

# NEH Application Cover Sheet (GG-269696)

## Humanities Discussions

### PROJECT DIRECTOR

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**Field of expertise:** Philosophy, General

### INSTITUTION

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Video Veracity, Inc.  
New Orleans, LA 70117-6741

### APPLICATION INFORMATION

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**Title:** *Free For All: Public Library Discussions Initiative*

**Grant period:** From 2020-06-01 to 2022-05-31  
**Project field(s):** Public History; U.S. History; Architecture

**Description of project:** The Free For All: Public Library Discussions Initiative, led by Video Veracity and Serendipity Films in partnership with the American Library Association, other library groups, and the Kitchen Sisters podcasters, will spark face-to-face public engagement around the humanities themes in the NEH-funded documentary Free For All, which explores the history, culture, and significance of the American public library and the free library movement that created it. Set to launch July 4th weekend, the program celebrates the upcoming 250th anniversary of our democracy and encourages civic education through scholar-led discussions and “Story Hours” in regional libraries across the nation, inviting the public to reflect on our national values of democracy, community, literacy, and plurality. Working closely with our partners, we will extend learning through in-person and digital experiences for discussion participants and through the creation of a robust multimedia Toolkit.

### BUDGET

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<b>Outright Request</b>	310,000.00	<b>Cost Sharing</b>	401,988.00
<b>Matching Request</b>	0.00	<b>Total Budget</b>	711,988.00
<b>Total NEH</b>	310,000.00		

### GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

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## APPLICATION NARRATIVE

### A. Nature of the Request

Video Veracity and Serendipity Films, in partnership with the American Library Association (ALA), the Urban Libraries Council (ULC), the Association of Rural and Small Libraries, and the award-winning audio producers The Kitchen Sisters, request a Humanities Discussions award of \$310,000 to implement the **Free For All: Public Library Discussions Initiative**: a two-year, two-phase program addressing the NEH Special Initiative “A More Perfect Union: Advancing Civic Education and Celebrating the Nation’s 250th Anniversary.” The proposed program consists of free public documentary film screenings, scholar-led panel discussions, public relations efforts, and community engagement activities focusing on the history and significance of the public library and the free library movement that created it. With NEH Community Conversations awardee Sam Ball of Citizen Film/*American Creed* at the helm, the program extends and expands on the humanities themes explored in the NEH-funded feature documentary film *Free For All: Inside the Public Library*, bringing them to urban, suburban, and rural libraries throughout the nation around the film’s PBS broadcast. This request includes funding for a two-year, full-time position for a Public Engagement Associate to help facilitate engagement events; gather and synthesize data to evaluate the initiative’s effectiveness; and help create a versatile and evergreen Library Engagement Toolkit. The ALA and the ULC will provide necessary facilitation training and marketing support.

The *Free For All* film tells the inspiring story of Americans coming together across diverse cultural identities and beliefs to fortify our democracy and expand access to opportunity for all. The initiative will engage Americans in open conversations about the public library’s history and value at a moment when its fate is at a crossroads, with more than 50 percent of sites across the nation facing cuts, closure, or severe reductions in hours over the past decade. This is the ideal time to spark a national dialogue about libraries, and to ask what the future holds for these beloved but embattled institutions. By inviting audiences to join in face-to-face, expert-mediated interactions in the library’s familiar commons, our overarching goal is to engage participants with shared American values, including the importance of community and the free and open exchange of ideas.

The initiative, which kicks off on Independence Day weekend in Boston, Benjamin Franklin’s hometown, also provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate and reflect on American democracy through the story of the library, one of our grandest national achievements. When the first Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in 1774, the delegates were profoundly influenced by Benjamin Franklin’s Library Company, the precursor to the American public library. Our film and discussion initiative prominently feature scholarship and conversation about Franklin and his pivotal role as a champion of the public library; we’ll also host events at the library he founded in Franklin, MA.

Before reviewing this proposal, we invite you to watch our [3-minute film trailer](#) and the most recent cut of the [complete \*Free For All\* film](#) (pw: FFANEH5), and to look through our [illustrated summary](#) of the film and our larger outreach/engagement strategy.

The main program consists of 16 film screenings and scholar-led panel discussions across the nation that explore these humanities themes: the library as the embodiment of democracy in action; as fertile ground for civic education; as a vehicle for social mobility and the pursuit of happiness; as a conduit to the stories that connect us; as a safe, physical commons in an increasingly virtual world, and as an institution historically driven by women. We will also offer libraries a selection of special engagement activities that invite diverse groups of patrons to reflect on these themes. To maximize impact, in our second year we will create six episodes of a story-driven podcast and a robust, data-driven Library Engagement Toolkit of resources and trainings for distribution to libraries across the nation.

### B. Humanities Content

The American public library is an epicenter for the humanities, a place to both access and generate

scholarship and stories across all the human disciplines. Scholars use materials within the public library to create their work, and the library in turn curates it and offers it to the public. Moreover, the library brings humanity *itself* together – to read, to learn, to debate ideas, and to reflect on and strengthen our core civic values. The *Free For All* documentary draws on this wealth of knowledge, including the work of humanities advisors who are leading scholars in the disciplines of civics, American history, American studies, library studies, history of the book, urban studies, immigration studies, and women's studies, as well as architecture, sociology, and political science. The **Free For All: Public Library Discussions Initiative** extends this learning further by offering face-to-face opportunities for scholars to engage the public in advance of the nation's 250th anniversary and the film's other themes in greater depth, and for the public to connect, with the guidance of trusted experts, to local history and concerns.

Over the twelve months of Phase One of the initiative, the project team will visit libraries in four distinct U.S. regions, bringing a multifaceted program that centers on a *Free For All* screening followed by a scholar-led panel discussion. Each 30-minute panel will include three to four participants, including a facilitating humanities scholar, a member of the film team, a facilitating librarian, and a local author or other celebrated figure whose work connects to the library. With the facilitating scholars serving as moderators, each panel will discuss three primary humanities themes:

The library as symbol and practice of democracy in action in advance of the nation's 250th anniversary.

*"There is not such a cradle of democracy on earth as the Free Public Library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration."* – Andrew Carnegie

Scholars Wayne Wiegand and Abigail Van Slyck argue that the library provides much more than what Benjamin Franklin called "useful knowledge." Echoing Franklin, they emphasize the library as a foundational institution offering a practicum in democratic values, fostering discourse and reinforcing social cohesion. Panels will discuss how this civic interchange has evolved over time, overcoming challenges of discrimination and unequal access, and how it works on a daily basis at the local level. Encouraging audiences to reflect on their own experiences, formulate questions, and engage with each other, the panels will foster understanding of the library's essential role in the process Van Slyck calls "the messy and vital character of democratic participation." *Example: scholar Wayne Wiegand, author of The Desegregation of Public Libraries in the Jim Crow South: Civil Rights and Local Activism, leads a panel discussion in the Main Branch of the East Baton Rouge Public Library that reference his book and a scene in Free For All about how civil rights sit-ins led to library desegregation in the South.*

The public library as fertile ground for civic education across divergent viewpoints. In establishing the Library Company of Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin argued that libraries "improv'd the general Conversation of the Americans." Franklin envisioned the library not only as a fount of knowledge but also as a space for the convivial and fruitful exchange of ideas among equals. As we learn in the *Free For All* film, Franklin's famous Library Company of Philadelphia began as a private group of friends who pooled money to buy books, drink wine, and talk about ideas together. The group later became the de facto Library of Congress, and our founders pulled from its many books of philosophy and political theory to form the ideals of a new nation. Our panels discuss Franklin's words as well as Harvard Professor of Public Policy Robert Putnam's seminal work on "social capital" – the value of social networks in bonding and bridging diverse ideas. Putnam's 2003 book *Better Together* presents the Chicago Public Library as a case study of a newly emerging commons where people cross boundaries of age, race, class, and education to exchange ideas and resolve differences. In the local library, Putnam sees a model for community building and an antidote to civic apathy. *Example: At the Kansas City Public Library, library director and scholar Crosby Kemper will lead a panel discussion to build on ideas generated during earlier community conversations about the local housing crisis, which brought city leaders, tenant advocates, urban planners, developers and scholars together for passionate but civil debate in the library.*

The public library as vehicle for social mobility and the pursuit of happiness. The *Free For All* documentary includes clips from classic films like *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* that depict the popular archetype of the self-educated American who accesses a better life through the library. Our panels will discuss the veracity and mythology of this stereotype as it relates to the early library founders' mission to educate and Americanize the masses of foreign-born workers who were flooding eastern cities in the late 19th century. Panels will also discuss the often hidden but important role that immigrants have played in transforming public library values and policies. Research shows that newcomers continue to make first steps toward belonging by getting a library card, and use the library in far higher numbers than native-born Americans. *Example: scholar Judy Yung, a former librarian of the San Francisco's Chinatown branch, leads a panel discussion at the SFPL Main Library about the important ways the Chinese American community uses the library. The discussion draws on a scene in Free For All and from her book Unbound Voices: A Documentary History of Chinese Women in San Francisco.*

In addition to the main themes above, each panel will also select an additional secondary theme to discuss from the following choices, depending on the specific history and concerns of each library:

Envisioning the library's future. Across the board, libraries are facing soaring challenges and costs, and many are debating drastic options like privatization, charging fees, widespread branch closures, or severe reductions in hours. And yet, despite cuts to service and hours, more Americans are using their libraries than ever before to tackle unemployment, change careers, adjust to their new country, and gain access to traditional learning and digital technology. Panels choosing this topic will overview current solutions under discussion by library leaders, scholars, and philanthropists to address the crises. *Example: At the Boston Public Library, scholar and incoming MacArthur Foundation president John Palfrey will discuss his book BiblioTech: Why Libraries Matter More Than Ever in the Age of Google and the panel will reflect on the future of the library in the digital age.*

The public library as a safe haven for the vulnerable. This theme explores the library's role as a safe public space that welcomes everyone, the history of universal access, and the challenges it can create. Urban library panels may select this topic because they are balancing the accommodation of homeless or mentally ill patrons, for example. This theme also explores how libraries provide life-saving aid during natural disasters and how library buildings and their after-hours parking lots are often the only source of free internet in underserved, rural, or impoverished communities. *Example: In a Long Beach, CA Public Library discussion, scholar Gray Brechin puts the issue of homelessness in the library into historical perspective by talking about how the unemployed and homeless used the library during the Depression.*

The public library as an in-real-life common space in an increasingly virtual world. Many of the participating libraries are in buildings with fascinating histories, whether they are grand urban halls or one-room rural branches. In all libraries, people come to seek and share knowledge in a physical commons, an experience that has become unusual in American life. This theme will celebrate the physical space of the library and will include a librarian-led tour of significant architectural features of the branch. *Example: public sociologist Eric Klinenberg will lead a discussion in the magnificent Milwaukee Central Public Library on the theme of library as common space, referencing Free For All scenes and his book Palace for the People. After the Q&A, the Milwaukee librarian will lead a 15-minute historical tour.*

The public library as an institution historically built and shaped by women. The *Free For All* documentary chronicles how women powered the historic public library movement and helped expand access to the underserved. While early library directors were almost all men, women became first points of contact, staffing desks and helping the public access knowledge. Women were also intrepid adventurers who expanded the path of the library westward. Panelists will discuss the history of women in the library as explored in *Free For All* and the work of its scholars. *Example: scholar Joanne E. Passet draws from the film and her book Cultural Crusaders: Women Librarians in the American West, 1900-1917 to discuss this theme with other panelists and the public in the Salt Lake Public Library.*

### C. Project Formats

## **Screenings and panel discussions**

In Phase One of the initiative, the Free For All team will bring a comprehensive engagement program to 16 urban, rural, and suburban libraries in four geographical regions – the Northeast, the South, the Midwest, and the West – over the course of a year. In each library we visit, the key event will be a free 90-minute screening of the documentary film *Free For All: Inside the Public Library*, followed by a 30-minute expert-led panel discussion, a 15-minute Q&A, and sometimes a brief library tour. Director Dawn Logsdon or another member of the Free For All media team; a staff librarian; and a local author or other celebrity will join the facilitating scholar on the panel. Panels will focus on the humanities themes explored in the film and will be followed by a Q&A moderated by library staff. The Public Engagement Coordinator will record all panels and Q&As and conduct brief audio interviews with panelists and attendees for our podcast and evaluation purposes. The Public Engagement Associate will collect evaluative data through demographic observation and via paper and electronic surveys.

## **Special community engagement activities**

We believe that rather than creating a one-size-fits-all approach to community engagement, we can be more effective, more efficient, and more dynamic by building on the established infrastructure of each individual library and what works best for its community. Therefore, in addition to the screenings and discussion panels, we will invite participating libraries to choose from a menu of special interactive engagement activities that draw in visitors while immersing them in the humanities ideas explored in the *Free For All* film. These activities will be carefully selected for each site based on the specific interests, resources, and demographics of its patrons as well as the areas of expertise of participating local scholars. As well as serving the general public, we will make special efforts to engage families and seniors, two groups that rely heavily on the library. The activities include oral history workshops that bring together seniors and young people to reflect on libraries and literature; library “Story Hours” for kids and adults led by celebrated local and regional authors; and topical lectures by scholars in all project regions. Special activities are detailed in our Walkthrough document.

## **Library Engagement Toolkit**

The humanities discussions and ancillary events in our engagement package will reach communities across the nation during Phase One of our program. But they also serve as pilot events to inform the production, in Phase Two, of a robust Library Engagement Toolkit that will enable the initiative to reach thousands more libraries and schools. The Toolkit will include step-by-step guidelines for organizing a screening, recruiting scholars and local authors, and framing a productive, engaging discussion around the central themes of the *Free For All* documentary. The Toolkit will include teacher’s trainings, classroom materials based on the discussion series, and guidelines and materials for Story Hours and youth/senior oral history labs. To prepare materials for the Toolkit, we will pay careful attention to documenting and evaluating our efforts throughout Phase One. The Public Engagement Associate will evaluate the data and recordings to assist in the development and production of the Library Engagement Toolkit under the supervision of the project director.

Once complete, we will work with the ALA, the ULC, the ARSL, and our other partners to push out the Toolkit to our well-established nationwide network of public libraries, schools, and community centers. A social media kit to help libraries market the programs, detailed in “Section F. Audience, marketing, and promotion,” will also be part of the package. The actual dissemination of kits will begin after the end of Phase Two. *Note on funding for social media: We are not requesting NEH funds for social media-related costs, which will be covered by the Knight Foundation.*

**For more details about the Toolkit, please see the Walkthrough document.**

## **Library Stories podcast**

We will use the audio we collect during discussions, post-discussion interviews, and special activities to

produce six episodes of a Library Stories podcast in partnership with the award-winning podcast producers The Kitchen Sisters. The podcast will begin to air early in the Phase Two of the initiative. It will be freely available on the Free For All website and participating library and library organization websites, as well as through the usual podcast channels. **For more details about the podcast, please see the Walkthrough document.**

### **Print formats**

As part of our engagement effort, we will produce and distribute a sturdy cardstock “Libraries Celebrate the Nation’s Birthday” reading/viewing list designed in the form of a library checkout card with an American flag as its background. The curated reading list, also available on the Free For All and partner websites, includes works of library-related scholarship that relate to and anticipate the nation’s upcoming 250th anniversary, including works about Ben Franklin and his role in founding the library. The list will also include films, novels, memoirs, stories, poetry, and children’s books that concern the public library. **For more details about the reading/viewing list, please see the Walkthrough document.**

### **D. Project resources**

During the production of *Free For All*, the producers identified and acquired a wealth of sources that inform the discussions initiative. Key titles include *Free for All* facilitating scholar Matthew Battles’ *Library: An Unquiet History*; facilitating scholar Nicholas Basbanes’ *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books*; facilitating scholar Eric Klinenberg’s *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life*; guest author Susan Orlean’s *The Library Book*, advisor Robert Dawson’s *The Public Library: A Photographic Essay*; and several publications by *Free For All* lead scholar, Wayne Wiegand, including *Part of Our Lives: A People’s History of the American Public Library*, and *The Desegregation of Public Libraries in the Jim Crow South: Civil Rights and Local Activism*, co-written with Shirley A. Wiegand.

We will also be drawing on visual materials from scholarly and historical archives, including the American Library Association Archives managed by the University of Illinois Archives, Library of Congress: Paper Print Collection and Prints and Photograph Collection, and Historic Films Archive.

A more complete list of project resources can be found in our bibliography. When excerpts or images are used in discussions, lectures, or other engagement events, we will secure permission from the authors and publishers as required by copyright law.

### **E. Project history (2012-2019)**

#### **R&D - completed**

Research and development for the *Free for All* film began in 2012 with development awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, and California Humanities. The *Free for All* team researched the project extensively for more than 24 months, consulting with scholars, filming on-camera preliminary interviews with scholars and library experts, location scouting, and researching archival imagery and librarian oral histories. To learn more about current library issues, the team spent many hours observing at libraries around the country and attending ALA, PLA, ULC, CLA and other library conferences. For feedback on our historic themes, the team attended several gatherings of scholars including ALA Library History Round Table conferences in Madison and Boston. We wrote treatments and a preliminary script and created a funding trailer.

#### **Production - completed**

Principal production for this film was made possible with a 2017 NEH Media Maker Production award, with additional funding from foundations and private donors, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Wyncote Foundation, and a Kickstarter campaign. Advisors reviewed early footage to ensure a balanced portrayal, and their feedback has been a continuous part of our filming and editing process. More than 100 hours of footage were shot in 25 locations across the country, from grand urban

central libraries to tiny small-town branches and rural bookmobiles. At least one library in each of the 50 states is visually represented in the film, some in original footage, others in historic footage or stills.

### **Post-production - ongoing**

Post-production has been ongoing throughout the project. The editing team transferred, transcoded, transcribed, logged and edited footage as it came in. The script was reviewed by our primary scholars and library experts and revised based on their feedback. Principal editing began in October 2017 and will be completed in October 2019. Three cuts of the film have been reviewed by scholars and library experts and will be reviewed a final time before picture lock. During post-production, we conducted extensive archival research nationwide, reaching out to public libraries through the Public Library Association listservs for pertinent historical and contemporary imagery. We launched an internship program in partnership with San Jose State University's library school for student archivists, customized a database to track archival materials and sources, and created an archival tracking system.

### **Engagement planning - completed**

Engagement planning has been ongoing throughout the project, with funding provided by the NEH, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the Knight Foundation. We researched and selected new media and engagement advisors to plan and design outreach strategies. Working with Active Voice Lab and Firelight Media outreach and impact advisors, and in consultation with CPB content team members and PBS National Strategic Partnership team members, we completed an ambitious, menu-driven portfolio of national outreach and engagement plans, including the proposed NEH discussions initiative. We have formed partnerships with library organizations, including the Urban Libraries Council, PLA, ALA, United for Libraries, Center for the Book, and many library Friends Chapters and Foundations.

In the planning period, we designed and built a film-companion [website](#), [Facebook](#) page, and other social media accounts, and are successfully growing an audience for the project on those sites. We have widely disseminated a beta release of one of our short videos extensively throughout the library community via social media. We organized, promoted, and filmed two test public community storytelling video booth events. We transferred, logged and edited 20 hours of footage of those stories into several short samples videos. And we launched a successful [crowdfunding campaign](#) that raised almost \$80,000 from over a thousand contributors, garnering print articles about *Free for All* in Library Journal, San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Mercury News, Friends Newsletters, and many online publications. The campaign not only exceeded our financial goal, but also directly connected us to a large audience eager to see the film.

In coordination with Active Voice Labs, we organized five regional engagement planning braintrust meetings with experts and scholars in 2018 in New York City, Washington, DC, New Orleans, Chicago, and San Francisco. We also organized and participated in many library organization presentations and screenings where we gathered valuable feedback via surveys, including ALA annual conferences in Chicago, New Orleans, and Washington DC in 2016, 2018, and 2019; a keynote presentation at the ULC annual conference in Kansas City in 2017; and a keynote presentation at the Library Journal Summit in San Diego in 2018. The completed film will debut to the library world at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, IL in June 2020, followed by discussions, initiative screenings, festivals, national PBS broadcast, educational distribution, and an extensive community event tour. National broadcast on PBS' Independent Lens is anticipated during National Library Week in April 2021.

### **F. Audience, marketing, and promotion**

In Phase One of the **Free For All: Public Library Discussions Initiative** we expect to directly reach a minimum of 2,500 attendees through screenings, panel discussions, lectures, and participatory outreach activities. With the dissemination of our Library Engagement Toolkit following its production in Phase Two, we expect to extend our reach to 50,000 in-person participants in libraries, many thousands more via our website hub and podcast, and as many as 5 million through social media with the support of the

Knight Foundation. In consultation with our outreach advisors, we arrived at these estimates by analyzing attendance records for comparable screening events at participating libraries; the size of previous audiences for lectures by participating scholars; the capacity of available event spaces; the combined traditional outreach and social media reach of our partner organizations, celebrity guests, scholars, and media team; and other factors.

The two-year initiative will launch close to the national release of the *Free For All* documentary in the summer of 2020, and will be widely publicized along with the film in a multi-tiered PR campaign centered around a PBS broadcast in April 2021 during National Library Week. We will also benefit from the buzz surrounding the 75th anniversary of the Public Library Association (PLA). With more than 200 million visitors to public libraries each year – and with the growing awareness of threats to their survival in many places – the *Free For All* documentary and engagement initiative will have wide appeal to general audiences across many demographics nationwide. In partnership with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL), we will make a special effort to reach non-urban libraries.

The Free For All team has extensive experience crafting successful national outreach and promotional campaigns. We will work with Firelight Media's community engagement team, as well as national, regional, and local stakeholders to utilize print, internet, and social media resources to bring the widest audiences to our face-to-face events. We will also partner with local PBS outlets to promote the discussions initiative in each region, providing opportunities for local stations to host special membership screenings and events in partnership with libraries, sponsoring businesses, and other stakeholders. We will market the events to national and local civic organizations, book publishers, community advocates and city planners, labor organizations, jobseekers, parents, youth, book clubs, and more. The team will work closely with library organizations like the ULC and the PLA; a community advisory panel that includes Friends of Library leaders and library user groups; and will spread the word about the initiative on library-themed podcasts. Working with libraries' existing school partnerships, we will target educators from middle school through university in American history, sociology, urban studies, public policy, library sciences, architecture, and other relevant departments. We will tap into our partnership with the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), whose "service hubs" (which coordinate the creation and dissemination of content within designated areas) provide a valuable local network for promotion.

Celebrated authors, actors, and academics at the local level will further attract participation, as will the events themselves, which promise engagement with the humanities in illuminating and entertaining ways. When possible, we will bring respected authors to the initiative discussions, Story Hours, and other events in person, attracting audiences who do not usually visit the library and greatly increasing the marketing success of the initiative as a whole. For example, we plan to work with author Ann Patchett in the South, beloved Wisconsin author and historian Jerry Apps in the Midwest; superstar librarian and book reviewer Nancy Pearl in the West, and in the Northeast, award-winning children's author Jacqueline Woodson and former NYPL Executive Director and writer Vartan Gregorian. When it is not possible for luminaries to attend in person, we will use pre-recorded clips of them telling their personal library stories, such as Warren Buffett recounting reading every book on finance at the Omaha Public Library as a child and Laura Bush talking about being finding solace at the library as a lonely girl in Midland Texas, an experience that inspired her to become a librarian herself.

Finally, librarians themselves are well known for embracing technology and utilizing social media to communicate to each other and to their communities, and we anticipate that they will remain spirited promoters of the Free For All project. We have enlisted over 20,000 individual librarians through mailing list sign-ups, and have reached several thousand more through conference presentations, social media and early release of trailers. We will continue to connect with these key influencers in person and online, encouraging them to spread the word far and wide about the Free For All discussions initiative.

### **Social media toolkit**

The Free For All engagement team will provide participating libraries, PBS stations, and other partner



institutions with a set of social media materials, including:

- *Free For All* film trailers and selected clips
- Pre-designed posts, with language and images to promote each type of activity in our package
- Links to excerpted and complete podcast episodes, which will be updated as they are completed
- Dynamic links to the “Libraries Celebrate the Nation’s Birthday” reading/viewing list, with accompanying language
- Quotations from historians, authors and others on the meaning and history of the library
- Links to the research sources of library-related humanities content via #freeforallfilm.

In all cases where we use or supervise the use of social media, we will take special care to monitor all referenced sites and discussions to ensure that they are unbiased and free of harassing, salacious, or partisan content. We will also include clear social media guidelines for libraries and other institutions that express the importance of monitoring content and provide best practices for doing so effectively. Please see *Attachment 7. Additional Information* for more details. Funding for social media efforts will be supported by the Knight Foundation.

### **G. Evaluation of the project’s impact**

Our goal is to extend the **Free For All: Public Library Discussions Initiative** broadly to libraries across the nation, and rigorous evaluation that ensures replicability is central to our success. Tracking and strategies for evaluation are integral to the program and will be a primary duty of our Library Public Engagement Associate, in collaboration with librarians and the Free For All team.

Evaluation has long been part of the *Free For All* film production process and is ongoing. For example, in December 2018, the media team conducted a written survey of more than 150 national library directors at a national conference to gauge their interest in bringing the discussions initiative to their sites. We were pleased to discover a real hunger for the screenings and panel discussions, with all respondents saying they would like to bring the program to their branches. The surveys also revealed that while there was enthusiasm for the special engagement activities as well, with nearly 85 percent welcoming them, librarians would require clear, step-by-step direction on how to program the activities in their branches. This evaluation and others led us to prioritize the development of our Library Engagement Toolkit.

