What are the content and size of the humanities collections that are the focus of the project?

The UCO collection is the **only** collection of designer clothing available in the state on a college campus. The collection is currently housed within two storage rooms measuring approximately 460 square feet in the Human Environmental Sciences (HES) building on campus. The clothing and accessories were collected by prominent women in Oklahoma from the 1950s through the 1980s.

Describe the collections that are the focus of the project, emphasizing their significance to the humanities.

The UCO collection contains clothing artifacts from several decades which are representative of the social, historical, and economic conditions of each era. Women's fashion was affected greatly by social customs, world wars, fashion trends, economics, and practicality. This collection reflects all these changes and provides an opportunity for research in the historical and social heritage of our culture.

Categories of materials and the date ranges, quantities, and intellectual content.

The Collection consists over 800 items of designer clothing and representative era clothing of each decade dating from the 1880s to the 1970s. In addition to clothing, there are also many accessories from these time periods including over 300 hats, 150+ pairs of shoes, 50+ purses, some jewelry, scarves and gloves. Below is a table which shows the percentage of clothing for each decade.

Decade	% of Collection	Decade	% of Collection
1880-1900	1%	1950s	25%
1900-1920s	6%	1960s	27%
1930s	4%	1970s	19%
1940s	18%		

Specific examples and their significance to the humanities

UCO Collection: There is a small special collection of 22 garments which were left on campus by students over the years and which the university donated to the collection. These date from approximately 1910 to 1970 and are representative of the clothing worn during those times. Some of the costumes are unique and some are in the school colors. This collection includes dresses, capes, coats, suits, formal dresses and outfits.

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1920s Outfits: There are several flapper dresses and headbands in the collection, all of which are in need of preservation. Having these on campus for study and research is important. One of the flapper/evening gowns was worn by the wife of an oilman in Oklahoma during that time period.

Designer Costumes: A large percentage of the costumes were made by famous designers. These are important to have available at UCO for studying fashion in different classes.

Oklahoma Donors: Having a collection of clothing from prominent women in Oklahoma provides an opportunity for research on the community and the people who lived during the time period represented. The following are just a few examples of the donors to the collection.

- Haywood Vaughan was the head costumer of the Ardmore Theater Group, and he was an authority on vintage clothes. He donated many items to the collection which were unique, including an 1880s velvet tuxedo style jacket with a matching cape.
- Shirley Bellmon was a former Oklahoma First Lady. She designed and wore a long pink and white evening gown with a matching coat which she donated to the collection.
- Ellen Evans Burns contributed clothing to the collection and was active in the arts and music in Oklahoma, and was the author of several plays, including “Finer’n Fiddle Dust,” which was based on the early days of Oklahoma after the opening of the Cherokee Strip.
- Aileen Frank was a well-known Oklahoma City art patron. She donated her mother’s 1902 wedding dress and shoes, along with the nightgowns worn by her parents as newlyweds.

If the project focuses only on a portion of an institution’s collections, briefly describe the overall collections and then provide a detailed account of the portion on which the project focuses.

The project will include a collections survey and preservation plan for the entire collection. Select objects dating from the 1880s through the 1920s will be assessed for conservation treatment by the textile conservator.

C. How are these humanities collections used?

Currently, the collection is primarily used for research and instruction. In the past some of the items have been used in fashion shows as fund raising events to raise scholarship funds for students.

- Research: The Project Director (PD) has been working extensively with the collection since October 2014 and is compiling research on the clothing donors, and on the designers. She is also documenting each item of clothing in order to make the collection available online in the future for online classes, researchers, and the general public to access. This activity is providing a valuable background of Oklahoma businesses, clothing trends during each decade, popular designers, and construction techniques.
- Instruction: a) The co-PD uses the collection in her museum studies classes to teach preservation techniques to her students; 2) the Fashion Marketing department uses the collection in several of their classes, including the History of Fashion Class; and 3) the Fashion Photography class uses the collection to teach photographic techniques.

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In the future, once the collection is more stabilized and documented, there are many other ways it might be used for educational activities, exhibitions, etc. For example, since the collection spans from the late 1800s through the 1970s many displays could be set up spanning the decades. These displays would be open to the public, advertised, and also used for students and scholars.

As mentioned previously, this is the only collection of designer clothing on a college campus in Oklahoma. It is anticipated that some of the items in the collection will be loaned to other museums for study, display, and research. Also, since the donors were all prominent women in Oklahoma, the collection provides a glimpse into the fashion culture in each decade which could be further researched. UCO is committed to making the collection accessible for education, research, and public programming in the humanities.

Part of UCO's Mission statement is that it "contributes to the intellectual, cultural, economic and social advancement of the communities and individuals it serves." Below is how the collection contributes to this mission:

Intellectual advancement – The collection represents a wide and diverse collection of famous designer clothing. Students have the opportunity to research individual designers, various silhouettes and construction techniques, as well as textiles and embellishments used throughout the history of design. These artifacts can be used for display, to learn about preservation techniques, fashion photography, styles of fashion through the ages, and other studies.

Cultural advancement – The collection also represents a wide range of clothing examples from the late 1800s through the 1970s. The historic nature of the collection lends itself to studying the fashion culture of past decades in a variety of classes.