Quantitatively, we will measure the success of the campaign by the size of audiences reached, the range of demographics served, the number of schools and students served, the numbers of remote and underserved community members served, and the levels of participants’ engagement with the humanities themes addressed by the initiative. The Public Engagement Associate will track engagement by a number of metrics including Free For All and library website traffic, social media analytics for each local screening and special activity, and responses to online elements of our Toolkit, including film clips and our dynamic humanities reading/viewing list. Feedback from librarians and patrons will also be key to our evaluation efforts. To capture this feedback, we will distribute surveys to library staff and to the public after each discussion and special event. We will track subscribers to the podcast and how widely clips and resource materials are accessed and shared as they are posted on the websites and social media. At the end of Phase One, our Public Engagement Associate will create a final report that distills and interprets the data and provides recommendations and best practices that will inform our Toolkit design and distribution.

Qualitatively, we will conduct short interviews to document and evaluate the subjective challenges and successes of each program activity in engaging scholars and the public. We will also collect written reviews and descriptions from librarians and activity participants through surveys distributed in person and online after each discussion and activity to demonstrate how successfully the following discussions initiative goals are met:

- Effectively and creatively synthesize the scholarship of public libraries and spread awareness of their significance to ongoing civic education in our communities.

- Interrogate the current “libraries are obsolete” argument by examining the ways libraries are adapting to new technologies, and ask participants to reflect on their relevance today.
- Stimulate national dialogue about the essential role public libraries play in supporting our democracy and examine the challenges they face today.

## **H. Organizational profiles**

1. **Video Veracity** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1993 that supports the production and distribution of film and video work by independent media producers. Video Veracity was our primary fiscal sponsor for *Faubourg Treme: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans*, and has been the fiscal sponsor for a number of films that have received humanities funding from the NEH, Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the Southern Humanities Media Fund, and others. The *Free For All* team has a strong working relationship with Video Veracity president Timothy Watson.

2. **Serendipity Films** is a New Orleans- and San Francisco-based media arts company, established by Dawn Logsdon and Lucie Faulknor in 2003, that specializes in educational and cultural documentaries and digital storytelling. In 2008, the company completed the NEH-funded *Faubourg Treme: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans*, which was broadcast nationally on PBS. Logsdon has more than 30 years of experience in documentary filmmaking, primarily on films about American history and urban life, and Faulknor has worked for more than 20 years in arts management.

3. **Firelight Films** is a production company dedicated to producing compelling social-issue films. Award-winning filmmakers Stanley Nelson and Marcia Smith serve as Executive Producer for all projects. Nelson, Smith and other members of the Firelight media team are reprising the working relationship established with *Faubourg Treme*, for which Nelson was Executive Producer, providing fundraising and strategic consultation and reviewing proposals, scripts, web-based short films, and cuts of the final film. Firelight’s Community Engagement Division, led by Sonya Childress, has guided the development of our library partnerships and continues to advise our community engagement strategy.

4. **The American Library Association (ALA)** is the oldest and largest library association in the world. Founded on October 6, 1876 during the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, the mission of ALA is “to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.” Current ALA strategic directions for the next three to five years are Information Policy, Professional & Leadership Development, and Equity, Diversity & Inclusion.

5. **The Urban Libraries Council (ULC)** has spent more than 40 years enriching communities by strengthening and promoting the value of libraries as essential public assets. ULC provides a forum for library leaders to share best practices and innovative ideas that inspire programs that support 21st century learning, a strong economy, and an active democracy. ULC programs are recognized for creating new frameworks that invigorate public libraries and their communities. ULC’s role is to be a collective voice showcasing libraries as agents that transform people and communities. ULC’s work emphasizes the following strategic themes: Education, Digital Inclusion, and Healthy and Sustainable Communities.

6. **The Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL)** was established in 1982 with several goals: to organize a network of members concerned about the growth and development of library services in rural and small libraries; to provide opportunities for members’ continuing education; to cultivate the practice of librarianship and to foster a spirit of cooperation among members of the profession; to serve as a source of current information about trends, issues, and strategies; to partner with other library and non-library groups and organizations serving rural and small library communities; to collect and disseminate information and resources that are critical to this network; and to advocate for rural and small libraries at the local, state, and national levels.

7. **Active Voice Lab** is a nonprofit network of seasoned strategists that helps funders, advocates, media

makers, and other leaders skillfully and collaboratively use story to advance social change. Active Voice Lab believes that significant social change becomes possible when policy experts, philanthropists, researchers, organizers, social entrepreneurs, and creatives work together through a pragmatic and structured approach. AVL thinks of these interdependent relationships as an “ecosystem of change” and projects progress through three interlocking stages: digging for answers, building tools based on a project’s challenges, and sharing those tools with partners to help them optimize their outreach efforts.

8. **The Kitchen Sisters** are Peabody Award-winning independent producers and multiple NEH grant recipients who create stories for NPR and other public media. Davia Nelson and Nikki Silva teach, write books, and offer workshops and public presentations to build community through storytelling. Their work chronicles hidden histories and subjects who shape the cultural landscape. They produce the podcast *The Kitchen Sisters Present*, including *The Keepers* series about archivists, librarians, curators, collectors and historians who work to preserve our cultural heritage. Their other work includes *Lost & Found Sound*, narrated by Francis Ford Coppola, *The Sonic Memorial Project*, narrated by Paul Auster, *Waiting for Joe DiMaggio*, and the *Hidden Kitchens* series.

## I. Project team

**Public Engagement Director Sam Ball**, who received NEH support for his program *Citizen Film: The American Creed Community Conversations Initiative*, will bring his extensive public engagement experience to the Free For All initiative. Ball’s work has been exhibited at many of America’s most prestigious venues, from the Sundance Film Festival to MoMA-NY, and on public television in the US and Europe. Ball’s close collaborations with humanities experts include the New Media in Jewish Studies Initiative he launched to collaborate with scholars on multimedia storytelling in film, at museums, and online; a live multimedia performance exploring the legacy of the Group Theatre (supported by a Hewlett and Gerbode Foundation Grant to collaborate with playwright Corey Fischer); and a multimedia exhibition at the Jewish Museum NY about Chagall and the Artists of Russian Jewish Theatre.

**Project Director / Free For All Film Director Dawn Logsdon** has directed and edited many documentaries about complex communities or movements that, like *Free For All*, have a sweeping historical scope. She directed and produced *Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans*, which premiered at Tribeca, won the SFIFF Golden Gate Award for Best Documentary, and was a PBS Black History Month Feature Presentation three years in a row. She co-directed and edited the award-winning *Big Joy: The Adventures of James Broughton* and *Steel and Velvet*. Her editing credits include the Sundance Award-winning *Paragraph 175*, the Academy Award-nominated *Weather Underground*, the Emmy award-winning *Have You Heard from Johannesburg?*, the Peabody award-winning *The Castro*, and PBS American Masters’ *Jacques Pepin: Art of Craft*. Dawn’s honors include the California Arts Council Artist Residency, the BAVC Media Maker Award, the Louisiana Division of the Arts Fellowship, and the New Orleans Arts Council Award.

**Public Engagement Coordinator Jennifer Huang** has worked in documentary for more than fifteen years. She is currently directing and producing *The Long Rescue*, following child sex trafficking survivors as they rebuild their lives. She coordinated shoots, archival research, and screenings for the American Masters film *Jacques Pepin: The Art of Craft*. In the documentary department of Lucasfilm, she wrote and produced *Harlem’s Hellfighters: Black Soldiers of World War I* and associate-produced nine other films. Huang has worked as a writer, field producer, and associate producer on independent films and productions for American Masters, PBS, the Travel Channel, HGTV, TNT and AZN TV. She co-produced *From Baghdad to the Bay*, a feature documentary following an Iraqi refugee, and the PBS series *Standing on Sacred Ground*. Huang will help manage all aspects of the Free For All engagement initiative.

**Office & Outreach Manager Lucie Faulknor** is a documentary film producer and arts administrator. Her most recent project is the upcoming film *Free for All*, about the inspiring history of America’s public libraries and the dramatic human stories unfolding inside libraries today. She is the producer and

researcher of the award-winning PBS film *Faibourg Tremé*. Faulkner has helped manage many renowned artists and arts organizations including City Arts and Lectures, SFJAZZ, the Palace of Fine Arts Theater, Stern Grove Festival, Yerba Buena Gardens, and the Irish Arts Foundation, Jim Campilongo and Storm Large. She holds a Master's degree in Non-Profit Arts Administration from the University of San Francisco's School of Business and a B.A. in Arts Management from San Francisco State University. Faulkner is a fourth generation San Francisco Public Library user.

## **J. Humanities scholars and consultants**

Note on Scholar Recruitment: We have already begun convening a strong and committed group of humanities scholars to lead panel discussions and participate in engagement activities. In collaboration with library directors in each region, we will continue to recruit additional experts to participate in the initiative's panel discussions and activities, taking special care to pair institutions with scholars familiar with local histories and concerns. Our core advisory team, below, will also advise our team in developing and planning for dissemination of the Library Engagement Toolkit.

### Humanities consultants:

**Nicholas Basbanes, Ph.D.** is an award-winning investigative reporter, a literary editor, a lecturer, and a nationally syndicated columnist. His first book, *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books* (Henry Holt), was named a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. The release in 2001 of a companion volume, *Patience & Fortitude: A Roving Chronicle of Book People, Book Places, and Book Culture* prompted historian David McCullough to write: "Nicholas Basbanes has become the leading authority of books about books." Basbanes will continue to share his vast knowledge and passion for book and library culture, including his exposé of the SFPL book-dumping scandal in the late 1990s and how that exposé influenced the way libraries around the country curate and deal with growing collections.

**Matthew Battles, Ph.D.** is a Principal and Senior Researcher at metaLAB, a research and teaching unit at Harvard University dedicated to exploring and expanding the frontiers of networked culture in the arts and humanities. Battles has published extensively on the history and changing roles of libraries; his book *Library: An Unquiet History* is available in eight languages worldwide and has been in print since 2003. He wrote the official history of Harvard Widener library, is a contributor to the Oxford Companion to the Book and is coauthor, with Jeffrey Schnapp, of *The Library Beyond the Book* (Harvard, 2014). Matthew Battles is our key technology scholar, leading us through digital humanities engagement ideas and strategies. We are in discussion with him about *Free for All's* participation in the Library Test Kitchen, a special Harvard metaLab initiative, as well as a new data-visualization project called Library Observatory.

**John Y. Cole, Ph.D.** is a librarian and historian who has served the Library of Congress since 1966. Cole is the founding director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, established in 1977 (P.L. 95-129) as a public-private partnership to stimulate public interest in reading and to encourage the historical study of books and print culture. His major scholarly interest is the history of the Library of Congress, particularly the development of its national role. He has been the author coordinator of the U.S. National Book Festival since its creation in 2001. The American Library Association presented Cole with its prestigious Lippincott Award, and in 2010 his colleagues honored him through a special issue of *Libraries & the Cultural Record*. Cole, an expert on the earliest precursors of American public libraries, will lead us in addressing NEH Areas of Interest, including the 250th anniversary of American independence and Advancing Civic Education.

**Robert Dawson** teaches photography at Stanford University. His photographs have been recognized by a Visual Artists Fellowship from the NEA, a Ruttenberg Fellowship from The Friends of Photography, the Dorothea Lange-Paul Taylor Prize from the Center For Documentary Studies at Duke University, and other honors. He is the co-director and photographer of many books and projects that combine humanities

and photography, and his work is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, National Museum of American Art (Smithsonian), Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, J. Paul Getty Museum, and the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris, among others. Since 1994, Dawson has photographed hundreds of libraries in 38 states, many of which appear in *Free For All*. He will contribute to and advise us on the photographic representations of libraries used in lectures, the Engagement Toolkit, and online.

**Jill Lepore** is a professor of American history at Harvard University and chair of Harvard's History and Literature Program. She is a staff writer at *The New Yorker*, and her essays and reviews have appeared in *The New York Times*, *the Los Angeles Times*, *The American Scholar*, and scholarly journals including the *Journal of American History*, *The American Historical Review*, and *American Quarterly*. Lepore's book *New York Burning: Liberty, Slavery and Conspiracy in Eighteenth-Century Manhattan* (Knopf, 2005) was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in History and received an Anisfield-Wolf Book Award. Her recent biography of Jane Franklin Mecom, *Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin*, was a finalist for the 2013 National Book Award for Nonfiction. Lepore will lead our panels in the Northeast.

**Nancy Pearl** has worked as a librarian and bookseller in Detroit, Tulsa, and Seattle. Her knowledge of and love for books is unmatched. She is a regular commentator about books on NPR's Morning Edition and writes a monthly column for *Publishers Weekly*. In 1998, she developed the program "If All of Seattle Read the Same Book," which spread across the country. The former executive director of the Washington Center for the Book, Pearl has written a series of "recommended reading" books, starting with the best-selling *Book Lust* (2003). The *New York Times* calls her "the talk of librarian circles." Pearl was the 50th winner of the Women's National Book Association Award and even has a Librarian Action Figure modeled in her likeness. She will contribute to our reading/viewing list and bring her expertise to panel discussions and Story Hours.

**Robert D. Putnam, Ph.D.** is the Peter and Isabel Malkin Professor of Public Policy at Harvard, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the British Academy, and past president of the American Political Science Association. Raised in a small Midwest town and educated at Swarthmore, Oxford, and Yale, he has served as dean of the Kennedy School of Government. The *London Sunday Times* has called him "the most influential academic in the world today." He has written 14 books translated into 20 languages, including the best-selling *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, and *Better Together: Restoring the American Community*. He consults widely with national leaders, including the last three American presidents, and he founded the Saguaro Seminar, bringing together leading thinkers and practitioners to develop ideas for civic renewal. Professor Putnam will lead discussions in the Northeast, deliver a lecture, and introduce a Story Hour.

**Abigail Van Slyck, Ph.D.** is associate dean of faculty and the Dayton Professor of Art History at Connecticut College, where she directs the Architectural Studies program. An expert on the Carnegie libraries, Van Slyck has written about public libraries as women's workplaces, as some of the first public buildings to devote substantial space to children's use, and as projects around which Americans debated the relationship between culture and class. Her publications include *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries and American Culture, 1890-1920* and numerous articles including "On the Inside: Preserving Women's History in American Libraries." A graduate of Smith College, Van Slyck earned a doctorate in architecture at the University of California at Berkeley. She appeared in *Free For All* discussing Carnegie-era architecture and culture, which she will also do on panels and in lectures.

**Ethelene Whitmire, Ph.D.** is an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin Madison's School of Library & Information Studies. Educated at Rutgers University and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Whitmire was a former Librarian-in-Residence at Yale University and assistant professor at UCLA's Department of Information Services. She has lectured and written extensively on Regina Anderson Andrews, the first African American to head her own branch of the New York Public Library and an active participant in the Harlem Renaissance. Her publications include *Regina Andrews: Harlem Renaissance Librarian* (2014), *Breaking the Color Barrier: Regina Andrews and the New York Public*

Library, and “African American Undergraduates and the Academic Library” in *Journal of Negro Education*. Whitmire will lead discussions and deliver lectures on the African American public library experience, especially the role of Black women and the public library during the Harlem Renaissance.

**Wayne A. Wiegand, Ph.D.** is often referred to as “the Dean of American library historians.” He is an author of many books, including, in 2018, *The Desegregation of Public Libraries in the Jim Crow South: Civil Rights and Local Activism*, with Shirley A. Wiegand; as well as *Main Street Public Library: Community Spaces and Reading Places in the Rural Heartland 1876-1956* (2011); *Irrepressible Reformer: A Biography of Melvil Dewey* (1996); *The Encyclopedia of Library History* (1994); and *A Part of Our Lives: A People’s History of the American Public Library* (2015), for which he received an NEH Fellowship. Three of his books have received the G.K. Hall Award for Outstanding Contribution to Library Literature. For several years, Wiegand has guided our reading and introduced us to many other scholars. His research shaped a central tenet of *Free for All*: that Americans have always used their public libraries not only as a means for accessing information, but also as community centers. He will lead panel discussions, deliver lectures, and moderate Story Hours for adults and kids.

**Judy Yung, Ph.D.** is Professor Emerita in American Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, specializing in oral history, women’s history, and Chinese American and Asian American history. Yung worked as librarian for the Chinatown branch of the San Francisco Public Library and the Asian Community Library in Oakland, where she helped to develop Asian language and interest collections. She has also served on the San Francisco Library Commission and on the Board of the Chinese Culture Center and Chinese Historical Society of America. Her award-winning books include *Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco* and *Unbound Voices: A Documentary History of Chinese Women in San Francisco*. Yung advised us on the Chinese experience in San Francisco and appeared on Free For All discussing her experiences as the first Chinese American manager of the SFPL Chinatown branch. On panels, Yung will address the library as an access point for the American dream and a haven for the vulnerable. She will also bring her expertise to San Francisco’s youth/senior oral history lab.

#### Engagement and library consultants:

**Engagement Advisors Stanley Nelson Marcia Smith.** Smith is president of Firelight Media. Nelson is an Emmy and Peabody-winning MacArthur “Genius” and one of the premier documentarians working today, with a record-breaking ten films at Sundance, including his latest, *Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool*, which premiered in January 2019. He was Executive Producer on Dawn Logsdon’s *Faubourg Tremé* and will advise the Free For All team on engagement strategy. Executive Director of Firelight Media, he has many awards to his credit, including the 2014 President’s National Humanities Medal and a lifetime achievement Peabody award. Nelson’s films include *Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities*; *Freedom Summer*; *Freedom Riders*, which won three primetime Emmys; *Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple*, which was shortlisted for the Academy Awards and won the International Documentary Association Award; and many more.

**Impact Strategist Ellen Schneider** has pioneered strategies, frameworks, and other resources that have helped shape the sphere of “impact media.” In 2001, with support from the MacArthur and Ford Foundations, she founded Active Voice, one of the first teams to leverage story-based media to put human faces on complex social and policy issues. Schneider was formerly the executive producer of P.O.V., PBS’s original series of independent nonfiction film, where she expanded P.O.V.’s parent company American Documentary to include strategic impact campaigns. She speaks widely about the role of media in public life, from Harvard’s Nieman Foundation to Cambridge University, from Sundance Film Festival to the National Endowment for the Arts. Schneider will advise the engagement team in optimizing partnerships with libraries, funders, literary figures, and experts.

**Outreach Consultant Sonya Childress** is the Director of Community Engagement at Firelight Media, where she implements national campaigns for its award-winning documentaries. She has helped organizations, philanthropists and filmmakers use film as an outreach tool for over a decade, previously

serving as the Promotions Director for California Newsreel's African American Perspectives Collection and Director of Strategic Partnerships for Active Voice. She has also worked as an outreach consultant for Kartemquin Films, Working Films, and the Independent Television Service (ITVS). Childress will consult on our outreach to the public and the design and implementation of the *Free For All* PR and marketing.

**ULC Advisor Susan Benton** will advise our outreach team on trainings and Toolkit dissemination. Benton is CEO and president of the Urban Libraries Council, and has worked with libraries and local governments for more than 30 years. Her professional career is dedicated to assisting public sector executives bring their organizations into the 21st century. She is dedicated to assisting cities and counties initiate and manage change in their organizations so that citizens and businesses are receiving the strongest possible services. She comes to ULC from her position as Research, Development and Strategic Partners Executive at the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the professional association of over 9,000 city and county managers around the world.

**Public Libraries Advisor Luis Herrera** is the recently retired city librarian of the San Francisco Public Library. Herrera was named Librarian of the Year by Library Journal in 2012 and under his leadership, SFPL was named Library of the Year in 2018. Herrera worked as director of information services for Pasadena, deputy director of library services for San Diego, and associate director of library services for Long Beach. He is a founding board member of the Digital Public Library of America, and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Latino Community Foundation and previously as chair of the California Council for the Humanities. He was first appointed to the National Museum and Library Services Board in 2012.

**Public Library Advisor Susan Hildreth** is the University of Washington's iSchool's first Distinguished Practitioner in Residence, a position that focuses on the future of public libraries. Hildreth is a former director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Under her leadership, IMLS provided nearly \$1 billion in support to libraries and museums, with a strong emphasis on early learning, STEM-related projects, and connectivity in libraries across the country. Previously, Hildreth served as Seattle City Librarian, California State Librarian, San Francisco City Librarian and president of the Public Library Association. Hildreth will advise the team on evaluation strategy and consult on the development and production of the Toolkit and its distribution to libraries. She will also contribute to and review the reading/screening list and advise the team on the design of online librarian trainings for the Toolkit.

## **K. Work Plan**

*Note: The Free for All national PBS broadcast is being planned for April 2021 during National Library Week. Although this work plan does not include preparation for broadcast or other outreach activities beyond the scope of the proposed NEH-funded Humanities Conversations, this schedule does take all elements of our outreach strategy into account and allow enough time for the outreach team to successfully accomplish them. If the broadcast date is revised, we may need to revise our Humanities Conversations schedule accordingly.*

### **Festival Tour Phase - Pre-NEH grant period (Winter 2019 / Spring 2020)**

- Film festival tour including audience Q&As, networking/relationship-building with libraries and potential distribution partners
- Conference calls (Ball, Logsdon, Faulknor, Huang) with Executive Producers and Impact Strategists (Nelson, Smith, Schneider, Childress) and project scholars to get feedback on event planning, timelines, set dates for next calls and meetings
- Finalize partnership agreements & refine work plan (6 wks)
- Project Directors' in-person planning meeting (1 day)
- Planning meetings with PBS and CPB: Point people for all partners (1 day)
- Create and disseminate marketing and outreach guidelines for project partners, including toolkits for social media promotion and moderation

- Create/share videos for social media posts and have them reviewed by scholars (beginning in April, continuing, as co-funding permits, through NEH grant term)
- Launch press outreach (4 weeks)
- Continue to build local scholar and celebrity author rosters for local communities to access
- Create customizable PR materials for local/national partners

## **Phase One**

### **Month 1 (June 2020)**

- Hold final webinar pre-launch meetings with project team (Ball, Logsdon, Faulknor, Huang) and scholar participants and library site coordinators in Region 1
- Complete final travel arrangements for Region 1 (Northeast) leg of project
- Schedule strategic weekly posts of images / clips on social media (ongoing)
- Continue outreach to local press for upcoming events in coordination with library PR departments
- Schedule strategic weekly posts of images / anecdotes on social media for duration of project

### **Month 2-3 (July - August 2020) - Region 1 Northeast events (pre-broadcast)**

- Travel to Boston and begin Region 1 events, starting with high-profile event at Boston Public Library, the first major city public library in the United States
- Continue events in Franklin, MA, New York City, Pittsburgh/Homestead, PA, Washington, DC
- Document events and create social media postings from that material
- Post tour webinar feedback conversations with participants
- Revised plans for Region 2 events based on experience from Region 1 and feedback
- Create customizable PR materials for local and national partners
- Draft training, webinar and evaluation materials; review with scholars and library experts
- Begin delivery of audio interviews and other podcast recordings to Kitchen Sisters for review

### **Months 4-5 (September - October 2020) - Region 2 South events (pre-broadcast)**

- Hold final webinar pre-launch meetings with project team (Ball, Logsdon, Faulknor, Huang) and scholar participants and library site coordinators in Region 2
- Complete final travel arrangements for Region 2 (South) leg of project
- Continue outreach to local press for upcoming events in coordination with library PR departments
- Schedule strategic weekly posts of images/ anecdotes on social media for duration of project
- Travel to Atlanta and begin Region 2 events, continuing on to Columbia, Jackson, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans
- Document events and create social media postings from that material
- Post tour webinar feedback conversations with participants
- Revise plans for Region 3 events based on experience from Region 2 and feedback
- Public Engagement Associate begins synthesis of evaluation data (ongoing)
- Continue delivery of audio interviews and other podcast recordings to Kitchen Sisters for review
- Identify artist to design Toolkit graphics; Begin Engagement Toolkit design

### **Months 6-7 (November - December 2020) Region 3 Midwest events (pre-broadcast)**

- Hold final webinar pre-launch meetings with project team (Ball, Logsdon, Faulknor, Huang) and scholar participants and library site coordinators in Region 3
- Complete final travel arrangements for Region 3 (Midwest) leg of project
- Continue outreach to local press for upcoming events in coordination with library PR departments
- Travel to South Dakota (cities TBD) and begin Region 3 events, continuing on to Milwaukee, Kansas City and Ohio (cities TBD)
- Document events and create social media postings from that material
- Post tour webinar feedback conversations with participants



- Continue delivery of audio interviews and other podcast recordings to Kitchen Sisters for review
- Revise plans for Region 4 events based on experience from Region 3 and feedback

Months 8-10 (January - March 2021) Region 4 West events (leadup to broadcast)

*Note: During this time period, we will coordinate and overlap marketing and promotions efforts for our discussions events and the broadcast window, which will begin during April's National Library Week.*

- Work with KQED-TV and Bay Area public libraries to finalizing planning and hosting of high-profile Humanities Discussions event on the evening of the premiere broadcast
- Hold final webinar pre-launch meetings with project team (Ball, Logsdon, Faulknor, Huang) and scholar participants and library site coordinators in Region 4
- Complete final travel arrangements for Region 4 (West) leg of project
- Continue outreach to local press for upcoming events in coordination with library PR departments
- Travel to Salt Lake City, UT and begin Region 4 events, continuing on to Portland, OR, San Francisco, and Long Beach
- Document events and create social media postings from that material
- Post tour webinar feedback conversations with participants
- Final delivery of audio interviews and other podcast recordings to Kitchen Sisters for review

Months 11-12 (April - May 2021) Toolkit and podcast development

- Promotion/publicity of PBS broadcast of film
- Public Engagement Associate conducts final evaluations with facilitating librarians and advisors, begins final evaluation report
- Remote conference with lead advisors to review successes and challenges of Phase One; incorporate conference feedback and quotes from participants into Toolkit design
- ALA and ULC begin development of trainings and webinar materials for Toolkit
- Schedule Toolkit production with vendors
- Project team reviews audio and video documentation of discussions and special events for inclusion in Toolkit
- Kitchen Sisters begin podcast scripts; submit to Free For All team for review

## **Phase Two**

Months 13-17 (June - October 2021)

- Finalize Toolkit design
- Public Engagement Associate delivers final evaluation report; report used in Toolkit development
- ALA and ULC finalize trainings and webinar materials for Toolkit
- Media team edits audio and video clips for inclusion in Toolkit
- Kitchen Sisters work with Free For All editor to finalize episodes
- Promotion of podcasts episodes begins
- Library Stories podcast begins with episodes 1 and 2
- Engagement Toolkit prototype submitted to ALA, ULC, and advisors for review

Months 18-21 (November 2021 - February 2022)

- Kitchen Sisters work with Free For All editor to finalize episodes
- Library Stories podcast continues with episodes 3 and 4
- Promotion of podcasts episodes continues
- Team prepares for Toolkit production

Months 22-24 (March - May 2022)

- Production of 1000 Engagement Toolkits
- ALA and ULC finalize plan for dissemination of Toolkits with consultation of Free For All team

- Kitchen Sisters work with Free For All editor to finalize episodes
- Promotion of podcasts episodes continues
- Library Stories podcast continues with episodes 5 and 6
- Final evaluation report released to facilitating librarians, advisors, partners

## **L. Project Funding**

Earlier phases of this project (film research, development, production, post-production and outreach planning) were funded with a 2012 NEH development award, a 2017 NEH production award and by the support from the National Endowment for the Arts, California Humanities, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Wyncote Foundation, and a Kickstarter campaign.

Additional funding for this initiative has been secured from the Knight Foundation (\$200,000), The DrumKit Foundation (\$25,000) and the Carnegie Corporation of New York (\$50,000). Additional funding requests for the dissemination of the Toolkit and other outreach activities are pending or planned to IMLS (\$225,000), the Camilla Smith Family Fund (\$100,000), Carnegie Corporation of New York (\$100,000), Wyncote Foundation (\$50,000), and the Sundance Fund \$35,000). Follow this [link](#) for a complete funding breakdown.

## PROJECT WALKTHROUGH

This walkthrough describes how the public will experience various aspects of the **Free For All: Public Library Discussions Initiative** and how the engagement team, working with participating libraries and our partner organizations, will infuse that experience with the humanities scholarship informing the initiative and the film on which it is based, *Free For All: Inside the Public Library*. Like the documentary, the initiative explores the story of the library and invites audiences to join a national conversation about what this unique institution means to our democracy as we approach its 250th year.

During Phase One of the **Free For All: Public Library Discussions Initiative**, key members of the project's engagement team, including lead scholars, will visit libraries in each of four distinct regions: the Northeast, the South, the Midwest, and the West. Programming in each city will take place over two to three days, depending on the specific activities selected by the library. We will stay for one to two weeks in each region, determined by specific programming requirements in each area.

In Phase Two, during the second year of the initiative, the team will assimilate the data and media collected by our public engagement coordinator and associate in Phase One, working with the American Library Association (ALA), the Urban Libraries Council (ULC), and the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ASRL) to develop, produce, and plan for the broad dissemination of our Library Engagement Toolkit. This package will include resources and guidelines to expand the program's humanities content, outreach strategies, and digital resources to thousands of libraries across the nation for years to come. During the project timeline, we will also produce six episodes of a Library Stories podcast in collaboration with the Kitchen Sisters.

During the film's production, we developed partnerships with the ULC, the ALA, the ASRL, the Public Library Association (PLA), United for Libraries, Friends of the Library chapters, and the Center for the Book. To promote the discussions initiative, we are leveraging these partnerships to achieve wide distribution across existing library networks. Libraries are veteran hosts for community screenings and talks; in organizing our activities, we will tap into libraries' existing events infrastructure whenever practical, streamlining the planning process while deepening our collaborations. We will take advantage of the public relations and marketing infrastructures of participating libraries, as well as their established connections with local authors, scholars, and other celebrity figures.

### **Documentary screenings and scholar-led panel discussions**

At every library branch we visit on our engagement tour, the heart of our program will be a screening of the 90-minute NEH-supported documentary film *Free For All: Inside the Public Library*, directed by award-winning filmmaker Dawn Logsdon, whose film *Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans* received funding from NEH and was a national PBS Black History Month Feature Presentation for three years in a row (2009-2011). The film's executive producer is Stanley Nelson, who also produced the *Faubourg Tremé* project. Nelson is a preeminent documentarian of American social movements who received major funding from NEH for his recent multiple Emmy-award winning film *Freedom Riders* and for his Peabody award-winning film *Freedom Summer*. *Free For All* was produced in close collaboration with an esteemed group of scholars; experts in digital humanities and new media; library organizations like the ULC, the ASRL, the PPLA, and the ALA; a community advisory panel that includes Friends of Library leaders and library user groups; and Firelight Media's Community Engagement Division.

The documentary is told in the voices of some of the millions of Americans who use their local libraries every day, along with those of generations past who forged the library's starring role in the public commons. Along with the "common good" missions of libraries, like informing the citizenry and strengthening democracy, *Free For All* highlights how libraries also quietly provide more prosaic "common goods" – like providing a welcoming free place for everyone to escape the elements, use the bathroom, catch up with friends and neighbors, check email, find peace and quiet, debate community issues, learn to knit or do homework, or most enduringly, enjoy stories.

The *Free For All* film is also packed with exciting, unexpected stories, which we'll tap into throughout the discussions program. They include the story of Lucie Stearns, called the Johnny Appleseed of books because she brought so many tiny libraries-in-a-box to isolated Midwestern settlers in the mid 1800s. And the story of Ernestine Rose, who was part of a massive war effort to provide books and literacy classes to the soldiers of World War I. And the story of Regina Andrews, one of the first African American librarians at the New York Public Library, who helped transform the 135th Street branch into the cultural heartbeat of the Harlem Renaissance in the early 20th century, drawing in luminaries like W.E.B. Dubois, Langston Hughes, Augusta Savage and a young James Baldwin.

After each screening, audiences will stay for a 30-minute scholar-led panel discussion about the film followed by a 15-minute Q&A and when relevant to the discussion, a brief librarian-led tour of the library. A humanities scholar – local, regional, or traveling with the project team – will lead each panel and introduce the discussion themes based on his or her own scholarship and the other themes in the film. Director Dawn Logsdon or another member of the *Free For All* media team; a local librarian, archivist, or other library staff person; and a local author or other celebrity will round out the panel. The post-film panels will touch on three main humanities themes explored in the film, and will select one additional secondary theme that best suits the interests of the local library and its community (see *B. Humanities Content* for detailed theme descriptions).

We have convened a strong and committed group of humanities scholars to lead panel discussions and participate in engagement activities. In collaboration with library directors in each of the four regions, we will continue to energetically recruit additional experts to round out our program and participate in all discussions and activities, paying special attention to pairing institutions with local scholars familiar with local histories and concerns. The themes and specific works to be referenced in each discussion will be decided on in advance by the panel in a conference call arranged by the Public Engagement Associate eight weeks before each screening to allow for research and preparation time. At the end of each discussion, the room will open to audiences for a Q&A moderated by library staff. The screenings and accompanying conversation will be offered to attendees free of cost.

### Discussion prompts

Thus far, we have prepared the following prompts for panel discussions. We are continuing to add to and refine the list in consultation with participating librarians and scholars.

- *How does the history of the public library, as revealed in Free For All, connect to the other founding institutions of our country?*
- *How did the public library help lay the groundwork of our democracy?*
- *What are some of the diverse ways that individuals can use the library to change their circumstances and achieve prosperity and happiness? How does this reflect on our founding fathers' vision for the library?*
- *In the words of Ben Franklin, libraries "improv'd the general Conversation of the Americans." What are some examples of how libraries can encourage healthy debate?*
- *What role has this library played in mediating or addressing local issues? How could this role be refined in the future?*
- *How are libraries, patrons, and librarians traditionally represented in popular culture? Which of these stereotypes has proved the most resilient, and why? What can we learn from these representations?*
- *Discuss how immigrant communities in Free For All used the library to improve their circumstances. What resources would allow immigrants to be better served in this area?*
- *What should the library of the future look like?*

- *Discuss examples from the Free For All film of the public using the library as a safe haven? What challenges do these different uses present to the community?*
- *What is the value of physical meeting space in the age of social media and the smartphone?*
- *How have women historically shaped the library?*

### **Special engagement activities**

In addition to the core screenings and panel discussions, we will program the following special activities to engage diverse subsets of the public:

#### Youth/senior oral history labs

We will offer two youth/senior oral history labs, each of which pairs eight local young people with an equal number of seniors in Columbia, SC and Pittsburgh, PA for oral history media workshops in which the youth research and document the elders' most memorable life experiences with libraries and literature. The workshops will culminate in five-minute videos that can be displayed on the Free For All website, participating libraries' websites, shared with friends and families, and included on resumes and college applications. Along the way, valuable history will be preserved and youth will gain soup-to-nuts video-making experience while connecting to local library history.

The labs will take the form of two-day weekend workshops led by members of the *Free For All* media team. The morning session of the first day will include an overview of the program and a discussion of oral history interview techniques, focusing on the historical themes to be addressed in the interviews. Before a break for lunch, the media team will also deliver a briefing on the use of lighting, cameras, and sound gear. During the afternoon session, youth will meet seniors pre-matched by the *Free For All* team to conduct hour-long video interviews.

On the second workshop day, the media team will work closely with youth to review their footage and create scripts in the morning. In the afternoon, they will cut their short films on edit stations provided and supervised by the media team. Once they have passed through a review and second edit, the films will be exhibited for the general public in the library during National Library Week with participating youth and seniors in attendance. From start to finish, the media team will document the oral history lab process to include on the *Free For All* podcast and for evaluation.

We are currently working with library staff in Pittsburgh and Columbia to develop an online application process to recruit youth from within the libraries' existing youth media programs. Librarians will also present the engagement team with a short list of senior candidates who have previously attended literacy workshops and cultural events at the libraries. The Public Engagement Associate will work with the librarians to review the applications, conduct telephone interviews with potential youth and senior fellows, make selections, and prepare welcome letters and media handbooks for the labs.

#### Story Hours with local authors

In addition to being centers of learning, libraries provide much-needed creative shelter and nourishment for countless young scholars and creators of all kinds. The library is a font of intellectual and aesthetic discovery, holding out a promise of abundance that can be a lifeline to a young historian or poet. Moreover, the library protects, curates, and offers access to that bounty free of charge. Our curated "Story Hours" – modeled after the highly successful Moth Story Hour – explore and celebrate the generative role of the library in nurturing the imaginations of its patrons.

Each Story Hour event, held in a library reading room or children's area in the afternoon or evening, will be introduced by a local humanities scholar who will kick off the event by briefly sharing a historical snapshot of the host branch. The microphone will then be passed to a local author or other celebrity to

share a personal story and a literary work – their own or by another – that in some way celebrates the library. These readings will be pulled from our “Libraries Celebrate the Nation’s Birthday” reading/viewing list – which will be distributed to the public at the events, along with marketing for the *Free For All* film and discussion series. The author-led readings will be followed by 30-minute open-mic discussion, in which audience members will be invited to respond to the prompt, “What’s Your Library Story?” The program will be recorded with the permission of participants, and evaluative data gathered via surveys and observation. Snacks and non-alcoholic drinks will be served.

During Phase One of the grant period, Story Hours will take place at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC and the main library in Jackson, Mississippi. We will hold two Story Hours in each region: one for children and one for adults. We are currently working with participating branches to confirm authors in each location, based on the thematic content of their published work and their previous experience engaging live audiences.

#### Lectures by scholars

Traditional hour-long lectures, offered as a part of our activity package, give participating humanities scholars an opportunity to engage audiences in depth on topics in their areas of expertise, always with thematic reference to the *Free For All* film. Lectures will be marketed both as part of the initiative and independently to the public. Lecture topics and dates continue to be set as we consult with advisors and librarians. Confirmed lectures include:

- Boston Public Library (Boston, MA): Special Independence Day panel discussion led by Jill Lepore, plus “The Role of Women in the History of the Carnegie Public Library Movement,” by scholar Abigail Van Slyke, author of *Free to All*. (July 5, 2020)
- Franklin Public Library (Franklin, MA): “The Library in Colonial Life,” by Jill Lepore, talking in one of America’s oldest libraries about the role Ben Franklin and his sister Jane played in its creation. (July 6, 2020)
- Homestead Public Library (Homestead, PA): “Libraries: Bridges Across the Digital Divide,” by MacArthur Foundation president and scholar John Palfrey, author of *BiblioTech: Why Libraries Matter More Than Ever in the Age of Google*. (July 10, 2020)
- Milwaukee Public Library (Milwaukee, Wisconsin): “The Public Library: Grassroots Democracy in Action,” by scholar Eric Klinenberg, author of *Palace for the People*. (Exact date TBD.)
- San Francisco Public Library (San Francisco, CA): “This Way In: The History of San Francisco Chinatown Library” by library scholar Judy Yung, talking about her role as the first Chinese-speaking librarian of that branch and addressing the meaning of the library for immigrants. (Exact date TBD.)

#### **Confirmed scholars by region**

**Region 1: Northeast.** In New England, library events will be led by *New Yorker* staff writer and Harvard history professor Jill Lepore, who will focus on Colonial library history and the role of women in the pre-Carnegie era. Abigail Van Slyck, PhD, Associate Dean of Faculty and the Dayton Professor of Art History at Connecticut College, will discuss library architecture and women leaders in the Carnegie era. John Palfrey will deliver a lecture on the role of libraries in the digital age. Matthew Battles will lead a Story Hour. New York events will include author Eric Klinenberg, historian Tom Glynn, Harlem library history scholar Ethelene Whitmire, bestselling author/journalist Susan Orlean, and young adult novelist Jacqueline Woodson. At the Library of Congress in DC, historian John Y. Cole will lead a panel and lecture on the history of the LOC.

**Region 2: South.** Wayne Wiegand, author of many books about the library including 2015’s *A Part of Our Lives: A People’s History of the American Public Library*, for which he received an NEH fellowship,

will lead panels on the theme of the public library as neutral ground for civil conversation between differing viewpoints. Bestselling novelist Ann Patchett will lead Story Hour activities for adults and teens. Scholar Eric Klinenberg will lead a discussion about libraries as first responders in disaster.

**Region 3: Midwest.** In the Midwest, Kansas City Public Library Executive Director and collector Crosby Kemper will lead a panel and give a lecture on the joys of book collecting. Wisconsin library historian Larry T. Nix will join a panel to speak about the wonders of small town libraries. Storyteller and Midwest historian Jerry Apps will address the role of the library in rural life. Historian Joanne Passet, will lead a discussion and lecture on pioneer women librarians. Christine Pawley, former director of the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will join in discussions on the founding role of women in the library.

**Region 4: West.** Scholar Gray Brechin will discuss library history in the New Deal era. Scholar Judy Yung, PhD, a former San Francisco Chinatown librarian, will speak on the topic of the essential role of the library in immigrant and underserved communities. Humanities advisors Luis Herrera, and Malkia Cyril will join in events about the history of censorship and privacy challenges at public libraries, and Nancy Pearl and Jewelle Gomez will discuss the historic role of the library as muse for writers, filmmakers, and artists.

### **Program agendas**

Due to the limited length of this walkthrough, we are providing program agendas for the Northeast region only. However, we are continuing to confirm specific details about all event dates and attending scholars and other facilitators, and can provide those details on request.

#### Region 1: Northeast - Program Agenda

The initiative will come to branch libraries in the Northeast region in the summer of 2020. The visits will follow a month-long intensive PR push to the region, in collaboration with the ALA, the ULC, and the publicity departments of participating libraries.

#### Agenda for Boston, MA

##### *Day 1: Friday, July 3, 2020 - Independence Day Kickoff*

11:00 a.m. Free For All team arrives in Boston.

1:00-2:00 p.m. Media team lunch meeting with Boston Public Library facilitating librarian and staff.

5:00-6:15 p.m. Screening of *Free For All* - Boston Public Library, Central Library in Copley Square.

6:15-6:45 p.m. Special Independence Day panel discussion led by scholar and author Jill Lepore on the themes of the library as democracy in action; as a neutral ground for civil conversation; as a vehicle for social mobility and the pursuit of happiness, and as an institution historically built and shaped by women.

6:45-7:00 p.m. Audience Q&A. Surveys distributed.

7:00-7:30 p.m. Media team conducts 5-minute audio interviews with panelists and audience members for inclusion in the Free For All podcast and Engagement Toolkit. Public Engagement Associate collects surveys and observational data.

##### *Day 2. Sunday, July 5, 2020*

2:00-3:00 p.m. **Special Activity: Lecture** - Boston Public Library, Central Library in Copley Square, "The Role of Women in the History of the Carnegie Public Library Movement," by scholar Abigail Van Slyke, author of *Free to All*. Surveys distributed.

3:00-3:30 p.m. Audience Q&A. Surveys and observational data collected.

6:00-7:30 p.m. **Special Activity: Story Hour for Grownups**

Harvard-based library scholar Matthew Battles introduces the Story Hour with a brief history of the Victorian-era branch where the audience is assembled, citing that at the cornerstone-laying ceremony of the Central Library in 1888, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes proclaimed before the gathered crowd that “This palace is the people’s own.” After these brief remarks, Battles will pass the baton to a guest author (TBD), who will read from their work. The 15-minute reading will be followed by a 30-minute open-mic discussion in which attendees each have five minutes to share their own library story with the group. Drinks and snacks will be served. Surveys distributed.

7:30-8:00 p.m. Media team conducts 5-minute audio interviews with panelists and audience members for inclusion in the Free For All podcast and Engagement Toolkit. Public Engagement Associate collects surveys and observational data.

Agenda for Franklin, MA

*Day 3. Monday, July 6, 2020*

10:00-11:30 a.m. Free For All team drives from Boston to Franklin, MA.

2:00-3:00 p.m. **Special Activity: Lecture** - Franklin Public Library.

3:00-3:30 p.m. Audience Q&A. Surveys and observational data collected.

*New Yorker* staff writer and *New York Times* bestselling author Jill Lepore delivers a lecture in one of America’s oldest libraries about the role Ben Franklin and his sister Jane played in its creation. In the lecture, entitled “The Library in Colonial Life,” Lepore discusses how the library figures as a foundational institution of American democracy, citing her newest work, *These Truths: A History of the United States* and other relevant scholarship.

5:00-6:15 p.m. Screening of *Free For All* - Franklin Public Library, Main Branch.

6:15-6:45 p.m. Panel discussion led by scholar and author Jill Lepore on the themes of the library as democracy in action; as a neutral ground for civil conversation; as a vehicle for social mobility and the pursuit of happiness, and as an institution historically built and shaped by women.

6:45-7:00 p.m. Audience Q&A. Surveys distributed.

7:00-7:30 p.m. Media team conducts 5-minute audio interviews with panelists and audience members for inclusion in the Free For All podcast and Engagement Toolkit. Public Engagement Associate collects surveys and observational data.

**Agenda for New York, NY**

*Day 4. Tuesday, July 7, 2020*

10:00 a.m. Free For All arrive in Manhattan, check into hotel.

12:00-1:00 p.m. Logsdon and Public Engagement Associate phone check-in with facilitating librarian and facilitating scholar Eric Klinenberg to touch base before screening.

2:00-3:00 p.m. **Special Activity: Lecture** - New York Public Library, Main Branch. Historian Tom Glynn delivers a talk on the fascinating history of public libraries in New York with the 1911 opening of the Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street branch, New York’s “marble palace for book lovers,” but emphasizes the lesser-known history of informal lending libraries that existed in the city since before the Revolution. Surveys distributed.

3:00-3:30 p.m. Audience Q&A. Surveys and observational data collected.



6:30-7:45 p.m. Screening of *Free For All* - New York Public Library, Main Branch.

7:45-8:15 p.m. Panel discussion led by facilitating scholar and public sociologist Eric Klinenberg on the theme of the library as democracy in action; as a neutral ground for civil conversation; as a vehicle for social mobility, and as a physical common space in an increasingly virtual world.

8:15-8:30 p.m. Audience Q&A.

8:30-9:00 p.m. Media team records 5-minute audio interviews with panelists and audience members for inclusion in Free For All podcast.

*Day 5. Wednesday, July 8, 2020*

2:00-3:00 p.m. **Special Activity: Story Hour for Kids** - New York Public Library, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Harlem.

NYPL Harlem Branch library staff will arrange with NYPL public schools to organize a visit from a 6th/7th grade class. Harlem scholar Ethelene Whitmire will introduce the Story Hour with a brief history, geared to kids, of the Harlem branch of the NYPL. Then she will pass the microphone to guest author Jacqueline Woodson, who will talk to students about her early love of books and read from her young adult novel *Brown Girl Dreaming*.

3:00-3:30 p.m. The 15-minute reading will be followed by a 30-minute open-mic discussion in which kids each have five minutes to ask questions and share their own library stories with the group. Drinks, and snacks will be served, and surveys distributed.

Surveys and observational data collected.

6:30-7:00 p.m. **Special Activity: Lecture** - New York Public Library, Harlem Branch. University of Wisconsin scholar Ethelene Whitmire will deliver a lecture on Regina Anderson Andrews, the first African American to head her own branch of the New York Public Library and an active participant in the Harlem Renaissance. More broadly, she will discuss the African American public library experience, especially the role of Black women in the library, citing her book *Regina Andrews: Harlem Renaissance Librarian* (2014). Surveys distributed.

7:00-7:30 p.m. Media team conducts 5-minute audio interviews with participants for inclusion in the Free For All podcast and Engagement Toolkit. Public Engagement Associate collects surveys and observational data.

*Day 6. Thursday, July 9, 2020*

Day off in New York.

**Agenda for Homestead/Pittsburgh, PA**

*Day 7. Friday, July 10, 2020*

10:00 a.m. Free For All team arrives in Homestead, PA, check into hotel.

12:00-1:00 p.m. Free For All team telephone check-in with facilitating librarian and facilitating scholar John Palfrey to touch base before screening.

2:00-3:00 p.m. **Special Activity: Lecture** - Homestead Public Library. Scholar John Palfrey gives a talk on “Libraries: Bridges Across the Digital Divide” based on his book *BiblioTech: Why Libraries Matter More Than Ever in the Age of Google*. Surveys distributed.

3:00-3:30 p.m. Audience Q&A. Surveys and observational data collected.

5:30-7:00 p.m. Screening of *Free For All* - Homestead, PA, Main Branch.

7:00-7:30 p.m. Panel discussion led by facilitating scholar John Palfrey on the theme of the library as democracy in action; as a neutral ground for civil conversation; as a vehicle for social mobility and the pursuit of happiness, and on envisioning the future of the public library.

7:30-8:00 p.m. Media team records 5-minute audio interviews with panelists and audience members for inclusion in Free For All podcast. Surveys and observational data collected.

*Day 8. Saturday, July 11, 2020*

**Special Activity: Youth/senior oral history lab, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, South Side Branch.**

*Day 1 of workshop*

8:30-9:00 a.m. Coffee and bagels.

9:00-10:30 a.m. Project Director Dawn Logsdon overviews the program and leads a discussion of oral history interview techniques, focusing on the historical themes to be addressed.

10:30-12:30 a.m. Dawn Logsdon and Public Engagement Coordinator Jennifer Huang lead a training on the use of lighting, cameras, and sound gear.

12:30-1:30 p.m. Brown bag lunch served.

1:30-2:30 p.m. Youth and media team set up gear for interviews.

2:30-2:45 p.m. Break.

2:45-3:15 p.m. Seniors arrive and meet pre-matched youth. Introductions.

3:15-4:30 p.m. Free For All team supervise as youth conduct interviews. Huang records video of interviews for Toolkit and podcast. Public Engagement Associate collects observational data.

4:30-5:00 p.m. Youth pack gear, begin footage backup.

5:00 p.m. Wrap.

*Day 9. Sunday, July 12, 2020*

*Day 2 of workshop*

8:30-9:00 a.m. Coffee and bagels.

9:00-10:00 a.m. Dawn Logsdon overviews principles of video storytelling, with an emphasis on weaving historical themes into short films.

10:00-10:15 Break.

10:15-11:30 Youth set up at edit stations. Dawn Logsdon leads Adobe Premiere editing workshop.

11:30-12:30 Youth review their footage from Day 1 and begin creating scripts.

12:30-1:30 p.m. Brown bag lunch served.

1:30-3:00 Youth complete scripts and create rough cuts.

3:00-3:15 Break.

3:15-4:00 p.m. Review of rough cuts with media team.

4:00-5:00 p.m. Youth create fine cuts of films and back up their media. Huang records the session and Public Engagement Associate gathers evaluative data.

5:00-5:30 p.m. Youth create output files.

5:30 p.m. Wrap.

*Day 10. Monday, July 13, 2020*

10:00 a.m. Free For All team arrives in Washington, DC, check into hotel.

12:00-1:00 p.m. Media team telephone check-in with facilitating librarian and facilitating scholar John Y. Cole to touch base before screening.

5:30-7:00 p.m. Screening of *Free For All* - Library of Congress, DC.

7:00-7:30 p.m. Panel discussion led by facilitating scholar Wayne A. Wiegand on the theme of the library as a symbol and practice of democracy in action; as a neutral ground for civil conversation between those with divergent viewpoints; as a vehicle for social mobility and the pursuit of happiness, and on the public library as a safe haven for the vulnerable.