Economic advancement – Items in the collection are representative of the economic history of our culture and how this history affected the fashions throughout the decades represented. Students and faculty in various disciplines have access to a unique collection of clothing representative of high-end fashion from the 19th to the late 20th centuries.

Social advancement – The collection lends itself to a social history lesson of historical norms of dressing, and a visual representation of what was important in society through the history of fashion. Having the collection available for study brings history to life.

Transformative learning experiences – The collection represents a time capsule ready to be opened in the imaginations of our students, staff, faculty, and the community. By working with the collection, studying its contents, and/or seeing items on display, students and other viewers of the collection can be transported into a past reality and learn to apply it to the present making connections between what they read, learn about, and see in popular culture.

D. What is the nature and mission of your institution?

Institution: Founded in 1890, UCO was the first public institution of higher learning in Oklahoma Territory and continues to cultivate creativity and innovation. UCO offers 116 undergraduate and 70 graduate majors to its more than 17,000 students. Students at UCO develop professional relationships with more than 450 full time and 500 adjunct faculty and staff throughout its six colleges. UCO is accredited by the Higher Learning Commissions of the North

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Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The campus is open year round except for holidays and designated breaks.

Mission: The University of Central Oklahoma exists to help students learn by providing transformative education experiences to students so that they may become productive, creative, ethical and engaged citizens and leaders serving our global community. UCO contributes to the intellectual, cultural, economic and social advancement of the communities and individuals it serves.

HES Department: The Collection is owned by UCO and is managed by the HES department. The HES department has 5 programs: 1) BS in Family Life Education; 2) BS in Fashion Marketing; 3) BS in Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food Management, 4) MS in Family and Child Studies, and 5) MS in Nutrition and Food Science. Last fiscal year the *operating budget* for the HES department was \$26,419 split among the five programs. Two tenured faculty members in the Fashion Marketing program oversee the collection. Their combined salaries, including benefits, was \$180,650 last year.

In addition to these faculty, 2 full time staff members (the PD and co-PD) in other departments work with the collection, and provide access to it when needed. The PD is in the College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS), and the co-PD is in the College of Liberal Arts, History and Museum Studies Department.

E. Has your institution ever had a preservation or conservation assessment or consultation? No

Has your institution ever engaged a preservation consultant for the purposes other than a general preservation or conservation assessment? No

F. What is the importance of this project to your institution?

This project will provide UCO with the expertise of a textile conservator to determine the preservation needs of the collection for future planning. Discussions are currently being held on campus regarding designating more space for the collection in the future, so the consultant report will provide a valuable planning resource tool. Also, the preservation workshop will provide necessary training to staff, faculty, and students on proper preservation techniques of the items in the collection.

The collection is currently stored in 2 rooms with central heat and air, and a new window air conditioning unit. A hygrothermograph is used to monitor the temperature and humidity. The textile conservator report will assess the storage environment and make recommendations for improvement. The findings of the report will be given to: 1) the HES Chair and the two faculty members responsible for the collection; 2) the Dean of the CEPS; and 3) the Provost. UCO is committed to preserve this collection and to make it more readily available for research, display and educational instructions in the future.

What are the names and qualifications of the consultant(s) and staff involved in the project?

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Ms. Anne Murray will serve as the consultant on this project and will prepare the general preservation assessment as well as provide a 1 day preservation workshop. She has been a textile conservator since 2008. She has extensive experience in a variety of museums throughout the U.S. Last year she served as a textile conservator on another NEH preservation grant which was awarded to the Edmond Historical Society. A letter of commitment as well as a resume for Ms. Anne Murray are included in the attachments.

Ms. Mary Huffman has been working with the collection since October 2014 and has been instrumental in inventorying, documenting, and researching the collection. She has a Master’s in Library Science with extensive experience in cataloging, collection management and development, and research. Her archival library experience includes cataloging original materials in the archives collection at UCO. She also was the Project Manager for the Oklahoma Newspaper Project which was funded by the NEH. She will be responsible for coordinating all activities, maintaining the budget, filing reports, and working with student teams.

Ms. Heidi Vaughn has a M.A in History/Museum Studies, and a B.A. in Anthropology. She is the director of the Laboratory of History Museum at UCO and an instructor in the History-Museum Studies program. She will bring the preservation expertise to the team and provide instruction and guidance to students who will be working with the collection. She will be responsible for training those working with the collection on the proper techniques to handle, store, and preserve items in the collection.

G. What is the plan of work for the project?

Following is the proposed schedule of work for the preservation assessment and workshop.

2017 Timeline of Activities	
Textile Conservator Responsibilities	
February - March	Conduct the onsite preservation assessment (2 days, dates TBD)
April - June	Prepare for the workshop (2 days) and hold a preservation workshop on-site at UCO (1 day, date TBD)
June-September	Prepare final report and submit to PD for review and approval
Project Director Responsibilities	
January	Receive funding and notify all parties involved, schedule classrooms for the on-site visits
February-March	Order supplies for the workshop, coordinate site visit and assist the consultant
April-June	Attend workshop and assist as needed
October-November	Prepare final report and submit to NEH; submit final report to the department Chair, faculty member, CEPS Dean, and the Provost
co-Project Director Responsibilities	
January	Recruit student or program graduate to work with the consultant
February	Coordinate workshop activities and publicity, including recruiting attendees from UCO and neighboring museums
March	Assist consultant in the workshop
April-June	Report to PD on student or graduate activities and outcomes