*Day 11. Tuesday, July 14, 2020*

2:00-3:30 p.m. **Special Activity: Lecture** - Coolidge Auditorium, Library of Congress. Scholar John Y. Cole, PhD is a librarian and historian who has served the Library of Congress since 1966. He will deliver a lecture entitled “America’s Greatest Library,” accompanied by slides excerpted from his book *America’s Greatest Library: An Illustrated History of the Library of Congress*. The lecture invites audiences to reflect on the history of the Library of Congress, particularly the development of its national role on the eve of the 250th anniversary of American independence. Surveys distributed.

3:30-4:00 p.m. Audience Q&A. Surveys and observational data collected.

4:00-4:30 p.m. Scholar John Y. Cole leads a historical tour of the Library of Congress.

**Titles and brief annotations about the texts (partial list)**

In addition to the *Free For All* film, scholars and other panelist will reference the following works. This list is partial; we can provide a more up-to-date list on request. Based on the topical focus of scholars, panels and lectures may also include visual material such as film clips, photographs, architectural plans, maps, illustrations, etc.

Battles, Matthew, *Library: An Unquiet History*. Former rare books librarian and Harvard MetaLAB visionary Matthew Battles, one of our facilitating scholars, takes us from medieval monasteries to the Information Age to explore how libraries are built and how they are destroyed: from the scroll burnings in ancient China to the latest revolutionary upheavals of the digital age.

Basbanes, Nicholas A., *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books*. Written before the emergence of the Internet but newly updated for the modern reader, *A Gentle Madness* is an encyclopedia of the history of book collecting. Bisbanes, one of our facilitating scholars, is a recognized authority on the topic.

Klinenberg, Eric, *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life*. Facilitating scholar Klinenberg reminds us that democracy is fortified and enlivened by people coexisting together in public, and that good design of public spaces, including libraries, can create and nurture community.

Orlean, Susan, *The Library Book*. Weaving her lifelong love of books and reading into an investigation of the Los Angeles Public Library fire, Orlean, one of the initiative’s guest authors, tells the broader story of libraries and librarians in a way that has never been done before.

Dawson, Robert, *The Public Library: A Photographic Essay*. Free For All advisor Robert Dawson had been photographing libraries since 1994. What resulted was a book no library lover could resist.

Hundreds of lovely photographs in all of their rural, urban, Carnegie, and mid-century modern glory, interspersed with essays by renowned authors and thinkers.

Wiegand, Wayne, *Part of Our Lives: A People's History of the American Public Library*. Despite dire predictions in the late 20th century that public libraries would not survive the turn of the millennium, their numbers have only increased. Lead project scholar Wiegand traces the history of the public library through the voices of everyday patrons, featuring records and testimonies from as early as 1850.

### **Readings and visual materials to be made available to members of the audience.**

At all library visits, we will screen the full feature documentary *Free For All: Inside the Public Library* for attending audiences. We will also distribute "Libraries Celebrate the Nation's Birthday" reading lists at all program events and place them in public areas in all participating libraries. Cleverly designed as a library checkout card, the double-sided cardstock list will include titles of library- and democracy-themed books and films for adults on one side, kids and teens on the other. The approximately 35 titles include nonfiction works as well as novels, short stories, memoirs, essays, poems, graphic novels, children's stories, and films that reference the library. The purpose of the reading list is to expand the public's awareness of the significance of the library in American cultural and intellectual life, and to entice patrons to have fun exploring the themes of the Free For All project. An expanded reading list will also be posted on the Free For All website, social media, and the websites of our partner organizations and participating libraries.

#### Reading list for adults (partial list):

*Benjamin Franklin, An American Life*, by Walther Issacson - In this colorful and intimate New York Times Bestseller, Isaacson provides the full sweep of Franklin's amazing life, from his days as a runaway printer to his triumphs as a statesman, scientist, and Founding Father. He chronicles Franklin's personal life and shows how Franklin helped to create the American character and why he has a particular resonance in the twenty-first century.

*Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin*, by Jill Lepore - A New York Time Notable Book. From one of our most accomplished and widely admired historians, *Book of Ages* is a revelatory portrait of Benjamin Franklin's youngest sister, Jane, whose obscurity and poverty were matched only by her brother's fame and wealth but who, like him, was a passionate reader, a gifted writer, and an astonishingly shrewd political commentator. Making use of an impressive cache of little-studied material, including documents, objects, and portraits only just discovered, Jill Lepore brings Jane Franklin to life in a way that illuminates not only this one extraordinary woman but an entire world.

*The Archivist*, by Martha Cooley - *The Archivist* is the tale of its narrator, Matt Lane, a 60-ish librarian at a private university near New York. Matt has been entrusted with the care of certain personal correspondence between the poet T.S. Eliot and his friend Emily Hale, letters that are supposed to remain sealed until the year 2020. Lane's attempt to preserve the letters is a metaphor for larger concerns.

*The Camel Bookmobile*, by Masha Hamilton - Masha Hamilton's compelling third novel leaves no room for doubt: Books are essential. Cookbooks, novels, parenting books - they all matter to Fiona "Fi" Sweeney, a librarian from Brooklyn searching for fulfillment atop a book-laden camel in the arid and dangerous bush of Kenya.

*The Case of the Missing Books*, by Ian Sansom - Israel Armstrong is lured to Ireland by the promise of an exciting new career. Israel prepares to drive a mobile library around a small, damp Irish town. The scenery is lovely - but where are the books? The rolling library's 15,000 volumes have mysteriously gone missing, and it's up to Israel to discover who would steal them...and why.

*Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury - This dystopian novel, first published in 1953, presents a future American society where books are outlawed and "firemen" burn any that are found. Protagonist Guy

Montag is a fireman who becomes disillusioned with his role of censoring literature, eventually committing himself to the preservation of literary and cultural writings.

*The Geographer's Library*, by Jon Fasman - Reading *The Geographers Library* is like stepping into a sepia-toned daguerreotype: The past here holds all the clues. The novel's narrator is Paul Tomm, a young reporter coasting along at a weekly newspaper in a sleepy New England town. When a professor at his alma mater dies in mysterious circumstances, the reporter's research for a routine obituary leads him into an unimaginably poisonous labyrinth.

*A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books*, by Nicholas A. Basbanes - Written before the emergence of the Internet but newly updated for the modern reader, *A Gentle Madness* is an encyclopedia of the history of book collecting. Its author, one of our humanities advisors, is a recognized authority on the topic.

*The Good Luck of Right Now*, by Matthew Quick - Bartholomew Neil is a uniquely likable protagonist who at nearly 40 has lived with his mother his entire life. After her death, Bartholomew sets a few life goals, like having a beer in a bar with an age-appropriate friend and pursuing Girlbrarian, the lovely but withdrawn woman who shelves books at his local library.

*The Inner Circle*, by Brad Meltzer - *The Inner Circle* is a fast paced political thriller about a librarian. Meltzer cleverly disguises the truth, making readers question if there's anyone they can trust.

*The Library at Babel*, by Jorge Luis Borges - A short story conceiving of a universe in the form of a vast library containing all possible 410-page books of a certain format and character set.

*The Library Book*, by Susan Orlean - Weaving her lifelong love of books and reading into an investigation of the Los Angeles Public Library fire, Susan Orlean tells the broader story of libraries and librarians in a way that has never been done before. Orlean is one of the initiative's guest authors.

*The Library at Night*, by Alberto Manguel - Inspired by the process of creating a library for his 15th century French home near the Loire, Manguel, acclaimed for his writing on books and reading, has taken up the subject of libraries. "Libraries," he says, "have always seemed to me pleasantly mad places, and for as long as I can remember I've been seduced by their labyrinthine logic." In this personal and wide-ranging book, he offers a captivating meditation on the meaning of libraries.

*Library: An Unquiet History*, by Matthew Battles - Former rare books librarian and Harvard MetaLAB visionary Matthew Battles, one of our facilitating scholars, takes us from Boston to Baghdad, from medieval monasteries to the Information Age, to explore how libraries are built and how they are destroyed: from the scroll burnings in ancient China to the latest upheavals of the digital age.

*Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life*, by Eric Klinenberg - Klinenberg reminds us that democracy is fortified and enlivened by people coexisting together in public, and that good design and support of a wide variety of public spaces, including libraries, can produce community, membership, and a place in the world.

*Part of Our Lives: A People's History of the American Public Library*, by Wayne A. Wiegand - Despite dire predictions in the late 20th century that public libraries would not survive the turn of the millennium, their numbers have only increased. Lead scholar Wiegand traces the history of the public library, featuring records and testimonies from as early as 1850. Rather than library founders and managers, Wiegand listens to the voices of everyday patrons who cherished libraries.

*People of the Book*, by Geraldine Brooks - Brooks traces the harrowing journey of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, a beautifully illuminated Hebrew manuscript, from fifteenth-century Spain to war-torn Bosnia. The tome falls to a renowned book conservator and a young librarian who risked his life to save it to discover its secrets and piece together the mystery of its miraculous survival.

*The Public Library: A Photographic Essay*, by Robert Dawson - *Free For All* advisor Robert Dawson had been photographing libraries since 1994. What resulted was a book no library lover could resist. Hundreds of lovely photographs in all of their rural, urban, Carnegie, and mid-century modern glory, interspersed with essays by renowned authors and thinkers.

*Running the Books*, by Avi Steinberg - Avi Steinberg left yeshiva for Harvard, then stalled out as a freelance obituary writer for the Boston Globe. In search of a new direction and the security of a job with benefits, Steinberg answered an ad on Craigslist and began life anew as a librarian in a Boston prison.

*The Shadow of the Wind*, by Carlos Ruiz Zafón - This literary mystery begins in a marvelous place called the Cemetery of Forgotten Books, a repository for literary works no longer remembered by anyone. The old caretaker tells 10-year-old boy named Daniel to choose one book from the labyrinthian stacks, take it away and make sure it never disappears.

*The Strange Library*, by Haruki Murakami - Readers of this fantastical illustrated short novel about a lonely boy, a mysterious girl, and a tormented sheep man imprisoned in a nightmarish library will find themselves immersed in the strange world of Japanese author Haruki Murakami's wild imagination.

*The Time Traveler's Wife*, by Audrey Niffenegger - Henry is a 28-year-old librarian who has a genetic disorder that causes him to travel through time involuntarily. Stacking books on the shelves in the library's inner sanctum, he'll suddenly vanish, leaving behind a pile of clothes, only to materialize in some unknown past or future moment, naked and nauseated. Often he travels to a certain Michigan meadow and visits a little girl, Clare, who sneaks him food and clothes.

*This Book Is Overdue!* by Marilyn Johnson - Librarians are no longer ladies in cardigans hovering over the card catalog. The new librarians are bloggers, information junkies and protectors of freedom and privacy in the digital age.

*The World's Strongest Librarian*, by Josh Hanagarne - Imagine a towering man who can bend a horseshoe with his hands and whose outsized literary interests include everything from Jonathan Franzen to Stephen King. He sounds like a comic book hero, but he chooses to spend his days working in a public library, even though he suffers from Tourette's, a syndrome that compels him to act out, often audibly.

Reading list for kids (partial list):

*Amelia Bedelia, Bookworm*, by Herman Parish - Amelia Bedelia is back! This time she is keeping everyone at the library on their toes. Between knitting book "jackets," hiding from the scary thesaurus, and stealing the bookmobile, no one – especially the librarian – knows what will happen next.

*Bats at the Library*, by Brian Lies - When someone leaves the window open at the public library, a group of bats take advantage of the situation. If you've ever wondered what you can do at a library when everyone is gone, then you'll enjoy this late-night literary adventure.

*The Boy Who Was Raised by Librarians*, by Carla Morris - Every day after school Melvin goes to the library. Everything has its place in the library and Melvin likes it that way. His favorite people, the librarians, guide him throughout his childhood, and he grows up to become a librarian.

*Chicken Story Time*, by Sandy Asher - Storytime at the library gets interesting when a chicken shows up. As more and more chickens start attending, things get a little hectic. Fortunately, the librarian is able to find a solution to curb the storytime chaos while keeping everyone happy.

*Dewey*, by Vicki Myron - For 19 years, the sweet and magical cat known as Dewey Readmore Books lived in the Spencer Public Library, touching countless lives, offering hope and pride to a struggling community, and gaining worldwide adoration along the way.

*Down Cut Shin Creek: The Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky*, by Jeanne Cannella Schmitzer, Kathi Appelt - This is the story of one of the WPA's greatest successes. Young, determined librarians brought the hope of a wider world to people in the crooks and hollows of Kentucky's Cumberland Mountains.

*D.W.'s Library Card*, by Marc Brown - Arthur's little sister, Dora Winifred can hardly wait until she can write her entire name to get her very own library card. Arthur helps her understand that she can use and enjoy library books safely.

*Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*, by Chris Grabenstein - Kyle Keeley is a huge fan of all games – board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious gamemaker in the world, just happens to be the genius behind the construction of the new town library.

*The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*, by William Joyce - This beautifully illustrated story is about a man, his love of writing, a library full of magic books, and a life dedicated to the written word.

*Goldie Socks and the Three Libearians*, by Jackie Mims Hopkins - When Goldie Socks takes a shortcut through the woods when she is late for school, she comes across an intriguing cottage made of books.

*If You Ever Want to Bring a Circus to the Library, Don't!* by Elise Parsley - Can you really do anything at the library? Magnolia thinks so and she decides to set up a circus among the books.

*The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq*, by Jeanette Winter - This wonderful true story about a librarian determined to save the books in her library is inspirational and shows how important books are to those who treasure them.

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, by Betty Smith - A semi-autobiographical 1943 novel written by Betty Smith, the story focuses on an impoverished but aspirational adolescent girl and her family living in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York City, during the first two decades of the 20th century.

*A Velocity of Being: Letters to A Young Reader*, by Maria Popova (Editor) - In these pages, some of today's most wonderful culture-makers – writers, artists, scientists, entrepreneurs, and philosophers – reflect on the joys of reading and the ways in which the written word formed their own characters.

*Wild About Books*, by Judy Sierra - What happens when a librarian mistakenly drives her bookmobile into the zoo? She finds the perfect book for each animal.

*Wolves*, by Emily Gravett - A little rabbit goes to the library and checks out a book about wolves. He's so engrossed in reading that he doesn't notice when he walks into serious trouble.

### **Program venues**

Not only are public libraries across the nation a natural fit for our initiative, but much of the scholarship that enriches our discussions and lectures explores the histories of individual libraries. By engaging audiences in the very spaces where history occurred, we can bring learning to life. We have confirmed the participation of the following libraries, and continue to refine this list in consultation with our partner organizations:

#### **Venues for Region 1, Northeast:**

- Boston, MA - Boston Public Library, Central Library in Copley Square; Jamaica Plain Branch
- Franklin, MA - Franklin Public Library, Main Branch
- New York, NY - New York Public Library, Main Branch; Harlem Branch; Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
- Washington, DC - Library of Congress

#### **Venues for Region 2, South:**

- Columbia, SC - Richland County Public Library, Main Branch
- Atlanta, GA - Atlanta-Fulton Public Library, Atlanta Central Library; M.L. King, Jr. Library
- Jackson, MS - Jackson Hinds Library, Raymond Public Library
- Baton Rouge, LA - East Baton Rouge Public Library, Main Branch; Pride-Chaneyville Branch
- New Orleans, LA - New Orleans Public Library, Main Library

Venues for Region 3, Midwest:

- South Dakota - Siouxland Public Library
- Columbus, WI - Columbus Public Library
- Kansas City, MO - Kansas City Public Library, Central Library; Westport Branch
- Ohio - Cuyahoga County Public Library

Venues for Region 4, West:

- Salt Lake City, UT - Salt Lake City Public Library, Main Branch
- Portland, OR - Multnomah County Public Library, Central Library; Northwest Branch
- San Francisco, CA - San Francisco Public Library, Main Branch; Chinatown Branch
- Long Beach, CA - Long Beach Public Library, Main Branch

**Training workshops to prepare discussion facilitators, scholars, and library staff.**

The initiative's success in Phase Two depends on how widely and effectively libraries can reproduce panel discussions and special events. To that end, in collaboration with the ALA, we will create online training modules for discussion facilitators (including scholars and librarians), and other participating scholars and library staff. The trainings will communicate effective recruitment of panelists and celebrity Story Hour moderators, as well as step-by-step event planning and engagement techniques. The guides will also include discussion prompts and ensure that all events refer to research-based humanities themes as a touchstone throughout. Conversation facilitation guides and webinars will be included in our Library Engagement Toolkit (see *Resources to extend the life of the project*).

Suggestions for leading post-screening conversations will be made available to scholars and event hosts in a facilitation guide designed by OCLC WebJunction with input from the ALA and the National Writing Project, as well as David M. Kennedy and our advisory board. The facilitation guide will be published on [ProgrammingLibrarian.org](http://ProgrammingLibrarian.org) and promoted by ALA and OCLC, encouraging many thousands of librarians to host their own events.

**Resources to extend the life of the project**

Though we obviously can only visit a tiny fraction of American libraries, we will document all program events to build a robust Library Engagement Toolkit, including digital trainings and other resources, that empowers every library to carry on the conversation. The Toolkit will encourage librarians to engage the public around the core themes of the *Free For All* film, posing such questions as:

- *What was the role of the public library in the earliest days of our democracy? What is its role today as we reflect on the 250th anniversary of the American project?*
- *What lessons can we learn from the historical struggles of library pioneers to extend access to remote and underserved groups?*
- *How do diverse groups of people, such as immigrants, teens, seniors, and the homeless use the library? How can we make sure everyone is welcome and safe at the library?*



- *What is the role of the library in an increasingly digital age?*
- *How have women helped make the public library what it is today? What opportunities did the library historically provide to women?*

The Toolkit will offer step-by-step guides for organizing *Free For All* screenings, panel discussions with Q&As, and special engagement activities, as well as the resources libraries need to optimize their efforts. To that end, the engagement team will record video and audio interviews with panel participants and audience members that document how the discussions changed or deepened their understanding of the public library. Special activities will also be documented by the team during setup and progress, and organizers and select participants interviewed. The Toolkit will incorporate the recordings in digital trainings, which include modular audio and videos recordings and links to webinars for librarians and expert discussion leaders. The trainings also include real-time phone and online troubleshooting help from the engagement team.

Helping develop, design, and produce the Toolkit will be a primary duty of the Public Engagement Associate we propose to hire with NEH funding. The associate will also help create and curate a dynamic public library reading list, informed by humanities scholars, that collects the best works on the history and significance of the public library in American life.

A facilitation guide, a customizable electronic press kit and press release, and a set of compelling social media posts will be used for promotional purposes and to spur further conversation online. The initiative's professional team will anchor local conversations in a major national marketing and PR effort. This will boost local turnout and cross-pollinate ideas that emerge in different communities. Materials, including those generated by local communities, will be promoted digitally and over the airwaves by local, regional and national public television partners to maximize public impact.

Free For All Podcast. In addition to the Toolkit, we will use the best audio we collect during discussions, post-discussion interviews, and special activities to produce six episodes of a story-based podcast in partnership with the award-winning audio producers The Kitchen Sisters. Each episode of this emotionally moving and scholarship-rich series will tell a different historical or contemporary story that illuminates the significance of the library to American public life. The podcast will be freely available on the Free For All website and participating library websites, as well as through the usual podcast channels.

## **RÉSUMÉS AND LETTERS OF COMMITMENT**

*Many of our team, scholars and organizational partners have been supporting Free for All since we began project development in 2012.*

### **Project Team**

Dawn Logsdon (Director/Producer)  
Lucie Faulknor (Office & Outreach Manager)  
Sam Ball (Public Engagement Director)  
Jennifer Huang (Public Engagement Coordinator)  
Stanley Nelson (*Free For All* Executive Producer)  
Ellen Schneider (Impact Strategist)

### **Humanities Scholars and Consultants**

Nicholas Basbanes, Ph.D (Columnist, Author, *A Gentle Madness*)  
Matthew Battles, Ph.D (Author, Librarian, Researcher, metaLab, Harvard University)  
Gray Brechin (Geography, University of California, Berkeley)  
John Y. Cole, Ph.D (Historian, Librarian, Library of Congress)  
Robert Dawson (Art & Art History, Stanford University)  
Crosby Kemper (Librarian, Kansas City Public Library)  
Eric Klinenberg (Institute of Public Knowledge, New York University)  
Jill Lepore (American History, Harvard University)  
Christine Pawley (School of Library and Information Studies, University of Wisconsin)  
Nancy Pearl (Information School, University of Washington)  
Robert D. Putnam, Ph.D (Public Policy Director, Harvard University)  
Abigail Van Slyck, Ph.D (Art History, Connecticut College)  
Ethelene Whitemire, Ph.D (School of Library & Information Studies, UW-Madison)  
Wayne Wiegard, Ph.D (Library History Professor Emeritus, Florida State University)  
Judy Yung, Ph.D (Author, Professor Emeritus, University of California, Santa Cruz)  
Peter Booth Wiley (Author, Journalist, Chair Emeritus, Wiley Publishing)

### **Library Consultants and Engagement Consultants**

Luis Herrera (Fmr. City Librarian, San Francisco)  
Sonya Childress (Director of Partnerships & Engagement, Firelight Media)

### **Partner Organizations And Libraries**

PBS - Independent Lens	Jackson Hinds, MS Public Library
PBS - POV	Long Beach, CA Public Library
KQED	New Mexico State Public Library
The Kitchen Sisters	New Orleans, LA Public Library
The American Library Association	New York Public Library
The Association of Rural and Small Libraries	Portland, OR Public Library
The Urban Libraries Council	Queens, NY Public Library
Boston Public Library	San Francisco, CA Public Library
Chicago Public Library	South Dakota State Public Library
Columbus, WI Public Library	Terrebonne Parish Library, LA
Cuyahoga County Public Library	Vermilion Parish Library, LA
East Baton Rouge, LA Public Library	Wichita, KS Public Library

# DAWN LOGSDON

Director/Editor/Producer/Writer

1736 Stockton Street, #3, S.F. CA 94133, [dawn@serendipityfilms.org](mailto:dawn@serendipityfilms.org), 415-824-4910

## Credit Highlights

<b>FREE FOR ALL</b> Director/Producer, 2019	Feature-length NEH-funded documentary exploring the history, culture and significance of the American Public Library and the free library movement that created it.
<b>ART OF CRAFT: JACQUES PEPIN</b> Editor, 2018	PBS, American Masters Special, portrait of chef and writer Jacques Pepin. Director: Peter L. Stein
<b>THE ROYAL ROAD</b> Editor, 2015	Feature-length experimental essay documentary combining a primer on Junipero Serra's Spanish colonization of California and the Mexican American alongside intimate reflections on nostalgia, Hollywood cinema history and the pursuit of unavailable women. Director: Jenni Olson, <i>Premiered at Sundance 2015.</i>
<b>BIG JOY</b> Co-Director/Editor/Writer, 2014	Documentary on the life and work of the California poet and experimental filmmaker James Broughton. Premiered at SXSW & Tribeca 2013. <i>Best Documentary awards at Seattle, Florida and Oaxaca 2013 Film Festivals Theatrical release began February 2014.</i>
<b>CIVIL RIGHTS &amp; LEMON ICE</b> Writer, 2013	Essay and map for <i>Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas</i> Volume II of Rebecca Solnit's City Atlas Series, University of California Press
<b>COME HELL OR HIGH WATER</b> Editor, 2014	Documentary about Turkey Creek, a historic African American community fighting to save its wetlands on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Director: Leah Mahan; <i>Best Documentary Audience Award at New Orleans Film Festival 2013 sneak preview screening</i>
<b>HAVE YOU HEAR FROM JOHANNESBURG?</b> Editor/Writer 2010-11	Documentary series on the worldwide Anti-Apartheid Movement. Director: Connie Field. Broadcast: February 2012 PBS Independent Lens, BBC 4 & worldwide. <i>IDA Best Documentary Series Award 2011, Primetime Emmy for Outstanding Achievement 2012</i>
<b>FAUBOURG TREME</b> Director/Producer/Writer/Editor 2008	NEH funded documentary about the historic New Orleans neighborhood that gave birth to jazz and America's first civil rights movement. <i>Broadcast: 2009, 2010 &amp; 2011 National PBS Black History Month Presentations SFIFF Golden Globe Best Documentary Award 2008; Popular American Culture Association Best Documentary Award 2008; The Society for Visual Anthropology Best Documentary 2009</i>
<b>THE WEATHER UNDERGROUND</b> Editor, 2003	Documentary on the Vietnam War era radical youth group. Director/Producer: Sam Green. <i>Broadcast: 2004 PBS Independent Lens, Academy Award Nomination for Best Documentary Feature 2004, Sundance Official Selection 2003</i>
<b>HOPE ALONG THE WIND</b> Editor/Writer, 2002	<i>Documentary on the labor organizer and gay rights pioneer Harry Hay. Director: Eric Slade. Broadcast: PBS Independent Lens 2003, SFIFF Golden Gate Award for Best Documentary 2002, Emmy Nomination 2002</i>
<b>PARAGRAPH 175</b> Editor, 2000	Documentary about homosexuals during the Nazi era. Directors Rob Epstein/Jeffrey Friedman. <i>Broadcast: HBO 2001, Sundance Best Documentary Directing 2000, Berlin FIPRESCI Award for Best Film &amp; Teddy Award for Best Documentary 2000</i>
<b>VANISHING LINE</b> Editor, 1998	Documentary about death and the American medical system. Director/Producer: Maren Monsen. <i>Broadcast: PBS series POV 1998 and 2000 (Encore) National Emmy Award Nomination 1999</i>
<b>THE CASTRO</b>	Documentary about San Francisco's iconic gay neighborhood.

Editor, 1997	Producer/Director: Peter L. Stein <i>Broadcast: PBS National George Fo</i> <i>Peabody Award &amp; CINE Golden Eagle Awards 1998</i>
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## Other Credits

- **More Stories from Faubourg Treme - Director, Writer Editor**, 2015
- **Utopia -Editing Consultant**, 2010, Director Sam Green
- **Word is Out: Then & Now, 30 Years Later - Editing Consultant &Trailer Editor**, 2010  
Director/Producer: Veronica Selver/Janet Cole
- **Salud: The Cuban Healthcare System - Consulting Editor**, 2007, Director: Connie Field
- **Steel & Velvet: The Life of Lindy Boggs - Editor/Writer/Co-Director**, 2006,  
Director/Producer: Bess Carrick/Louisiana Public Broadcasting
- **By Invitation Only: The New Orleans Debutante Tradition - Consulting Producer/Editor & Trailer Editor**, 2006, Director: Rebecca Snedeker
- **Preservation Hall – Editor**, 2002 Director/Producer: Rebecca Snedeker / Issac Webb
- **Jacques Pepin’s Kitchen - Editor**, 26 half hour episodes, 1996 & 1997, Producer: KQED/TV  
Winner James Beard award for Best Cooking Program
- **Teaching Tolerance– Editor**, 1996 Director/Producer Margie McGovern, Southern Poverty Law Center
- **Discovering China – Editor**, 1996 Director/Producer: Erica Marcus, International Video Networks
- **Tomboy (short) - Director/ Producer/Writer/Editor**, 1995
- **Cada Cabeza es un Mundo – Editor**, 1994, Directors: Marine Dominguez, Producer: Vincente Franco
- **School Colors- Contributing Editor**, 1994 Co-production: Frontline / Center for Investigative Reporting/Telesis
- **Vidioms (short) - Co-Director/Editor**, 1992, Winner Society for Contemporary Art (SECA) award, SFMOMA

## Artist Awards/Recognition

San Francisco Arts Commission Individual Artist’s Commission	2013
Djerassi Artist Residency Fellowship	2012
Soros Open Society Institute Media Fellowship	2007
Center for Contemporary Arts, New Orleans Artist Fellowship	2006
Arts Incubator Fellowship, New Orleans Arts Council	2005
Bay Area Video Coalition Video Maker Award	2003
Louisiana Division of the Arts, Artist Fellowship	2001
California Arts Council, Artist in Residence Fellowship	1995

## Funding Awards

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA); National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH); Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Knight Foundation, Ford Foundation, Creative Work Fund, Soros Open Society Institute (OSI); Independent Television Service (ITVS); National Black Programming (NBPC), Wyncote Foundation, Southern Humanities Fund; California Humanities Council; LEF Foundation; Film Arts Foundation; Bay Area Video Coalition; Pacific Pioneer Fund; Louisiana Division of the Arts; New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation; New Orleans Arts Council; San Francisco Foundation, Eastman Fund

## Other Work Experience

Founder and Executive Producer, Serendipity Films, LLC, 2005-2019  
 Owner, The Treehouse, Editing Studio & Editing System Rentals, 1993-2000  
 Freelance Editor for Documentaries, Commercials, Educational Videos & PSAs, 1990-1999  
 Editor, KQED-TV, 1996-98  
 Editing Instructor and Guest Lecturer, Film Arts Foundation & Bay Area Video Coalition  
 Video Artist-in-Schools at Daniel Webster Elementary, Marina Middle and Lusher Elementary Schools

## Education

B.A. in Philosophy	U.C. Berkeley, 1988
Post graduate coursework in journalism and documentary film	UC Berkeley School of Journalism
Professional development classes in film history & production	BAVC, CCSF, SFFS, FAF, & SF State



## LUCIE A. FAULKNER

1933 Stockton Street ♦ San Francisco, CA ♦ 94133 ♦ (b) (6)

### SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- A dynamic career steeped in the management of arts organizations and artists
- Extensive experience planning, producing, and managing large scale projects and events
- Strong analytical and budgeting skills for \$1,000,000 + projects
- Proven instincts in hiring, supervising and motivating 20+ employees and 80+ volunteers
- Excellent written, verbal and problem-solving skills
- Effective marketing skills that include: designing and implementing branding policies, PR and publicity campaigns, audience development, community engagement and social media strategies

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **Co-Owner/Producer, Serendipity Films, LLC, New Orleans, LA and San Francisco, CA 2003-Present**

Documentary film company responsible for the award-winning PBS broadcast film *Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans* and currently in post-production for *Free for All: Inside the Public Library*

- Organize and manage all aspects of film production and crew personnel for historic re-enactments, drone shoots, sit-down interviews, and vérité filming around the country.
- Created and successfully executed fundraising strategies culminating in \$2 million+ from individuals, a \$78K Kickstarter campaign, foundations and governmental agencies
- Manage reporting of grants from the NEH, Carnegie Corporation of America, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wyncote Foundation, Ford Foundation, Open Society Institute, NEA, PBS and others
- Conceive, plan and execute all promotional and press materials and events for film festival circuit, PBS broadcasts, educational, and community screenings
- Develop, analyze and monitor budgets using Quickbooks; prepare in Excel tax financial reports for accountant
- Manage audience engagement through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flickr and other relevant social networking sites; design newsletters and maintain Salesforce database of over 10000 members
- Research and negotiate archival footage, stills, news, and music rights
- Supervise a diverse staff and many contract film industry professionals to help create award-winning films

#### **Lead House Manager, City Arts & Lectures' Sydney Goldstein Theater, San Francisco, CA 2013-Present**

- Established policy and procedures regarding all life/safety issues, ADA compliancy, and patron comfort for the re-opening of a historic 1682-seat theater
- Developed usher and volunteer handbook for rules, procedures and life/safety compliance
- Hire, train and manage Front of House staff of 20 ushers
- Solicit, train, schedule and acknowledge a diverse group of over 80 active volunteers to assist with events
- Supervise contract security, box office, concessions, and janitorial services
- On-site liaison between venue management and outside rental clients requests
- Prepare payroll invoices for Front of House staff

#### **House Manager, SFJAZZ, San Francisco, CA**

**2012-Present**

- Manage Front of House events for 700 seat Miner Auditorium and 107 seat Joe Henderson Lab
- Manage day-of-show ushers, volunteers, janitorial, security and on-site vendors
- Work with Box Office personnel to resolve ticketing issues and any patron concerns
- Clearly communicate with production staff regarding start and run of show times

**Assistant Property Manager, Yerba Buena Gardens, San Francisco, CA                      June 1999-November 2000**

*Responsible for daily operations and maintenance of all public areas of an award-winning urban park as well as interiors of the Ice & Bowling Centers, Zeum, The Childrens' Center, Playground and Historic Carousel*

- Processed all city required permits and facilitated the production of all special events for Yerba Arts & Events and corporate clients, including the SF Symphony, Pistahan Festival, SF Mime Troupe, and Oracle Open World
- Participated in meetings with the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency and SOMA neighborhood agencies
- Supervised the 24/7 security, janitorial, landscaping, and engineering personnel for all gardens and buildings
- Part of the team to win *The Rudy Bruner, Excellence in the Urban Environment Gold Medal Award* and the California Landscape Contractors Association's *Large Commercial Maintenance Achievement Award*
- Monitored compliance of contracts with outside contractors

**Events Coordinator; House Manager; Box Office Associate**

**Fort Mason Foundation (FMF), San Francisco, CA**

**1998-2003**

*Managed events at Fort Mason Center theaters and historic exhibit halls used by both corporate and nonprofit groups from 12 to 20,000 people.*

- Represented FMF and clients in successful negotiations with the National Park Service Police, SF Fire Marshalls, SFPD, Dept. of Parking & Traffic and Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Initiated, developed, trained and managed a volunteer program for the Cowell Theater; trained volunteers and new event supervisors in customer relations, crowd management and fire/life safety rules and regulations
- Responsible for daily reconciliations of ticket and concessions sales for various Fort Mason events
- Also worked at FMF from 1988-1990 as Assistant to the Facilities Director; scheduled and supervised 14 FTE maintenance and janitorial crews for all buildings and special events and major maintenance projects.

**OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

**Software Knowledge:**

Salesforce, Excel, MS Word, Google Docs, Google Sheets, Powerpoint, Quickbooks, and more.

**Event Management for the following clients (contract):**

SF Symphony's Black & White Ball, Examiner Bay to Breakers' Footstock, Macy's Passport Fashion Show, Mother Jones' Jazz Festival, Western Arts Alliance (WAA) annual conference, MT Productions' Dinah Shore Weekend, Irish Arts Foundation, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Chancellor's Office and Tours & Speakers Bureau, San Francisco State University (SFSU) AS Performing Arts

**EDUCATION**

**Master of Non-Profit Administration (2010)**

School of Business and Professional Studies, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

**Bachelor of Arts in Arts Management**

School of Creative Arts, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA

**AFFILIATIONS**

**San Francisco Film Society; International Documentary Association, International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM); Telegraph Hill Dwellers Neighborhood Association (former Board Member)**

Sam Ball  
Citizen Film  
1426 Fillmore Street #201  
San Francisco, CA 94115



August 13, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

As a producer who is committed to engaging audiences on questions of civic values and shared ideals, I am thrilled to be working with Serendipity Films on an outreach campaign that will spark conversations and foster understanding on the topics raised by the excellent documentary, *Free For All: Inside the Public Library*.

The film celebrates an untold history of the library and asks viewers to consider their own relationship with an institution they may have taken for granted. I have advised the filmmakers on their community engagement strategy based on Citizen film's decades of experience working with similar humanities topics and partners and I look forward to helping them continue their Humanities Conversations Initiative in the spring of 2020.

This past year Citizen Film produced a NEH-funded conversations series in public libraries nationwide for our documentary, *American Creed*, which explores ideas that overlap with the themes of *Free for All*.

Dawn Logsdon's film will engage some of the same institutional partners and capitalize on the institutional knowledge Citizen Film gained through its recent public engagement campaign which reached an audience of more than a million people in communities all around the US.

Specifically, my colleagues and I look forward to coordinating the production of library-based conversations over the next two years, along with a tool kit and complementary media (short films, a podcast, etc.) designed to expand the reach of the initiative.

I urge you to join me in supporting the *Free For All* team and their efforts to engage and enlighten diverse communities about a vital public space that we all share. This important film deserves the widest stage possible.

Yours truly,

Sam Ball

## CV and SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

### 2001 – Present Co-Founder & Producer, Citizen Film

Nonprofit company dedicated to collaborating with cultural, community and civic institutions, and independent producers to create documentary work fostering active engagement in cultural and civic life. Our collaborations have been presented on television (PBS, HBO, IFC, TLC, etc.) and featured at America's most prestigious venues for independent film: the Sundance Film Festival, MoMA-NY, LACMA, the Hirshhorn, the Whitney, and more.

### RELEVANT WORKS

#### 2018 Producer, *American Creed*

Feature documentary, co-produced with WTTW Chicago Public Media, exploring the question: "In a fractured nation, what ideals do we share in common?" *American Creed* launches as a nationally televised PBS Special Feb. 27, 2018, kicking off a robust public engagement campaign funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to include facilitated conversations fostering reflection and dialogue about freedom, fairness, opportunity and the meaning of citizenship.

#### 2017 Producer, *What We Carry With Us: A Refugee Storylab*

Ball collaborated with UC Berkeley Professor Francesco Spagnolo to prototype this initiative inviting young refugees to tell digital stories that engage audiences in responding to today's refugee crisis. October 23-25: a gold-painted shipping container — [Shared Studios' TimesSquare Portal](#) — showcased five outdoor video loops on Broadway Plaza. Inside the shipping container, short films were shown, followed by live chats.

#### 2016– Producer, *Buchanan Stories / Buchanan Change* (public

multimedia project) Ball is working closely with director/cinematographer Sophie Constantinou and colleagues at Citizen Film and other arts, cultural and civic organizations on an effort to engage thousands of public housing residents in telling and presenting community stories. Together, they are creating a series of multimedia installations, and [reimagining public space](#). This initiative was launched with a prestigious Artplace America grant, the first ever awarded to a media production group.

#### 2015 Producer, *Hidden in Plain Sight: T-Shirts and the Curation of Identity*

Ball and Stanford University School of Education professor Ari Kelman co-created a multimedia installation featuring [14 short videos projected onto a hanging display of ethnically themed t-shirts](#). It was viewed by 15,000 people July 23–November 1, 2015.

#### 2014– Producer, *Potsdam Revisited: Overture to the Cold War* (multimedia project)

A collaboration between Citizen Film, Stanford Music and the Hoover Institution Library & Archives, this multimedia project—including videos, audio stories, a digital archive and live multimedia performance events—explores an extraordinary intersection of history and music that took place as



Harry Truman, Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin negotiated the post WW II fate of the world. The [story is told through the eyes of Private Stuart Canin](#), who would go on to become a world renowned violinist. He suddenly found himself playing violin for the Big Three on the eve of the Cold War. Multimedia performance venues for Potsdam Revisited included Stanford University's Bing Performing Arts Center and Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theatre. Several partners - including NPR's Morning Edition- collaborated to create media reaching an audience of 500,000+.

### **2013 Producer, The Liberating Lens (multimedia project)**

This multimedia collaboration with University of Michigan Frankel Center for Judaic Studies Director Deborah Dash Moore explores the work of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Jewish photographers who influenced how we see modernity. The project included [multimedia presented by the Contemporary Jewish Museum San Francisco](#) and [student-engagement](#) activities supported by a University of Michigan Innovation Grant. The project was launched thanks to a Covenant Foundation signature grant for Citizen Film's ongoing [New Media in Jewish Studies](#) initiative.

### **2012 Co-Producer, We Are Not Permanent But We Are Not Temporary**

Ball contributed two digital projects to the "Digital Sukkah" multimedia installation including [a collaboration with artist Wendy MacNaughton](#), exploring Castro Commons.

### **2011 Producer, Joann Sfar Draws from Memory**

This documentary, created in collaboration with the Paris-based production company Les Films du Poisson and KQED Presents, profiles one of the world's most celebrated graphic novelist who finds inspiration in his mixed Arab and European-Jewish heritage. [The one-hour program](#) was distributed by American Public Television to PBS stations around the US; in tandem with this program, Ball, Citizen Film, Les Films du Poisson co-produced the French language short, *Joann Sfar: Dessins* distributed by European public broadcaster ARTE.

### **2010 Producer, In the Maze of Our Own Lives (mixed-media performance)**

During the Great Depression, the Group Theater—including Stella Adler, Harold Clurman, Elia Kazan and Clifford Odets—gave voice to a new generation of immigrants. [To take up the story of the Group](#) with "terrific archival projections" (SF Chronicle), playwright Corey Fischer and video designer Sam Ball received support from the Creative Work Fund as well as the Hewlett / Gerbode Foundations' Artistic Collaboration grant and the National Endowment for the Arts.

### **2009 Producer, Balancing Acts**

[This documentary narrated by Ed Asner](#) captures a fleeting, but exhilarating moment in the early days of the Soviet Union, when extraordinary artists and performers created avant-garde Jewish theater with unprecedented mass appeal. Ball collaborated with producer/editor Kate Stilley and producer/composer William Susman to create this centerpiece film and several other video designs for the exhibit "Chagall and the Artists of Russian-Jewish Theater" viewed by more than 45,000 people.

### **2002 – 2008 Producer, The New Jewish Filmmaking Project**

Founded by Ball in 2002 thanks to a fellowship from the Joshua Venture Group, The New Jewish Filmmaking Project is [an ongoing program of the Jewish Film Institute](#) that produces films and multimedia projects co-directed by young storytellers. The project has produced several public television broadcast and award-winning films.

Jennifer Huang

(b) (6)

August 13, 2019

To whom it may concern,

I am thrilled to be a part of the *Free for All* team and to be joining its outreach campaign as Public Engagement Associate. Libraries are a vital part of any community and an essential resource for students, families, scholars, children, retirees, and curious minds. It's a privilege for me to be helping further public understanding of this essential institution and the unsung visionaries, philanthropists, thinkers, and librarians who helped to build it.

As Public Engagement Associate, I will help coordinate screenings, panels and activities to further audience understanding of topics raised by the film, tailoring event speakers and topics to be of specific relevance to each location. I am wholeheartedly committed to bringing this campaign to as wide and diverse an audience as possible, and to providing them an educational and enriching experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Huang". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping tail on the "g".

Jennifer Huang  
Public Engagement Associate

# Jennifer Huang

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

[jennifer@serendipityfilms.org](mailto:jennifer@serendipityfilms.org)

## Summary of Qualifications

More than fifteen years of experience in television and documentary production, including directing, script writing, international field production, research, fundraising, contract negotiation, rights and clearances, and budgeting. Conversant in Japanese.

## Documentary and Television Production Experience

### Serendipity Films, San Francisco, CA

Sept 2018 – Present

#### **Public Engagement Coordinator, *Free for All: Inside the Public***

**Library** coordinate nationwide screenings, panels, and additional events to boost public engagement with topics and issues raised by the film, a documentary feature about the history, spirit, and modern challenges of American public libraries.

- Conduct archival research, production and administrative support as needed.

### Treeclimber Media, Oakland, CA

May 2013 – Present

#### **Director and Producer, *The Long Rescue***

- Directing and producing a documentary film about teenage girls as they reclaim their lives from sex trafficking in Cebu, Philippines. Responsibilities include fundraising, writing, editing, supervising crew, social media outreach, and community partnerships.
- Conducting participatory video training with the trafficking survivors, empowering the girls in digital storytelling techniques to document their own lives.

### Sacred Land Film Project, Berkeley, CA

June 2009 – May 2013

#### **Co-Producer, *Standing on Sacred Ground***

- Wrote, co-produced and supervised edit of two episodes of the series *Standing on Sacred Ground*: “Profit and Loss” about the impact of mining on indigenous people in Papua New Guinea and Alberta, and “Fire and Ice,” exploring religious conflict in Ethiopia and climate change in Peru.
- Produced shoots in Siberia, Hawaii, Canada, Peru and California, coordinating travel, visas, finances, contractors, permits, carnets, interviews, equipment, operational and production budgets, grant proposals, funding strategies, events, outreach and distribution.
- Developed the mobile app “Finding Sacred Ground,” to provide travelers with an indigenous historic perspective of sacred sites using augmented reality.

### From Baghdad to the Bay, San Francisco, CA

June 2008 -July 2013

#### **Co-Producer**

- Wrote grant proposals, produced and directed shoots and conducted interviews for a documentary portraying the life of newly arrived Iraqi refugees in America.
- Awarded the Bay Area Video Coalition MediaMaker Fellowship in 2013 to develop effective narrative direction, audience engagement strategies, and transmedia projects.

### KOED, San Francisco, CA

October 2016- April 2017

#### **Associate Producer, *Jacques Pépin: The Art of Craft***

- Coordinated interviews and crews, conducted archival research, prepared PBS deliverables and provided support for the American Masters biography of Chef Jacques Pépin.

### Anonymous Content, Los Angeles, CA

January, October 2008

#### **Associate Producer, *Mayo*, MD**

- Coordinated field production of surgical and clinical shoots at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, successfully managing sensitive relationships with the hospital, patients, and patients’ families.

- Interviewed and recruited doctors for their participation in a documentary pilot for a prospective TNT series.

**WorldLink Foundation, San Francisco, CA**

October 2007 – May 2008

***Field Producer, Nourish: Food + Community***

- Coordinated shoots, scouted locations, and recruited teens for a PBS documentary about sustainable agriculture and healthy eating.

**Lucasfilm Ltd, Nicasio, CA**

2004-2007

***Producer, Hellfighters: Harlem's Heroes of World War I***

- Wrote and produced an historical documentary on African American soldiers who fought during World War I. Researched and recruited expert commentary, conducted interviews, hired crew, and coordinated travel.
- Managed archival footage acquisition, including extensive research at the US National Archives and the Library of Congress.
- ***Associate Producer***
- Supervised workflow, conducted archival visual research, and contributed scriptwriting assistance for documentaries accompanying The *Young Indiana Jones Adventures* DVD release, including *Franz Kafka's Dark Truth*; *Woodrow Wilson: American Idealist*; *Gertrude Bell: Iraq's Uncrowned Queen*; *At Home and Abroad: The Two Faces of Jan Smuts*, *Tin Pan Alley: The Soundtrack of America*; *Dracula: Fact and Fiction*; *Erich von Stroheim: Profligate Genius*; and *Emperor Karl: The Last Hapsburg*.

**Edelman Productions, Corte Madera, CA**

1998-2000

***Producer***

- Scripted, directed, and supervised edit for the San Francisco segment of the HGTV special, *Christmas Across America*.

***Field Producer***

- Researched and wrote more than forty scripts for the national weekly HGTV show, *Landscape Smart*.

## **Journalism Experience**

**Hyphen Magazine, San Francisco, CA**

2002-2006

***Co-founder, Editor of Policy and Film***

- Collaborated to create the newest Asian American news and culture magazine, developing organizational structure, business model and fundraising strategy.
- Edited policy and film departments, developing editorial vision, assigning and supervising stories, and cultivating new reporters.

## **Education**

**University of California, Berkeley, CA**

***B.A., Double major in Social Welfare and Ethnography through Cinema.***

- Graduated with High Honors

**Bay Area Video Coalition, San Francisco, CA**

***MediaMaker Fellow, 2013***

***Producers Institute, 2010***





July 8, 2019

Dear NEH Grant Panelists:

I enthusiastically support the multi-platform documentary project: *FREE FOR ALL: Inside the Public Library*. I am to serve as its Executive Producer and to direct one of the new media short films. My production company Firelight Media and our outreach director Sonya Childress will also help guide FREE FOR ALL's outreach and new media campaigns. There has never been a major documentary film on the American public library system and I feel the team assembled is the perfect group to execute this project. But I also have a personal interest in this subject, because my mother was a librarian. I spent many hours in the library as a child and know firsthand how it can change lives.

The history of the American Public Library, the largest voluntary public institution in the nation, is a fascinating and vitally important humanities story. While several documentaries and thousands of web sites exist covering the histories of individual libraries, the bigger story surprisingly has not yet been told in the visual documentary medium. Dawn Logsdon's vision of a feature-length film combined with a New Media story collection is a creative and innovative way to bring together the great wealth of images and individual stories that make up this grand American drama. I am confident that it will appeal to a wide audience, including the millions of Americans who use the public library every year.

Dawn is a talented filmmaker with a passion for transforming broad historical subjects into compelling character-driven films. I had the pleasure of working with her as Executive Producer on her award-winning documentary *Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans*. Much of that history predated moving film and even still photography and therefore was a filmmaking challenge. I watched as Dawn's concept evolved through years of archival research, oral history gathering and creative experimentation. The result is history come alive. I have no doubt that she will do the same with the forgotten heroes and villains of the public library. Dawn is a strong collaborator who knows how to bring the right people together to realize her vision. I urge you to join me in supporting this project.

Sincerely,

Stanley Nelson  
Executive Director

## Stanley Nelson Biography

Stanley Nelson received the 2013 National Medal in the Humanities from President Barack Obama, and is also a MacArthur “Genius” Fellow. Nelson’s latest film, *Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution* premiered at Sundance in 2015 and is slated for National PBS release February 2016. *Freedom Summer*, premiered at Sundance in 2014 and was broadcast to in June, 2014, the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Summer of 1964. His previous film, *Freedom Riders*, premiered at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival and aired nationally in May 2011 on PBS to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Rides, and received 4 Primetime Emmys.

Nelson, whose oeuvre spans a range of social justice issues, has won every major award in broadcasting. In addition to the multiple Primetime Emmy-winning *Freedom Riders*, Nelson’s 2003 film, *The Murder of Emmett Till*, won the Primetime Emmy for Best Nonfiction Directing, the Special Jury Prize at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival, a coveted award from the International Documentary Association, and the highest honor in broadcast journalism, the George Foster Peabody award, among many others. *Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple* (2008) was shortlisted for the Academy Award and won the International Documentary Association Award; his 2005 film, *Sweet Honey in the Rock: Raise Your Voice* documented one of our country’s most vibrant and progressive music ensembles; *A Place of Our Own* (2004), is a semi-autobiographical look at the African American middle class. His 2001 film, *Running: the Campaign for City Council*, highlighted the impact of campaign finance reform on local elections in New York City and was honored with the Henry Hampton award from the Council on Foundations and a CINE Golden Eagle. With eight films at Sundance and multiple industry awards to his credit, Nelson is acknowledged as one of the premier documentary filmmakers working today. Nelson’s work has also received broad recognition outside the film and television community. He received the Educational Video Center’s Excellence in Community Service award and was honored by New York Lawyers in the Public Interest. His film *Beyond Brown: Pursuing the Promise* served as a centerpiece for reflection on the 50th anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education by such organizations as the NAACP, the National Baptist Convention, and the Children’s Defense Fund.

Nelson holds a BFA from City College of New York, and an Honorary Doctorate from Haverford College. He has taught documentary film production at Howard University, Brooklyn College, and the University of California, Berkeley, and guest lectured at universities across the world.



January 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

For the past two years I've advised Dawn Logsdon and Lucie Faulknor on their much anticipated upcoming documentary [\*Free for All: Inside the Public Library\*](#).

The organization I founded, Active Voice Lab, draws on decades of experience in using independent documentary as a catalyst for civic engagement, lifelong learning, and social change. In addition to our belief in powerful storytelling, our approach is decidedly strategic and outcomes-oriented.

I've helped the filmmakers design a companion public engagement campaign, which will include events throughout the country that build awareness of the historic and contemporary role of libraries in a thriving democracy. Libraries today are serving the homeless, the English language learners, the wifi-less, the job seekers, the health care challenged, and so many others in ways that we could never have imagined. Fueled by the courageous and compelling characters in the documentary, humanities-focused discussions will help communities recognize the essential, outsized roles that libraries play today, and build public will for a secure future.

I urge you to join me in supporting this sweeping and promising new film, *Free for All*.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen Schneider".

Ellen Schneider  
Director, Active Voice Lab

**From:** Nick Basbanes (b) (6)  
**To:** [dawn@freeforalldocumentary.com](mailto:dawn@freeforalldocumentary.com)  
**Subject:** letter for NEH

Dear Dawn:

I've finally had a chance to take a good look at the video sample you sent along for your film-in-progress, *Free for All*, and have read through your proposal. I very much like what I see, and am happy to add my voice in support of the project.

I have as you know spent a good deal of my life writing about various aspects of book culture and every manner of library – academic, national, private – and consider public libraries in particular essential to maintaining a healthy democracy. My second book, in fact, took as its title the names of the lions that grace the entryway to the New York Public Library, *Patience & Fortitude*, apt imagery, I thought, to describe the qualities libraries need to navigate their way through what are undeniably problematic times.

One of my chapters in that book focused on the San Francisco Public Library, and dealt with one of the most challenging chapters in its history. I spent a good deal of time in the city in the 1990s while all this was going on, and met a striking variety of people who were committed to restoring this remarkable institution to greatness. Your project, I believe, will go a long way toward continuing the conversation.

A recent recipient of an NEH research fellowship myself, I know how critical this kind of support can be to such an undertaking, and believe what you are doing deserves all the encouragement it can get. I wish you the best of luck, and look forward to continuing this discussion when I visit San Francisco in October.

Best,

Nick Basbanes



## Nicholas A. Basbanes

(b) (6)

[www.nicholasbasbanes.com](http://www.nicholasbasbanes.com)

### Published Works:

*About the Author: Inside the Creative Process*. Fine Books Press, 2010.

*A World of Letters: Yale University Press, 1909-2009*, Yale University Press, 2008 (a centennial history commissioned by Yale University, and now the focus of a dedicated interactive blog/column created by the university, <http://yalepress.wordpress.com/blog-columns/world-of-letters/>)

*Editions & Impressions: Twenty Years on the Book Beat*, Fine Books Press, 2008.

*Every Book Its Reader: The Power of the Printed Word to Stir the World* (HarperCollins, 2005, paperback 2006)

*A Splendor of Letters: The Permanence of Books in an Impermanent World* (HarperCollins, 2003, paperback 2004).

*Among the Gently Mad: Perspectives and Strategies for the Book-Hunter in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (Henry Holt, 2002, paperback 2003).

*Patience & Fortitude: A Roving Chronicle of Book People, Book Places, and Book Culture* (HarperCollins, 2001, paperback 2002).

*A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books* (Henry Holt, 1995, paperback 1998; Fine Books Press edition (paper and eBook, with a new preface by the author), 2012; finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, New York Times Notable Book of the Year.

### Forthcoming:

*On Paper*. a cultural history of paper and papermaking, the recipient in 2008 of a National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship, to be published in 2013 by Alfred A. Knopf.

### Lecturer on General Subject of Books and Book Culture, 1996-2012:

Institutions and universities have included: Library of Congress, Boston Public Library, Los Angeles Public Library, New York Public Library, American Antiquarian Society, Newberry Library, Folger Shakespeare Library, Grolier Club, Roxburgh Club, Rowfant Club, Caxton Club, Huntington Library, Library Company of Philadelphia, University of Alberta, University of Arizona, Brown University, Colorado State University, Dartmouth College, Duke University, Emory University, Pennsylvania State University, University of Florida, Harvard University, Texas A&M, University of British Columbia, University of California Los Angeles, University of Hawaii, University of Illinois, Indiana University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Massachusetts, Middlebury College, University of Michigan, University of Missouri, University of Oklahoma, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, Princeton University, Rutgers University, University of Saskatchewan, Smith College, University of South Carolina, Swarthmore College, Syracuse University, University of Texas Austin,

University of Texas El Paso, University of Toronto, Vanderbilt University, University of Virginia, Washington University, University of Wisconsin, Yale University

### **Education:**

Master of Arts (Journalism), Pennsylvania State University, 1968. Master's thesis: "The Evening Star and the Bobby Baker Story: A Case Study," with field work done in Washington, D.C., 1966-67, as a Fellow of the Washington Journalism Center.

Bachelor of Arts (English), Bates College, 1965. Senior thesis: "Stephen Crane: Journalist as Author."

### **Employment:**

Free-lance writer, 1991-present: articles, reviews, OpEd pieces, essays, profiles have appeared in *Smithsonian*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Civilization*, *New England Quarterly*, *Washington Post*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Boston Globe*, *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

Principal Columnist and Contributing Editor, *Fine Books & Collections* magazine, 2004-present.

Columnist, *Biblio* magazine, 1996-99.

A literary feature distributed through self-syndication from 1991 to 2003, appearing variously in 32 newspapers nationwide, including: *Allentown Morning Call*, *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, *Austin American-Statesman*, *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, *Charlottesville Daily Progress*, *Columbus Dispatch*, *Des Moines Register*, *Eugene Register-Guard*, *Gainesville Sun*, *Grand Rapids Press*, *Knoxville News Sentinel*, *New London Day*, *Orlando Sentinel*, *Quincy Patriot-Ledger*, *Salt Lake Tribune*, *Tallahassee Democrat*, *Toledo Blade*, *Wisconsin State Journal*, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, *Wichita Eagle*.

Literary Editor, Book Columnist, Worcester, Mass. *Sunday Telegram*, 1978-91.

Reporter, *The Evening Gazette*, Worcester, Mass., 1971-78.

### **Honors:**

National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship, 2008.

Nicholas A. Basbanes Student Book Collecting Prize, established in 2000 at Clark University, Worcester, Mass.

National Book Critics Circle, finalist in general nonfiction for *A Gentle Madness*, 1995.

First Prize, General News, New England Associated Press News Executive Association, for investigative series that uncovered irregularities in Worcester County Treasurer's Office, 1974

Fellow, Washington Journalism Center (1966-67)

Elected to Kappa Tau Alpha National Honor Society, Penn State Chapter, 1966  
Scholarship, Newspaper Fund (*Wall Street Journal*) 1964, Bates College.

Matthew Battles  
Senior Researcher, metaLAB (at) Harvard  
Fellow, Berkman Center for Internet and Society  
23 Everett Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
matthew@metalab.harvard.edu

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in support of the application for funding of *Free for All*, a multi-platform project documenting the fascinating story of public libraries in America.

Libraries carry enormous weight in our culture, signifying memory, knowledge, and intellectual heritage. We idealize them as laboratories of self-improvement, engines of democracy, and incubators of learning and culture. These meanings cling to libraries even as economic and technological pressures bring tremendous change to libraries as organizations and services. With this tremendous institutional, technological, and cultural transformation in the library world, it's terrifically compelling and socially salutary to explore the lives of libraries, and the lives that intersect in them—to depict the manifold intersections of public good and private interest as they are expressed in the people who administer, serve, and use libraries.

In this regard, *Free for All* holds enormous promise as a compelling ethnographic engagement with the library's human dimensions. By documenting the experiences of readers, librarians, and support staff; by taking a humane and unsparing perspective on the political and cultural dimensions of a library's institutional life, the project can cut through public discourse on library services that is too often cramped by platitudes and hampered by cliché. In the way that *Titicut Follies* explored the world of the state mental hospital or *Gates of Heaven* instigated a critical dialogue on the cemetery business, *Free for All* promises to enliven the public discourse on the nature and role of library services in a networked age.

My own writing—in particular the book *Library: an Unquiet History* (Norton 2003)—has explored the history of the library's meaning in different times and places. In the work of my research group, Harvard's metaLAB, we're looking at diverse ways to engage interested audiences in the nature and role of libraries in teaching, research, and public life. I would welcome the energy and insight *Free for All* would bring to this discourse in the broadest public instantiation, and I strongly support funding the project.

Sincerely,

Matthew Battles

Matthew Battles  
Principal, Senior Researcher  
Berkman Center For Internet and Society  
23 Everett Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
matthew@metalab.harvard.edu

Matthew Battles cofounded *HiLobrow*, an online journal of cultural criticism. He has written about the cultural dimensions of science and technology for such venues as *The American Scholar*, *The Atlantic*, *The Boston Globe*, *Harper's Magazine*, and *The Wilson Quarterly*. Matthew has published extensively on the history and changing roles of libraries in culture; his book *Library: an Unquiet History* (Norton) is available in eight languages worldwide and has been in print since 2003. In addition, he wrote the official history of Harvard's Widener library, and is a contributor to the *Oxford Companion to the Book*. His forthcoming volume, a material and cultural history of writing entitled *Letter by Letter*, will appear in Spring 2013. With metaLAB, Matthew fosters research into the critical and curatorial dimensions of technology in art and culture; advances multidisciplinary, collaborative dimensions of scholarly community; and explores innovative models for publishing.

August 2, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

As an advisor to and interviewee for *Free For All*, I enthusiastically support funding for community engagement and outreach so that the documentary will reach the widest possible audience.

As Thomas Jefferson and other Founding Fathers knew, a viable and lasting democracy depends upon an educated and active public. Central to that precondition has been the public school and public library systems, both largely the product of the Progressive Movement expanded by the New Deal and aided by enlightened philanthropy. The public library, in particular, was and continues to be a non-partisan forum for all American communities that support them.

Public and school libraries, however, have not been exempt from the assault upon the entire spectrum of the public domain by advocates of total privatization. Few Americans understand the strains they are experiencing and the danger that poses for democracy itself. I am sure that *Free For All* will enlighten all those who see it about the critical role this essential institution has played in our history and plays still in governance and as a community binder. I would be honored to participate in any events that will give it the widest possible distribution and viewership in order to stimulate overdue discussion about our collective responsibility to those institutions that make us citizens rather than subjects.

Sincerely,

Gray Brechin, Ph.D.  
Project Scholar, The Living New Deal  
Department of Geography  
U.C. Berkeley.

# Gray Brechin, Ph.D.

## EXPERIENCE

Visiting Scholar, U.C. Berkeley Department of Geography. Project Scholar and Founder, The Living New Deal Project (<http://livingnewdeal.berkeley.edu>.) Extensive speaking and writing on the New Deal. Currently writing book tentatively entitled *An Unforeseen Opulence of Time: The Lost Ethical Language of New Deal Public Works*.

1999: U.C. Press publishes *Farewell, Promised Land: Waking from the California Dream* (with photographer Robert Dawson) and best-selling *Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin*. The latter now recognized as a classic of urban studies.

1998: Completed doctoral degree in Geography at U.C. Berkeley in order to continue study of urban impact on the environment, but detoured to study the physical legacy of the New Deal after 9/11.

*Journalist*: Former columnist for *SF Magazine* and *SF Focus*. Articles on architectural, social, and natural history for the *NY Times*, *SF Chronicle*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Abitare*, *California History*, and many others, as well as individual chapters in scholarly books and museum catalogues.

*Museum Curator*: Co-curated exhibition of visionary projects for San Francisco at SF Museum of Modern Art, June 1990, the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Competition for UC campus plan at Berkeley Art Museum, 1997, and exhibition of Robert Dawson photographs of California's deteriorating environment at Oakland Museum, Spring, 1999.

*Instructor*. Taught courses in geography and history for UC Berkeley, Mills College, San Francisco and Hayward State Universities, U.C. Extension, and Elder Hostel.

*TV Urban Design Critic* (Fall, 1981-Fall, 1993)). Wrote, produced, and appeared as urban design critic for KRON-TV's "Weekend Extra," the only such position in the U.S.

*Architectural Historian*, Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage (Spring, 1979-Fall, 1981.) Served as information resource on architectural and social history of San Francisco. Extensive public speaking, photography, and basic research. Consultancy on easement evaluation, EIR criticism, and decisions regarding threatened buildings and design elements.

*Director, Mono Lake Committee* (1976-8.) Much writing and speaking to publicize the then little known destruction of Mono Lake leading to landmark State Supreme Court ruling affirming California's public trust to save and restore the lake.

## **HONORS**

- Co-recipient of 1992 Dorothea Lange-Paul Taylor Prize from the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University for collaboration with photographer Robert Dawson on exhibition and book documenting the current environmental state of California.
  - Recipient of 1985 Bancroft Fellowship to complete dissertation on San Francisco's environmental impact on the Pacific Basin.
  - 1998-9. Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellowship to study role of mining in the ascendancy of European cities.
  - 2001 Resident at Blue Mountain Center, New York
  - 2003. Recipient of grant from Columbia Foundation to launch the California Living New Deal Project.
- 2012 Oscar Lewis Award from San Francisco Historical Society  
2013 President's Award from California Preservation Association  
2014 Oscar Lewis Award for Outstanding Contributions to Western History from the Book Club of California

## **EDUCATION**

B.A. Geography and History, U.C. Berkeley, 1972  
M.A. History of Art, U.C. Berkeley, 1976  
Ph.D. Geography, U.C. Berkeley, 1999



THE CENTER  
FOR THE BOOK

## THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

101 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, S.E.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540-4920

August 13, 2012

Dear Dawn:

I am very pleased to support the proposal for the Free For All documentary film project that you and your project colleagues are submitting to the National Endowment for the Humanities. I also am happy to serve as a project advisor.

This concept has come a long way since our conversation in the Center for the Book office a couple of years ago. And congratulations on preliminary funding from California Humanities, the San Francisco Foundation, the Walter and Elise Haas Fund and other sources.

I like the notion of making the project centerpiece a feature-length film about the San Francisco Public Library. The dramatization of SFPL's role in the San Francisco area and the individual stories of its varied users will be compelling. The shorter, interactive films present opportunities to "go national," making the point that public libraries also are vital to rural and small town communities throughout America. The national digital storytelling/mapping project will demonstrate that public libraries are endangered in every state, and that indeed—in spite of their widespread use and "popularity"—we have a serious national survival problem on our hands.

I cannot imagine a more qualified project team than the one that has been assembled. It was heartening for me to read about the past commitments and achievements of its individual members to the public arena, and to what I will characterize as "civic problem solving."

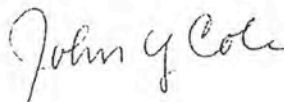
As you know, I am a longtime friend and colleague of library historian Wayne Wiegand, who has served as an advisor since the early days of your endeavor. Wayne tells me that he plans to time the publication of his next major work, a new look at the history and role of the public library in America, to coincide with the release of the Free For All film. Wayne's thoughtful, scholarly approach, grounded in years of publication and research, will combine beautifully with the thoughtful and dramatic visual presentations and arguments of the Free For All project.

As we've discussed since we met, the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, which I've headed since it was created by law in 1977, I will be happy to help in promoting the Free for All project and its initiatives. Our basic mission is twofold: to stimulate public interest in books, reading, literacy and libraries, and to encourage the scholarly study of books and print culture. We are a private-public partnership within the Library of Congress; the Library supports our five staff positions, but all of our projects and programs are funded by private donors, foundations, and when appropriate, by project funds transferred from other government agencies. We



promote projects such as Free for All primarily through our national networks of state centers for the book and non-profit reading promotion partners, and through our principal website, Read.gov.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Y. Cole".

John Y. Cole  
Director

Ms. Dawn Logsdon  
Serendipity Films  
1933 Stockton Street  
San Francisco, CA 94133

JOHN Y. COLE, founding director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress (1977) and author coordinator of the National Book Festival since its establishment in 2001. BA (history), University of Washington, 1962; M.Lib., University of Washington, 1963; M.L.A.(liberal arts), Johns Hopkins University, 1966; Ph.D (American civilization), George Washington University, 1971. He combines a professional career as a reading and literacy promoter with a strong interest in the development and role of the Library of Congress in American history and culture. Recipient in 2000 of the American Library Association's Joseph W. Lippincott award "for distinguished service to the profession of librarianship." A festschrift published in his honor as the January 2010 issue of "Libraries & the Cultural Record" includes his extensive personal bibliography organized into six thematic sections: The Library of Congress: History and Development; "The Encyclopedia of the Library of Congress" (2004); Librarians of Congress and Other Library Staff; The Center for the Book: History and Development; The Center for the Book Viewpoint Series; and Other Publications and Contributions. Cole's most recent book is a revised edition of "On These Walls: Inscriptions & Quotations in the Library of Congress" (2008), a volume originally published in 1995.

ROBERT DAWSON

Photography

(b) (6)

email: [landscape@igc.org](mailto:landscape@igc.org)

[www.robertdawson.com](http://www.robertdawson.com)

Dawn Logsdon  
1933 Stockton St  
San Francisco, CA 94133

June 4, 2019

Dear NEH Panelists,

I am writing a brief letter of support for Dawn Logsdon and the upcoming documentary film entitled "Free For All". I have been advising her on their film based on my experience as a documentary photographer working on a public library project of my own for the last eighteen years. I have great admiration for the group assembled to produce this important film. They have taken the time to really understand their subject. They also have a very talented and experienced crew working on this project. As a result they will be creating an important statement about the essential institution of public libraries. I am happy to continue to offer any help or advise to their effort.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert Dawson

## ROBERT DAWSON RESUME

(b) (6)

email: landscape@igc.org

### SELECTED AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Dorothea Lange-Paul Taylor Prize, Center For Documentary Studies at Duke University, Co-recipient, 1992
- Visual Artists Fellowship, Art Matters, Inc., New York, NY, 1990
- Visual Artists Fellowship, National Endowment For the Arts, 1988
- New Faces Award, American Photographer, New York, NY, 1986
- Ruttenberg Fellowship, Friends of Photography, 1984
- The Photographer's Work Grant, Maine Photographic Workshops, 1984
- California Arts Council Grant, Co-recipient, 1984
- California Council For the Humanities Grant, Co-recipient, 1984
- James D. Phelan Award, San Francisco Foundation, 1982

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2011 *The Altered Landscape: Photographs of a Changing Environment*, Skira Rizzoli, New York, NY and Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV
- 2009 *Into the Sunset Photography's Image of the American West*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 2006 *Where We Live Photographs of America from the Berman Collection*, The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA
- 2004 *Architecture & Arts, 1900-2000 A Century of Creative Projects in Building, Design, Cinema, Painting, Sculpture*, Genova Palazzo Ducale, Genova, Italy
- 2004 *FotoFest H2004 Celebrating Water*, FotoFest, Houston, TX
- 2002 *Through Wider Windows 170-Year Breakthroughs in Photography*, Tokyo Fuji Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2003 *The Land Through A Lens – Highlights from the Smithsonian American Art Museum*, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC, edited by Andy Grundberg
- 2002 *Original Sources Art and Archives at the Center for Creative Photography*, Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, edited by Amy Rule and Nancy Solomon
- 2001 *The Great Wide Open: Panoramic Photographs of the American West*, Merrell Publishers Limited, London, England and the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA by Jennifer Watts
- 2000 *Made in California: Art, Image and Identity, 1900-2000*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the University of California Press, Los Angeles, CA
- 2000 *A Doubtful River*, University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV by Robert Dawson, Peter Goin, and Mary Webb
- 1999 *Farewell, Promised Land Waking From the California Dream*, University of California Press, Berkeley, CA by Robert Dawson and Gray Brechin
- 1997 *Eyes of the Nation: A Visual History of the United States* by Vincent Virga and the Curators of the Library of Congress, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, NY
- 1997 *The Lure of the Local: Senses of Place in a Multicentered Society* by Lucy Lippard, The New Press, New York, NY
- 1996 *Crossing the Frontier: Photographs of the Developing West, 1849 to the Present*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art/Chronicle Books, San Francisco, CA
- 1993 *The Great Central Valley: California's Heartland*, University of California Press, Berkeley, CA project by Robert Dawson, Stephen Johnson, and Gerald Haslam
- 1992 *Between Home and Heaven: Contemporary American Landscape Photography*, National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC,
- 1992 *Arid Waters: Photographs From the Water in the West Project*, University of Nevada Press
- 1988 *Robert Dawson Photographs*, Gallery Min, Tokyo, Japan

## **SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

- 2011 Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ "The Water in the West Project"
- 2011 San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, CA "Public Library: An American Commons"
- 2011 – 2015 Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV "The Altered Landscape: Photographs of a Changing Environment" The exhibit will travel through 2015
- 2011 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA "The View From Here"
- 2010 SF Camerawork, San Francisco, CA "An Autobiography of the San Francisco Bay Area, Part 2 The Future Lasts Forever"
- 2010 – 2011 City Windows Gallery, San Jose, CA "The Conscience of the City: Treating Wastewater Silicon Valley"
- 2010 San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, CA "Empire of Thirst: Robert Dawson's Photographs of Water in the West"
- 2009 Cantor Art Center, Stanford University, Stanford, CA "From Their Studios"
- 2009 The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY "Into the Sunset Photography's Image of the American West"
- 2008 Zaragoza Water Expo 2008, Zaragoza, Spain "Water and Sustainable Development".
- 2004 – 2005 Palazzo Ducale, Genova, Italy "Arti & Architettura 1900 – 2000"
- 2004 FotoFest 2004, Celebrating Water, Tenth International Biennial of Photography, Houston, TX "Water in the West Group"
- 2003 – 2005 Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC "The Land Through A Lens - Highlights from the Smithsonian American Art Museum"
- 2002 Tokyo Fuji Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan "Go On Being, Our Blue Star!"
- 2001 The Oakland Museum, Oakland, CA "Capturing Light: Masterpieces of California Photography"
- 2000 Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA "Made In California: Art, Image and Identity, 1900-
- 1999 The Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA "Awakening From the California Dream: An Environmental History" Toured 15 cities in California
- 1998 SF Camerawork, San Francisco, CA "Farewell, Promised Land"
- 1996 Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY "Perpetual Mirage"
- 1996 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA "Crossing the Frontier"
- 1995 M.H. deYoung Museum, San Francisco, CA "Facing Eden - 100 Years of Landscape Art in the Bay Area"
- 1994 FotoFest '94 The Fifth International Festival of Photography, Houston, TX
- 1992 National Museum of American Art, Washington, DC
- 1989 The Friends of Photography, San Francisco, CA "Nature and Culture"
- 1988 Gallery Min, Tokyo, Japan "Robert Dawson"
- 1986 California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, CA "The Central Valley Project"

## **IN THE PERMANENT COLLECTION OF**

- The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA
- Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- Library of Congress, Washington, DC
- San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
- National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Museum, Washington, DC
- The Center For Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
- Princeton Art Museum, Princeton, NJ
- Stanford University Museum of Art, Stanford, CA
- Bibliothèque Nationale, Cabinet des Estampes, Paris, France

## **CURRENT EMPLOYMENT**

- Instructor of Photography, Stanford University, Stanford, CA since 1996
- Instructor of Photography, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA since 1986



December 13, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

Kansas City is a library town, reaffirmed in November by the remarkable 83-percent approval of a modest increase in the Kansas City Public Library's operating levy. So believe me when I tell you that not only we at the Library but also many others in our city are greatly anticipating the upcoming release of *Free for All: Inside the Public Library*.

We look forward to making it a centerpiece of the Library's nationally renowned public programming, scheduling a screening and discussion of the film as soon as it becomes available. Let me thank you again for creating this important documentary, which shines a timely light on the increasing importance of today's public libraries to their communities. We are, of course, much more than a repository of books. Our social services at the Kansas City Public Library extend, as elsewhere, to shrinking the digital divide through computer and internet access and education, health and wellness initiatives, and outreach to seniors and others who are homebound. For many, *Free for All* will underscore that. Others – and this may be more important – will come away educated, enlightened, and inspired.

Further, this window into the modern library lends reassurance in a time of division and discord that there remains a place in each community that truly is open to all, that serves and respects all points of view, that is an instrument of unity.

You have done libraries, and our country, a great service.

Again, thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Crosby Kemper III".

Crosby Kemper III  
Director



**KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

14 WEST 10TH STREET • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64105 • 816.701.3400 • 816.701.3401 FAX • [WWW.KCLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.KCLIBRARY.ORG)

January 8, 2019

Dear Dawn Logsdon,

I write in support of your application to the National Endowment to the Humanities. I would be delighted to help with your project and to speak on panels in which you share your work with the public.

Sincerely,



Eric Klinenberg

Professor of Sociology

Director of the Institute for Public Knowledge

New York University



**Eric Klinenberg** is Professor of Sociology and Director of the [Institute for Public Knowledge](#) at New York University. He also serves as Research Director of [Rebuild by Design](#), which began as a federal competition to generate innovative infrastructure plans for the region affected by Hurricane Sandy, and now helps cities around the world transform to address climate change.

Klinenberg's research projects focus on cities, climate change, culture, politics, media, technology, and social policy. He often teaches qualitative methods for doctoral students and undergraduate courses on the social challenges of climate change.

His most recent book is [Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life](#) (Crown Publishing, September 2018). The book argues that the future of democratic societies rests not simply on shared values but on shared spaces: the libraries, childcare centers, bookstores, churches, synagogues, and parks that help us form crucial, sometimes life-saving connections. These are places where people can gather and linger, strengthening personal ties and promoting interaction across group lines. They are vital parts of what he calls our "social infrastructure," and they are necessary for rebuilding societies everywhere.

Klinenberg is also the coauthor, with Aziz Ansari, of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller [Modern Romance](#), and author of the acclaimed books [Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone](#), [Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago](#), and [Fighting for Air: The Battle to Control America's Media](#).

Klinenberg has published in the *American Sociological Review*, *Theory & Society*, the *American Journal of Public Health*, and *Ethnography*. In addition to his scholarship, Klinenberg has contributed to *The New Yorker*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Rolling Stone*, the *London Review of Books*, *Wired*, and *This American Life*.



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201 ROBINSON HALL • CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138  
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January 4, 2016

Dawn Logsdon  
Director and Producer  
*Free For All: Inside the Public Library*

Dear Dawn:

I write to confirm that I'm delighted to serve as an advisor on your film, *Free for All: Inside the Public Library*. As an American historian who has written about the history of public and private libraries and archives, I'm keen to see this vital story powerfully told and am thrilled that you've taken it on.

Sincerely,



Jill Lepore  
David Woods Kemper '41 Professor of American History, Harvard College Professor,  
and Affiliated Faculty, Harvard Law School

## *Jill Lepore Biography*

JILL LEPORE is the David Woods Kemper '41 Professor of American History at Harvard University and Affiliated Faculty at the Harvard Law School. She is also a staff writer at *The New Yorker*.

Much of Lepore's research, teaching, and writing explores absences and asymmetries of evidence in the historical record. Her current work concerns the histories and technologies of evidence and of privacy. She teaches classes in evidence, historical writing, historical methods, and American history. As an essayist, she writes about American history, law, literature, and politics. Some recent essays consider grief, corruption, disruption, guns and archiving the internet.

In 2014, she was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and to the American Philosophical Society. Her research has been funded by the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Pew Foundation, the Gilder Lehrman Institute, the Charles Warren Center, and the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. She is the recipient of many honors and awards including honorary degrees from Bowdoin College, Colgate University, and Tufts University.

Lepore's most recent book is *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* (Knopf, 2014), a *New York Times* bestseller and winner of the 2015 American History Book Prize. Her next book, *Joe Gould's Teeth*, will be published by Knopf in 2016. Her earlier work includes a trilogy of books that constitute a political history of early America: *The Name of War: King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity* (Knopf, 1998), winner of the Bancroft Prize, the Ralph Waldo Emerson Award, and the Berkshire Prize; *New York Burning: Liberty, Slavery and Conspiracy in Eighteenth-Century Manhattan* (Knopf, 2005), winner of the Anisfield-Wolf Award for the best nonfiction book on race and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize; and *Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin* (Knopf, 2013), *Time* magazine's Best Nonfiction Book of the Year, winner of the Mark Lynton History Prize and a finalist for the 2013 National Book Award for Nonfiction.

Lepore is the President of the Society of American Historians and an Emeritus Commissioner of the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. She has served as a consultant and contributor to a number of documentary and public history projects. Her three-part story, "The Search for Big Brown," was broadcast on *The New Yorker Radio Hour* in 2015. Among her interviews, she has appeared on Fresh Air and on the Colbert Report.

Lepore has been contributing to *The New Yorker* since 2005. Her essays and reviews have also appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Journal of American History*, *Foreign Affairs*, the *Yale Law Journal*, *American Scholar*, and the *American Quarterly*. They have been translated into Spanish, Italian, Latvian, Swedish, French, Chinese, and Japanese, and have also been widely anthologized, including in collections of the best legal writing and the best technology writing. Three of

her books derive from her *New Yorker* essays: *The Mansion of Happiness: A History of Life and Death* (Knopf, 2012), a finalist for the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction; *The Story of America: Essays on Origins* (Princeton, 2012), shortlisted for the PEN Literary Award for the Art of the Essay; and *The Whites of Their Eyes: The Tea Party's Revolution and the Battle for American History* (Princeton, 2010), a *Times Book Review* Editors' Choice.

From 2011-2013, Lepore was a Visiting Scholar of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. Among her other scholarly and public lectures, she has delivered Theodore H. White Lecture on the Press and Politics at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government (2015), the John L. Hatfield Lecture at Lafayette College (2015), the Lewis Walpole Library Lecture at Yale (2013), the Harry F. Camp Memorial Lecture at Stanford (2013), the University of Kansas Humanities Lecture (2013), the Joanna Jackson Goldman Memorial Lectures at the New York Public Library (2012), the Kephardt Lecture at Villanova (2011), the Stafford-Little Lecture at Princeton (2010), and the Walker Horizon Lecture at DePauw (2009).

Lepore was on sabbatical during the 2015-2016 academic year. In 2016 she delivered the Patten Lectures at Indiana University as well as the Richard Leopold Lecture on Public Affairs at Northwestern University. In 2017 she delivered the F. E. L. Priestley Memorial Lectures in the History of Ideas at the University of Toronto. Lepore lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, (b) (6).



Media Panel  
National Endowment for the Humanities

August 7, 2012

Dear Members of the Media Panel,

I am delighted to write this strong letter of support for the documentary project “Free For All,” a film that in the words of its producers “aims to understand the role of the public library in American civic life.” Despite the fact that for millions of Americans from mid-nineteenth century on, institutional libraries have constituted a major path of access to texts, and that public libraries have an enormous impact on the lives of Americans the history and contemporary role of libraries is not generally well appreciated. Yet at a time when sources of funding for public libraries are being withdrawn at both local and national levels, community support for public libraries remains as strong—perhaps stronger—than ever.

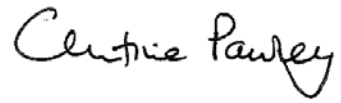
I first met Dawn Logsdon and other members of her team when they attended the Center for the History of Print and Digital Culture 2010 conference, “Libraries in the History of Print Culture,” a joint project with the American Library Association’s Library History Round Table that brought together scholars from across North American and abroad. A particularly strong component of the conference consisted of papers about American public libraries, and it was this element that motivated the documentary team to attend the conference. The team attended sessions, and interacted with conference presenters, and immediately following the conference, carried out interviews with a number of attendees and organizers, including myself. In my interactions with the team members, I was impressed with the depth of their knowledge of how public libraries affect American communities, as well as with the energetic and creative way in which they approached their topic.

This documentary promises to describe and explain this attachment by ordinary Americans to their local public libraries. Whether they visit their library in search of crucial information for work, school or home, or for books and other media to enhance the quality of their daily lives, Americans are voting with their feet in larger numbers than ever. This is a topic that will have wide appeal, and deserves serious attention from a gifted and experienced team such as the one headed by Dawn Logsdon. Their success in gaining

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funding from California sources presages well. I encourage the National Endowment for the Humanities to add their support to the fullest extent possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Pawley". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Christine" and last name "Pawley" clearly legible.

Christine Pawley  
Professor and Director, School of Library and Information Studies

Director, Center for the History of Print and Digital Culture

## **Christine Pawley**

Professor and Director  
School of Library and Information Studies  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
4238 Helen C. White Hall  
Madison, WI 53726

tel: 608 263-2945/263-3900  
fax: 608 263-4849  
email: cpawley@wisc.edu  
web page: <http://slisweb.lis.wisc.edu/~cpawley>

### **Education**

- Ph.D. Library and Information Studies (Minor: Public Administration and Sociology), University of Wisconsin-Madison (1996)  
Advisor: Professor Wayne A. Wiegand  
Dissertation: *Reading on the Middle Border: The Culture of Print in Osage, Iowa, 1870 to 1900*
- M.A. Library and Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison (1991)
- M.Sc. Educational Research, University of Surrey, UK (1975)  
Research Methods, Statistics, Philosophy, Psychology and Sociology (specialized in Sociology)
- P.G.C.E. Postgraduate Certificate in Education, University of York, UK (1969)  
History and Social Science
- B.A. (Hons.) Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Oxford University, UK (1968)

### **Academic Positions**

Director, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2009-12 (Professor 2007- ; Associate Professor 2006-07)

Director, The Center for the History of Print and Digital Culture, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2006-August 2012

Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Science; Affiliate of Language, Literacy and Culture Program in the College of Education, 2004-06 (Assistant Professor, 2000-04)

Director, The University of Iowa Center for the Book, 2005-06

Visiting Fellow, School of Information Systems, Technology and Management, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, 1999-00

Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1998-99

Assistant Professor, Department of Information Management, College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota (ALA accredited LIS master's program with Dominican University, Chicago; undergraduate Information Management program), 1996-98

### **Refereed Publications and Presentations**

Refereed Books and Book Chapters:

- Organizing Women: Print Culture and Community Power in Early Twentieth Century America*. Book in preparation
- Libraries and the Reading Public in Twentieth Century America*. Edited book, with Louise S. Robbins, accepted for publication by University of Wisconsin Press
- Reading Places: Literacy, Democracy, and the Public Library in Cold War America*. (Amherst, Mass.: University of Massachusetts Press, 2010)

- “Blood and Thunder on the Bookmobile: American Public Libraries and the Construction of 'the Reader,’” in *Institutions of Reading: The Social Life of Libraries in the United States* edited by Thomas Augst and Kenneth Carpenter (University of Massachusetts Press, 2007)
- “A 'Bouncing Babe,' a 'Little Bastard:' Women, Print and the Door-Kewaunee Regional Library, 1950-1952,” in *Women in Print: Essays on the Print Culture of American Women from the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*, edited by James P. Danky and Wayne A. Wiegand, (University of Wisconsin Press, 2006)
- “Reading *Apostles of Culture*: The Politics and Historiography of Library History,” Foreword to reprint of *Apostles of Culture: The Public Librarian and American Society, 1876-1920* by Dee Garrison (Madison, Wis.: University of Wisconsin Press, 2003)
- Reading on the Middle Border: The Culture of Print in Late Nineteenth-Century Osage, Iowa* (Amherst, Mass.: University of Massachusetts Press, 2001). Winner of the 2002 Benjamin F. Shambaugh Award from the State Historical Society of Iowa). Chapter Three appears as “A Benefit and a Blessing”: The Sage Library,” in *The History of Reading: a Reader*, edited by Shafquat Towheed, Rosalind Crone, and Katie Halsey (London: Routledge, 2011).
- “Better Than Billiards: Reading and the Public Library in Osage, Iowa, 1890-1895,” in *Print Culture in a Diverse America*, edited by James P. Danky and Wayne A. Wiegand (Champaign, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 1997. Winner of the 1999 Carey McWilliams Award for Cultural Diversity). Translated into Japanese, this chapter also appears in *New Trends in Library Research: Intellectual Freedom, History and the United States*, edited by Yoshitaka Kawasaki (Kyoto, Japan: Kyoto University Library and Information Study Group, 2001).

#### Refereed Journal Articles:

- “Beyond Market Models and Resistance: Organizations as a Middle Layer in the History of Reading.” (*The Library Quarterly*, 79 (1), 2009: 73-93)
- “Reading About Race: The Book Lovers Club of Des Moines, Iowa, 1925-1941” (*The Annals of Iowa*, 65 (1), 2006: 35-59)
- “Retrieving Readers: Library Experiences.” (Introduction and guest editor for special issue of *The Library Quarterly*, 77 (3), 2006: 379-387)
- “Stimulating Scholarship: Library History Round Table’s Research Forum.” (*Libraries & the Cultural Record*, 41 (3) 2006: 392-394)
- “Unequal Legacies: Race and Multiculturalism in the LIS Curriculum.” (*The Library Quarterly*, 76 (2) 2006: 149-168)
- “Gorman’s Gauntlet: Gender and ‘Crying Wolf.’” (*Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, 46 (4) 2005: 304-312)
- “History in the Library and Information Science Curriculum: Outline of a Debate.” (*Libraries and Culture*, 40 (3) 2005: 223-238)
- “Information Literacy: A Contradictory Coupling,” (*The Library Quarterly*, 73 (4) 2003: 422-452). Translated into Spanish, this article also appeared in *Biblioteca Universitaria. Revista de la Dirección General de Bibliotecas de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Nueva época*, 12, (1), 2009.
- “Historical Research as Practice and Relationship: The Carnegie Libraries in Iowa Project” (joint author with James Elmborg, *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, 44 (3) 2003: 236-246)





Nancy Pearl

(b) (6)

nancy@nancypearl.com

August 11, 2012

Dear NEH Media Panelists:

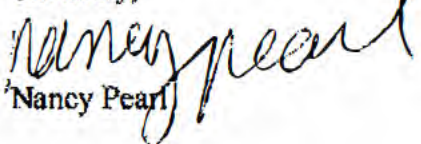
It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for the documentary and new media project, *Free for All: Inside the Public Library*. I first met the filmmakers in 2010 at the Public Library Association's (PLA) annual convention in Portland. At that time they were beginning their preliminary research and interviewed me on camera. I was immediately intrigued by their proposed film and feel the time is right for this project to be launched.

I became a librarian because I know that libraries have the power to change people's lives. A library and librarian changed mine and I have seen first-hand how libraries have helped others live better lives in a myriad of ways. This film would be a gift to the American public by providing a contemporary and historical perspective on the civic importance of the public library; and that understanding of the importance of libraries is needed now more than ever.

As the founder of the "One Book, One City" initiative, I know that the public library is a leading cultural organization in its community. Because it is free and open to everyone, the public library draws together people from disparate backgrounds – for discussion and other programs – to facilitate a common language and overcome boundaries formed by ethnicity, background, economic level, and gender. I am particularly happy to share my experiences in community outreach with the filmmakers and to help them plan and design their own outreach strategy.

I urge you to join me in supporting this important project.

Sincerely,

  
Nancy Pearl



## Nancy Pearl

(b) (6)

*nancy@nancypearl.com*

### Employment

7/11-present	Columnist, <i>Publishers Weekly</i>
1/1-12/11	Consultant, Seattle Public Library
1/09-12/09	Consultant, King County Public Library
11/07-10/08	Consultant, Cuyahoga County Public Library
8/04 –Present	Speaker, Writer, and Book Reviewer; host of "Book Lust with Nancy Pearl," an author interview show on the Seattle Channel;
6/93-8/04	Director of the Washington Center for the Book and Youth Services at the Seattle Public Library
1993-Present	Book Reviewer for Morning Edition, National Public Radio; KUOW-FM, Seattle, WA; Wisconsin Public Radio, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and KWGS-FM, Tulsa, Oklahoma
	Adjunct Faculty, ISchool, University of Washington
	<u>Job description:</u> To teach courses in Readers' Advisory and Genre Literature
10/95-11/97	Instructor, Part-Time, North Seattle Community College
	<u>Job description:</u> To develop and teach literature based courses of interest to senior citizens. Courses taught: "I Love a Mystery: Mystery Novels, Past, Present, and Future;" "Beat the Blahs—Read a Funny Book;"

"Fifty Years of Good Reading—The Best Books from 1945 to 1995;" and "Introduction to Poetry."

- 1988-1993 Head of Acquisitions and Collection Development, Tulsa City-County Library, Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Job description:  
 Responsible for all adult and young adult collection development for 21 branches and the Central Library.
- 1990-1992 Book Columnist for *Tulsa Tribune*
- 1989-1993 Radio Host of a half-hour book show, "Between the Lines" on KWGS
- 1979-1988 Manager, Yorktown Alley Book Store, Tulsa, Oklahoma
- 1978-1987 Instructor in Humanities, English, Art Appreciation (various semesters), Tulsa Junior College
- 1976-1977 Instructor in Humanities, Oklahoma State University
- 1967-1968 Branch Librarian, Detroit Public Library, Detroit, Michigan

### **Education**

University of Michigan, B.A., English, 1965

University of Michigan, M.L.S., 1967

Oklahoma State University, M.A., History, 1977

### **Publications**

*Book Lust To Go: Recommended Reading for Travelers, Vagabonds, and Dreamers* (2010)

*Now Read This III: A Guide to Mainstream Fiction* (with Sarah Stätz Cords) (2010)

*Book Crush: For Kids and Teens: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Interest* (2007)

*More Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Reason* (2005)

*Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Reason* (2003)

*Now Read This II: A Guide to Mainstream Fiction, 1990-2001*

Columnist for *Library Journal*, "The Reader's Shelf", 2001 - 2006

*Now Read This; A Guide to Mainstream Fiction 1978-1998*, Libraries Unlimited

Quarterly column, "I'd Rather Be Reading" in *Alki, The Washington Library Assoc. Journal* (through 8/2004)

"Gave 'Em What They Wanted: The End of an Era in Baltimore County," in *Library Journal*, Sept. 1, 1996.

"Debunking 10 Myths Publishers Have About Libraries," in *Library Journal*, September 1, 1995.

"Filling Their World with Books to Love," in *Seattle Times*, 1993.

"Inspiration and Appreciation: Notes on the Practice of Readers' Advisory," in *Collection Building*, Vol. 12, Nos. 3-4, Summer, 1993

"Upgrading the McLibrary," with Craig Buthod, in *Library Journal*, September, 1992.

Essays on George Sims and Leo Bruce in *Dictionary of Literary Biography, British Mystery Writers*, Brucoli Clark Publishers

*Source Material Reference Guide*, compiled by Nancy Pearl and Claudette Hagle. Rev. ed. Stillwater, 1975

## **Workshops and Presentations**

Recent workshops and presentations:

Memphis Public Library, Bowling Green (Ohio) Public Library, Cuyahoga County Public Libraries, King County Library System, North Central Region Libraries, State Libraries of Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales, Australia; New Zealand Book Council; Sydney (Australia) Writers' Festival; Kent District Public Library; Montana Library Association; Phoenix Public Library; Wisconsin Library Association; Virginia Library Association; Pasadena Public Library; Lupton Library, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; California School Library Association; Washington Library Association; Las Vegas Clark County Public Library system; Kentucky Library Association;



August 8, 2012

Dear NEH Panelists:

I am writing in support of Dawn Logsdon's proposed documentary project "Free for All: Inside the Public Library."

The free public library is a cornerstone of neighborhoods across America and a vital agent of change within them. Logsdon's decision to tell this national story through the experiences of ordinary library users in an extraordinarily diverse urban library will bring into focus the many ways Americans come together within public libraries to interact and exchange ideas and strengthen their communities.

I look forward to consulting with her and her team and reviewing their filmmaking progress. I urge you to join me in supporting this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Robert D. Putnam", followed by a horizontal line.

Robert D. Putnam



# CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

12 August 2019

Department of Art History  
and Architectural Studies  
270 Mohegan Avenue New  
London, Connecticut  
06320-4196

Dawn Logsdon  
Serendipity Films  
1933 Stockton Street  
San Francisco, CA 93133

**Abigail A. Van Slyck**  
Dayton Professor of  
Art History

Dear Dawn,

I write to confirm my willingness to serve as an advisor for *FREE FOR ALL: Inside the Public Library*. From our first conversations, I have been enthusiastic about this project, which is creative, well-researched and timely. As I mentioned to you in 2012, I am struck by the parallels between our own time and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when Andrew Carnegie was financing the construction of public libraries during a time of heated debates about what it meant to be an American. The public library has long been at the center of these debates, serving as a place where democratic principles are lived on a daily basis and where people of all stripes experience the messy and vital character of democratic society. I continue to dream of a world in which everyone seeking public office would first work for three months at a busy public library reference desk.

As we have discussed in recent days, the history of public libraries is deeply entwined with women's history. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, elite women often banded together to found libraries for their communities—although their efforts were often invisible once they had succeeded in their ultimate goal, which was to have the municipality assume responsibility for the project. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many other women became professional librarians, as the field was—quite abruptly—feminized. And throughout our history, women have been avid library users, even if their reading was sometimes considered suspect.

I am happy to serve as an advisor and eager to help ensure that the film receives the viewership it so richly deserves. I stand ready to act as a thought-partner on and participant in outreach activities that will get Americans from all backgrounds to understand the importance of this vibrant civic institution.

Sincerely yours,

*Abigail A. Van Slyck*

Abigail A. Van Slyck  
Dayton Professor of Art History



**ABIGAIL A. VAN SLYCK**  
Associate Dean of the Faculty  
Dayton Professor of Art History  
Connecticut College

Box 5565 Connecticut College  
270 Mohegan Avenue  
New London, CT 06320

phone: (860) 439-2731  
fax: (860) 439-5339  
E-mail: aavan@conncoll.edu

Education

Ph.D. Architecture, University of California, Berkeley, 1989  
A.B. Art History, Smith College, Northampton, MA, 1981  
Magna Cum Laude, High Honors in Art History

Dissertation Title: "Free to All: Carnegie Libraries and the Transformation of American Culture, 1886-1917"

Committee: Dell Upton, Chair; Spiro Kostof, Christine Rosen

Grants and Honors

Connecticut College's Nancy Batson Nisbet Rash Research Award, 2009  
Society of Architectural Historians' Alice Davis Hitchcock Award, 2009  
American Association for State and Local History Leadership in History Award of Merit, 2006  
Connecticut Humanities Council Wilbur Cross Award, 2006  
Connecticut League of History Organizations Award of Merit, 2006  
Schlesinger Library Research Grant, 1997  
New Zealand Studies Programme Development Grant, from the New Zealand-United States Educational Foundation, 1996  
Dean's Citation for Educational Leadership, 1995  
Trustees of the National Library of New Zealand Research Grant, 1995  
Fulbright Senior Scholar Award in New Zealand, 1993  
Society of Architectural Historians' Founders' Award and Ann Van Zanten Medal, 1991  
Rockefeller Summer Humanist-in-Residence Fellowship, 1991

Professional Experience

Connecticut College, Associate Dean of the Faculty, 2011-present;  
Department of Art History and Architectural Studies, Dayton Professor, 2007-present;  
Dayton Associate Professor, 1999-2007; Director of Architectural Studies Program, 1999-2011  
University of Arizona, College of Architecture (with appointments in the departments of Women's Studies and Art History), Associate Professor, 1995-99; Assistant Professor, 1989-95  
UCLA, Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, Visiting Lecturer, 1988  
U.C. Berkeley, College of Environmental Design, Undergraduate Academic Advisor, 1985-86

Books

*A Manufactured Wilderness: American Summer Camps and the Shaping of American Youth, 1890-1960.* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2006.  
*Free to All: Carnegie Libraries and American Culture, 1890-1920,* Japanese translation. Kyoto: University of Kyoto, 2005.  
*Free to All: Carnegie Libraries and American Culture, 1890-1920.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.

### Articles and Chapters in Peer-Reviewed Publications

- "The Spatial Practices of Privilege," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 70 (June 2011), 210-239.
- "Shaping Modern Boyhood: Indian Lore, Child Psychology, and the Cultural Landscape of Camp Ahmek," in *Depicting Canada's Children*, edited by Loren Lerner (Waterloo, Ontario: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2009), 27-48.
- "Connecting with the Landscape: Campfires and Youth Culture at American Summer Camps, 1890-1950," in *Designing Modern Childhoods: History, Space, and the Material Culture of Children, An International Reader*, edited by Marta Gutman and Ning de Coninck-Smith (Piscataway, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 2008), 23-41.
- "Managing Pleasure: Library Architecture and the Erotics of Reading," in *Library as Place: History, Community and Culture*, edited by John Buschman and Gloria J. Leckie (Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2007), 221-234.
- "On the Inside: Preserving Women's History in American Libraries," in *Restoring Women's History Through Historic Preservation*, edited by Gail Lee Dubrow and Jennifer B. Goodman (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003), 145-160.
- "The Librarian and the Library: Why Place Matters," *Libraries and Culture* 36 (Fall 2001), 518-523.
- "Interdisciplinarity and American Architectural History" (editorial), *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 57 (March 1998), 4.
- "The Lady and the Library Loafer: Gender and Public Space in Victorian America," in "Gendered Spaces and Aesthetics," a special issue of *Winterthur Portfolio* 31 (Winter 1996), 221-242.
- "Gender and Space in American Public Libraries, 1880-1920," *Southwest Institute for Research on Women Working Paper* 27 (1992), 1-29.
- "The Utmost Amount of Effectiv [sic] Accommodation': Andrew Carnegie and the Reform of the American Library," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 50 (December 1991), 359-383.

### Professional Presentations

- "Thinking Globally about Carnegie Libraries," Edward G. Holley Lecture delivered to the Library History Roundtable of the American Library Association at the ALA Annual Conference, Anaheim, California, 23 June 2012
- "Feminism, Architectural History and the Spatial Practices of Privilege," at "The F-Word: Reclaiming Feminism in the Visual Arts" symposium, Rutgers University Art History Department, October 2007
- "Spaces of Literacy: Carnegie Libraries and an English-Speaking World," at the American Studies Association conference, Oakland, California, October 2006
- "Managing Pleasure: Library Architecture and the Erotics of Reading," at the American Studies Association conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2004
- "Segregated Spaces," paper presented at the American Studies Association annual meeting, Pittsburgh, November 1995
- "New Zealand's Carnegie Libraries and the Limits of Cultural Imperialism," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Vernacular Architecture Forum, Ottawa, Canada, May 1995
- "Controlling Women: Architecture and the Gender Politics of American Librarianship," paper presented at the Reclaiming Women's History Through Historic Preservation Conference, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, June 1994
- "The Structure of Reading: American Branch Libraries and the Control of Working-Class Readers, 1890-1915," paper presented at the Organization of American Historians annual meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, April 1994
- "Kids and Chaos in the Public Library, 1890-1920," paper presented at the 2nd Fulbright American Studies Conference, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand, July 1993

"A Room with No View: Women's Clubs and American Town Libraries, 1890-1910," paper presented at the Vernacular Architecture Forum annual meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, May 1989

"Free to All: Carnegie Libraries and the Transformation of American Culture, 1886-1917," paper presented at the third annual Talks on American Architecture, Temple Hoyne Buell Center at Columbia University, New York City, March 1987

#### Public Presentations

"Carnegie Libraries: Public Reading for the Reading Public," in the *Imagining the Library: Books in Public Life from Late Antiquity to the Digital Age* Speaker Series, organized by the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere at the University of Florida, 27 September 2010

"This Old Library: H. H. Richardson and the Invention of the Small Public Library," presented to the Public Library section of the Connecticut Library Association, West Hartford, October 2008

"H.H. Richardson and the Invention of the Public Library," sponsored by the AIA (American Institute of Architects) Connecticut Committee on Historic Resources, November 2006

"Confronting the Legacy of Playing Indian," keynote address at American Camp Association conference, Austin, Texas, February 2006

"The Libraries of Henry Hobson Richardson," at the annual meeting of New London Landmarks, February 2007

"Carnegie Libraries and the Limits of Historic Preservation," invited lecture presented in the Historic Preservation Lecture Forum, at Columbia University School of Architecture, January 2005

"Carnegie libraries," invited lecture at the office of Ann Beha Architects, Boston, March 2004

"Just Ten Easy Lessons: What H.H. Richardson Can Teach Us About Library Design," invited lecture sponsored by UCLA Department of Information Studies and the California Center for the Book, UCLA, Los Angeles, California, November 2003

#### Institutional Service

##### Connecticut College

Architectural Studies Program Director, 1999-2011

Faculty Fellow, Joy Shechtman Mankoff Center for Teaching and Learning, 2008-2011

Committee on Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure, 2007-2010

Faculty Steering and Conference Committee, Chair, 2005-06; Chair-Elect, 2004-05

Gender and Women's Studies Advisory Council, 2000-02

Library Renovation and Expansion Project Committee, 2000-

R. F. Johnson Teaching Seminar Organizing Committee, 2000-02

Lyman Allyn Art Museum Board of Fellows, 2000-02

##### University of Arizona

Committee on Graduate Study, 1995-99

Outstanding Capstone Awards Selection Committee, 1994

College of Architecture

Curriculum Committee, 1994-99 (Chair, 1994-95); 1989-91 (Chair, 1989-90)

Library Committee, 1994-00 (Chair, 1994-95); 1989-93

Art History Program

Ph.D. Planning Committee, 1991-92

Women's Studies Program

Awards Committee, Chair, 1994-95

Executive Committee, 1992-93

WOSAC Second Start Stipend Committee, 1991

Association for Women Faculty

Past-President, 1998-99; President, 1997-98; Secretary, 1990-92





Dear National Endowment for the Humanities:

I strongly support the funding request for the Free for All documentary. I am an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin – Madison's School of Library and Information Studies. I have already begun advising the filmmakers and have been interviewed on camera when we met at the Center for the History of Print Culture conference in Madison, Wisconsin. I will continue advising them on my areas of expertise that include the history of African American librarianship. I have written a book about Regina Andrews, the first African American librarian to head her own branch of the New York Public Library. I am in the process of developing my own documentary about her life and career in librarianship.

I have viewed their sample tape and believe that this documentary would be a wonderful addition to documentaries about United States public libraries including the film *The People's Palace* about the New York Public Library. Our department's library would be interested in purchasing the film and showing it to our students as part of the curriculum in our program including in our course, The Public Library.

Ethelene Whitmire  
Associate Professor

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**ETHELENE WHITMIRE**  
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University of Wisconsin-Madison  
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600 North Park Street  
Helen C. White #4226  
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#### EDUCATION

- 2001      Ph.D. – Higher Education - University of Michigan (School of Education – Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education), Ann Arbor, MI
- 1993      M.L.S. (Masters of Library Service – Rutgers University (School of Communication, Information, and Library Studies), New Brunswick, NJ
- 1989      B.A. – English and Communication - Rutgers University (Rutgers College), New Brunswick, NJ

#### EMPLOYMENT & POSITIONS

- 2007 -      Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin – Madison, School of Library and Information Studies
- 2006 – 2007      Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin – Madison, School of Library and Information Studies
- 2005 - 2006      Assistant Professor, University of California – Los Angeles, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies – Department of Information Studies (leave of absence from UW-Madison)
- 2004 – 2005      Visiting Scholar, University of California – Los Angeles, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies (Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship for Minorities)
- 2001 – 2004      Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin – Madison, School of Library and Information Studies
- 2000      Anna Julia Cooper Pre-doctoral Fellowship - University of Wisconsin – Madison
- 1997 - 1999      Librarian-in-Residence, Yale University
- 1994 – 1997      Graduate Student Staff Assistantship, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor

## PUBLICATIONS

1. Harlem Renaissance Librarian: The Biography of Regina Andrews (under review)
2. Whitmire, Ethelene. "Breaking the Color Barrier: Regina Andrews and the New York Public Library," *Libraries and the Cultural Record* 42, no. 4, (2007): 409-421.
3. Whitmire, E. (2006). African American undergraduates and the academic library. *Journal of Negro Education*, 75(1), 60-66.
4. Whitmire, E. (2004a). The campus racial climate and undergraduates' perceptions of the academic library. *portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 4(3), 363-378.
5. Whitmire, E. (2004b). The relationship between undergraduates' epistemological reflection, reflective judgment and their information seeking behavior. *Information Processing & Management*, 40(1), 97-111.
6. Whitmire, E. (2003a). Cultural diversity and undergraduates' academic library experiences. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 29(3), 148-161.
7. Whitmire, E. (2003b). Epistemological beliefs and the information-seeking behavior of undergraduates. *Library & Information Science Research*, 25(2), 127-142.
8. Whitmire, E. (2002a). Academic library performance measures and undergraduates' library use and educational outcomes. *Library & Information Science Research*, 24(2), 107-128.
9. Whitmire, E. (2002b). Disciplinary differences and undergraduates' information seeking behavior. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 53(8), 631-638.
10. Whitmire, E. (2001a). The relationship between undergraduates' background characteristics and college experiences and their academic library use. *College & Research Libraries*, 62(6), 528-540.
11. Whitmire, E. (2001b). Factors influencing undergraduates' self-reported satisfaction with their information literacy skills. *portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 1(4), 409-420.
12. Whitmire, E. (2001c). A longitudinal study of undergraduates' academic library experiences. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 27(5), 379-385.
13. Whitmire, E. (1999). Racial differences in the academic library experiences of undergraduates. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 25(1), 33-37.
14. Whitmire, E. (1998). Development of critical thinking skills: An analysis of academic library experiences and other measures. *College & Research Libraries*, 59(3), 266-273.



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**Wayne A. Wiegand**  
*F. William Summers Professor*

Phone: (850) 644-8123  
Fax: (850) 644-6253  
Email: [wwiegand@ci.fsu.edu](mailto:wwiegand@ci.fsu.edu)

August 8, 2019

Ms. Dawn Logsdon, Director  
“Free for All: Inside the Public Library” Documentary  
1933 Stockton Street  
San Francisco, CA 94131

Dear Dawn:

It gives me great pleasure to write a letter supporting your proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities to help fund your documentary project, “Free for All: Inside the Public Library.”

That there are more public libraries in the United States than McDonald’s restaurants, that two-thirds of American citizens are registered borrowers is striking testimony to how much Americans use and how highly they regard their public libraries. Yet, as a public sphere agency, this ubiquitous civic institution has been understudied, under-analyzed, and undervalued by policy makers for generations.

Because your documentary will use a “library in the life of the user” rather than the conventional “user in the life of the library” perspective, it promises to explore many of the multiple uses Americans make of their public libraries that have escaped the attention of library policy makers. For those reasons alone it deserves NEH funding.

I stand ready to attend a planning meeting, and welcome the opportunity to contribute to this very valuable project in any way I can.

Sincerely,

Wayne A. Wiegand

WAYNE A. WIEGAND

**Often referred to as the “Dean of American Library Historians,” is F. William Summers Professor of Library and Information Studies Emeritus at Florida State University** and Senior Scholar-in-Residence at FSU’s PALM Center. He received a BA in history at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh (1968), an MA in history at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (1970), and an MLS at Western Michigan University and a Ph.D. in history at Southern Illinois University (1974). Before moving to Tallahassee in 2003 he was Librarian at Urbana College in Ohio (1974-1976), and on the faculties of the College of Library Science at the University of Kentucky (1976-1986) and the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1987-2002).

At the latter he also served as **founder and Co-Director of the Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America (a joint program of the University and the Wisconsin Historical Society established in 1992)**. In Spring, 1998, he was Fellow in the UW-Madison’s Institute for Research in the Humanities. In 1999 he was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society, and in Fall, 2000, he was a Spencer Foundation Fellow. In 2011 he received a Short-Term Fellowship from the New York Public Library to study NYPL branch library records. **As a member of the faculty of the FSU Program in American & Florida Studies, in 2006 he organized a coalition of ten Florida organizations (including state agencies and state library and humanities organizations) and served as Director of the Florida Book Awards until July, 2012.**

**In addition to over one hundred scholarly articles, he is author of *History of A Hoax: Edmund Lester Pearson, John Cotton Dana and “The Old Librarian’s Almanack”* (1979), *Patrician in the Progressive Era: A Biography of George von Lengerke Meyer* (1988); *Politics of an Emerging Profession: The American Library Association, 1876-1917* (1986), “*An Active Instrument for Propaganda: American Public Libraries During World War I* (1989), and *Irrepressible Reformer: A Biography of Melvil Dewey* (1996). The last three were given the G.K. Hall Award for Outstanding Contribution to Library Literature (1988, 1991; 1997). And with Shirley Wiegand he coauthored *Books on Trial: Red Scare in the Heartland* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2007), which was named the Book-of-the Month for November, 2007, by the American Bookseller’s Foundation for Free Expression, and was an Oklahoma Center for the Book finalist in the non-fiction category. In October, 2011, he published *Main Street Public Library: Reading Spaces and Community Places in America’s Heartland, 1876-1956* (University of Iowa Press), and in January, 2012, published with coauthor Sarah Wadsworth “*Right Here I See My Own Books: The Women’s Library at the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair* (University of Massachusetts Press).**

Wiegand has also edited the Beta Phi Mu Monographs Series (1978-1993), *Leaders in American Academic Librarianship, 1925-1975* (1983), *Supplement to the Dictionary of American Library Biography* (1991), and “The Library Bill of Rights,” the Summer, 1996, issue of *Library Trends*. In 1994 he coedited with Donald G. Davis, Jr., the

*Encyclopedia of Library History*. In 1998 he coedited *Print Culture in a Diverse America* with James Danky, which was awarded the 1999 Carey McWilliams Award for scholarly contribution to multicultural literature, and in 2006 also coedited with Danky *Women in Print: Essays on the Print Culture of American Women from the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*. From 1998 to 2002 he authored “This Month in History,” a column for ALA’s monthly *American Libraries*. With Tom Augst, he coedited a special issue of *American Studies* entitled “The Library as An Agency of Culture” (Fall, 2001), which the University of Wisconsin Press reprinted (2002). In 2003 he also coedited *Defining Print Culture for Youth: The Cultural Work of Children’s Reading* with Anne Lundin. He also edited the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of *Genrelecting: A Guide to Popular Reading Interests* (2005), in which he contributed the lead essay entitled, “On the Social Nature of Reading,” and with Christine Pawley guest edited the Winter, 2008, issue of *Library Trends* entitled “Alternative Print Culture: Social History and Libraries.” Between 2000 and 2009 he coedited the “Print Culture History in Modern America” series for the University of Wisconsin Press with James P. Danky and Christine Pawley.

Wiegand has lectured widely, and has served in various professional associations, including Chair of the ALA’s LHRT (1986-7), LRRT (1991-2), and Board Member for the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (1997-2003). He served on the Editorial Boards of *Library Quarterly* (1995-2000) and *Library History* (1996-2008), and on the Advisory Boards of *Libraries & Culture* (1978-2009) and *Lifelong Education & Libraries* (Kyoto University; 1997-2009). From July, 2003, to June, 2008, he served as coeditor of *Library Quarterly* with John Carlo Bertot. An article he published in the January, 1999, issue of the *Quarterly* entitled “Tunnel Vision and Blind Spots: What the Past Tells Us About the Present; Reflections on the Twentieth Century History of American Librarianship,” subsequently became the focus of a scholarly panel discussion at Library Research Seminar II (University of Maryland, 2001). Papers from that session were published in the *Quarterly*’s January, 2003, issue. **For the academic year 2008-2009, he was on a Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to write a book entitled “‘A Part of Our Lives:’ A People’s History of the American Public Library (Oxford University Press 2015).” The paperback version of this book will be published simultaneously with the *Free for All* documentary on the American public library currently being made by independent film makers.**

He is also researching “The American Public School Library: A History,” editing a series of essays by authors using the *Main Street Public Library* database for the Winter, 2012, issue of *Library Trends*, coediting with Pam Richards and Marija Dalbello a world history of modern librarianship, and with Shirley A. Wiegand, researching and writing a book tentatively entitled, “‘This Hallowed Place:’ The Desegregation of Public Libraries in the American South, 1954-1968.”

(8/12)

**(Items in Bold highlighted for purposes of introduction)**





AMERICAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT  
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95064

August 1, 2019

Dawn Logsdon  
Director/Producer  
Free For All: Inside the Public Library

Dear Dawn:

This is my letter of commitment to continue serving as a project advisor on your film, "Free For All: Inside the Public Library." I have enjoyed being interviewed for the film and reviewing your other progress to date. I am glad to continue lending my expertise, as an avid user of the San Francisco Public Library, former librarian of the Chinatown Branch Library in San Francisco and the Asian Branch Library in Oakland, and currently, Chinese American historian and writer. The public library looms large in my life, providing me with a free education, source of entertainment, reference materials, and many memorable years of employment. You have my full support for your most important film project.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Yung".

Judy Yung  
Professor Emerita

Enc: Short C.V.

**JUDY YUNG**

(b) (6)

**VITAE**

**Education**

1990 Ph.D., Ethnic Studies, UC Berkeley  
1968 MA, Library Science, UC Berkeley  
1967 BA, English Literature and Chinese Language, San Francisco State University

**Employment**

1990-2004 Professor, American Studies, UC Santa Cruz  
1985 Project Director, Making Waves Book Project, Asian Women United of California  
1981-83 Project Director, Chinese Women of America Research Project, Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco  
1975-81 Head Librarian, Asian Branch, Oakland Public Library  
1973-75 Associate Editor, East West Chinese American Journal  
1970-73 Head Librarian, Chinatown Branch, San Francisco Public Library

**Publications**

*Him Mark Lai: Autobiography of a Chinese American Historian*, co-editor with Ruthanne Lum McCunn and Russell C. Leong (UCLA Asian American Studies Center and Chinese Historical Society of America, 2011)  
*Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America*, co-author with Erika Lee (Oxford University Press, 2010)  
*The Adventures of Eddie Fung: Chinatown Kid, Texas Cowboy, Prisoner of War* (University of Washington Press, 2007)  
*San Francisco's Chinatown* (Arcadia Publishing, 2006)  
*Chinese American Voices: From the Gold Rush to the Present*, co-author with Gordon Chang and Him Mark Lai (University of California Press, 2006)  
"A Bowlful of Tears: Lee Puey You's Immigration Experience at Angel Island," in *Women in Asian American and Pacific Islander History* (New York University Press, 2003)  
"Reclaiming Chinese American History: An Interview with Him Mark Lai," in *Public Historian*, 2003  
*Unbound Voices: A Documentary History of Chinese Women in San Francisco* (University of California Press, 1999)  
"Giving Voice to Chinese American Women," in *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's History*, 1998  
"It's hard to be born a woman but hopeless to be born a Chinese': The Life and Times of Flora Belle Jan," in *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's History*, 1997  
*Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco* (University of California Press, 1995)  
"In Search of the Right Spouse: Interracial Marriage among Chinese and Japanese Americans," in *Amerasia Journal*, Winter 1995/96  
*Chinese Women of America: A Pictorial History* (University of Washington Press, 1986)  
*Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940*, co-author with Him Mark Lai and Genny Lim (Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco, 1980; republished by University of Washington Press, 1991)



"The Social Awakening of Chinese American Women as Reported in *Chung Sai Yat Po*, 1900-1911," in *Unequal Sisters: A Multicultural History of Women in the United States* (Routledge, Chapman, and Hall, 1990)

## **Exhibits**

"Chinese YWCA," Chinese Historical Society of America, 2003

"Chinese Women of America, 1834-1982," Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco, 1983.

"Island: History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940," Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco, 1980.

## **Consultant Services**

"Free for All: Inside the Public Library," 2011-present

"Chinese Whispers" mapping project, Rene Yung, 2010-present

"Him Mark Lai" and "Chinese Couplets," Felicia Lowe films, 2010-present

"May Studio Photographers," 1999-present

History Gallery, Oakland Museum, 2006-08

Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, 2005-present

Crossing East, NPR radio documentary on Asian immigrants, 2005-06

Editorial Board, *Journal of American Ethnic History*, 1998-2004

California Sesquicentennial Project, KQED radio, 1998

"Growing Up Asian in America" essay contest, 1997

"Born Cosmopolitan, Becoming International," San Francisco Public Library, 1995-96

"Living Widows and Paper Sons" film, Jennie Lew project, 1995-96

"Neighborhoods: The Hidden Cities of San Francisco," KQED-TV series, 1995-96

"Ancestors in the Americas," Loni Ding project, 1994-2000

National Women's History Project, 1986-1998

In Search of Roots Program, 1991-present

"Immigrants to America" film, National Geographic, 1991

Houghton-Mifflin Social Studies Textbook, 1991

New York Chinatown History Museum, 1990-2000

Filipino American National Historical Society Conference, 1990

Angel Island Oral History Project, California Dept. of Park and Recreation, 1988-90

"Carved in Silence" film, Felicia Lowe project, 1983-1988

## **Honors and Awards**

Caughey Western History Association Prize and Asian Pacific American Librarians

Association Book Award for Non-Fiction (for *Angel Island*), 2011

Lifetime Achievement Award, Association for Asian American Studies, 2006

Excellence through Diversity Award, UC Santa Cruz, 2003

Presidential Recognition Award, Chinese American Librarians Association, 2001

Excellence in Teaching Award, UC Santa Cruz, 1999

Jeanne Farr McDonnell Book Award, Western History Association Robert G. Athearn

Award, and Association for Asian American Studies National Book Award in History (for *Unbound Feet*), 1996

Distinguished Award for Culture, Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco, 1996

Outstanding Asian Women of the Year, Asian Women's Resource Center, 1987

The Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award (for *Island*), 1982

Outstanding Citizen Award, Oakland Museum, 1980

Library Commissioner, San Francisco Public Library, 1976-1978

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Peter Booth Wiley  
*Chairman*

Dear NEH Media Development Grant Panelists:

I enthusiastically support the multi-platform documentary project, **FREE FOR ALL: Inside the Public Library**. I have consulted with Lucie Faulknor and Dawn Logsdon about this project and endorse their sense of the importance of documenting the inner life of libraries at this difficult moment in the history of public libraries in the United States.

Fortunately, the San Francisco Public Library, about which I have written and whose support I have been actively engaged in for sixteen years, is one of the healthiest and most innovative in the country. This is not the case in all too many communities. The SFPL rests on a bedrock of public support, which came from a powerful citizens' movement that was able to galvanize our fellow San Franciscans' belief that public libraries are essential to the education and development of our families and communities. Lucie and Dawn's eagerness to share the experiences of the many people who make up library communities across the country, whether librarians or everyday people, will send an important message about this essential democratic institution.

As you can see from my biography, much of my life has involved libraries as a researcher and writer, a publisher, and a library supporter. I have offered Dawn and Lucie my help reviewing their work and participating in a panel or panels to discuss their documentary before and after release.

This is a worthy and essential project. It offers information about public libraries that our citizens need to know. I hope that the NEH will support it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter Booth Wiley

**Peter Booth Wiley**  
**December 26, 2018**

Peter Booth Wiley is Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Wiley Publishing. He joined the Wiley Board in 1984 and served as Chairman from 2002 until 2015. He represents the sixth generation of Wileys to play a leadership role at the company and is actively engaged in this family-controlled company.

An author and journalist, he coauthored *Empires in the Sun: The Rise of the New Americans West* and *America's Saints: The Rise of Mormon Power* with Bob Gottlieb. He also wrote *Yankees in the Land of the Gods: Commodore Perry and the Opening of Japan* and *A Free Library in This City: The History of the San Francisco Public Library*. Wiley was the lead author and editor of *Knowledge for Generations: Wiley and the Global Publishing Industry, 1807-2007*. He was a writer/researcher for "Mormons, Missionaries to the World," an award winning public television documentary and an executive producer of "Winter in the Blood," a feature film based on a novel with the same title by James Welch, the well-known American Indian writer. Formerly an associate editor and staff journalist at Pacific News Service, Wiley was also a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies at the University of California Berkeley; the co-author with Gottlieb of *Points West*, a newspaper column covering the American West and the Pacific Basin; and a feature writer for numerous newspaper and magazines focusing on the same regions. Wiley served on the faculty of the Stanford Professional Publishing Program.

Wiley has been a member of a number of nonprofit boards including the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library and the University of California Press. He retired as Chairman of the California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo's Library Advisory Board in 2016 and rejoined the Advisory Board in 2018. Wiley remains active funding innovation projects at both the San Francisco Public Library and Cal Poly's Kennedy Library. Wiley received a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature at Williams College and a Master of Arts in United States History at the University of Wisconsin Madison.

January 8, 2019

Dear Sir or Madam:

After a career in librarianship of over four decades, I recently retired as City Librarian of San Francisco. During this span, I have had the honor of serving in numerous public library systems in great cities including El Paso, Texas, Long Beach, San Diego, Pasadena and more recently in San Francisco. This experience has given me a first-hand understanding of the critical role that libraries play in fostering learning, access to information and literacy. Today, libraries have become beacons of equity and inclusion that represent the best ideals of democracy.

During my tenure in San Francisco I had the privilege of meeting film documentarians Lucie Faulkner and Dawn Logsdon. I was impressed with their passion in documenting the evolving role of libraries in America. The making of the film *Free for All* is an exciting and essential documentary that will have an impact in the greater awareness of the value of libraries in our society. I understand that they are submitting a grant to the NEH for funding support that will provide outreach for the project. The documentary is extraordinary and will carry a timely and relevant message to a wide audience. I heartily endorse the project and appreciate your consideration for support.

Sincerely,

Luis Herrera, City Librarian (retired)  
San Francisco Public Library



Dawn Logsdon  
Free for All: Inside the Public Library  
1933 Stockton Street  
San Francisco, CA 94133

Dear Ms. Logsdon,

On behalf of Firelight Media I would like to express our support for your upcoming documentary film **FREE FOR ALL: Inside the Public Library**.

Firelight Media is a non-profit media organization, led by Emmy award-winning filmmaker Stanley Nelson, dedicated to developing talented documentary filmmakers who tell stories about people, places, cultures and issues that are underrepresented in the mainstream media. In 2011 Firelight launched a Community Action Division to implement national community engagement campaigns around social issue media. The Division capitalizes on Firelight's proven community engagement strengths – employing innovative promotional strategies to bring diverse audiences to public television, working closely with community based organizations that serve people of color, and providing exciting opportunities for engagement both online and offline.

In my capacity as the Community Engagement Specialist for Firelight, I am excited to lend my expertise as the community engagement and new media advisor for **FREE FOR ALL**. It was a pleasure to provide informal guidance on the outreach effort around **Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans**, and to later support the film's dissemination during my tenure as Promotions Director at California Newsreel, an educational film distributor. Just as **Faubourg Tremé** sparked passionate conversations across the country, I am confident that this film will reach a wide audience and catalyze a new conversation on the crucial role that public libraries play in strengthening our democracy. I look forward to working together to develop innovative ways for audiences to become inspired to preserve and revitalize these important public institutions.

Sincerely,

Sonya Childress  
Community Engagement Specialist  
Firelight Media





January 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

As the executive producer of Independent Lens on PBS, I am very proud to work inside our country's public media system. I believe it's essential for the citizens of a healthy democracy to understand the role and importance of public institutions. One of the most vital and fundamental public institutions in the United States is our public library system.

Therefore, I am excited to screen and consider Dawn Logsdon's new film *Free For All: Inside the Public Library* for possible Independent Lens presentation. The film shows that public libraries are the only civic institution where the doors are open to all, attendance is entirely voluntary, and everything is free. My hope is that this film will inspire, entertain, and spark dialogue to engage communities to debate the future of their public libraries.

I will be screening the film this spring as director Dawn Logsdon continues to edit and complete the film so we can consider it for our 2019-2020 broadcast season.

Thank you for your consideration of this project, which I hope you will support to assure it will have a broad distribution campaign.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lois Vossen'.

Lois Vossen  
Executive Producer, Independent Lens



1435 Folsom Street  
San Francisco CA 94103  
T. 415 356 8383  
F. 415 356 8391  
[pbs.org/independentlens](http://pbs.org/independentlens)



January 11, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for Dawn Logsdon and her documentary film that is currently in production entitled *Free for All*.

POV, produced by American Documentary, is PBS's award-winning showcase for independent documentary films. For the past twenty-eight years, POV has presented the work of a diverse range of filmmakers including, Marshall Curry, Jason DaSilva, Mikaela Shwer, and Stephanie Wang-Breal. POV's award-winning website extends the life of our films online with interactive features, interviews, updates, video and educational content, and provides resources for filmmakers, including video interviews with nonfiction storytellers, articles with filmmaking tips, and news about funding and calls for entries.

*Free for All* explores a treasured and threatened American institution: the Public Library. The feature film and its multi-platform perspectives will provide an invaluable look inside one of society's key institutions and the people who use its services. In a short piece released recently on social media, the filmmakers profiled the Queens Public Library and its response to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Sandy. *Free for All* will clearly show that public libraries are not merely institutions that lend free books, but they are a key element of the social fabric, providing a whole range of services and support to communities.

We support Logsdon's request for funding and we look forward to reviewing *Free for All* as it progresses and to considering it for a national broadcast on PBS.

Sincerely,

Chris White  
Executive Producer  
American Documentary | POV

20 Jay Street  
Suite 940  
Brooklyn, NY  
11201

P: 212-989-8121  
F: 212-989-8230  
[www.pov.org](http://www.pov.org)

POV  
A Project of  
American  
Documentary  
[www.amdoc.org](http://www.amdoc.org)

January 8, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

KQED would like to express support for the television documentary film ***Free for All: Inside the Public Library***.

With an award-winning team led by Producer/Director Dawn Logsdon and Executive Producer Stanley Nelson, ***Free for All: Inside the Public Library*** explores the history, spirit and challenges of the free public library at a time when many libraries are facing drastic budget cuts and even closures. The film takes a contemporary look at libraries across the United States, along with using rarely seen archival material. Its structure juxtaposes two revolutionary moments in the American library story – the original “Library Movement” that swept the country in late 19th century, and current early 21st century struggle to bring public libraries into the digital age.

***Free for All*** celebrates the diversity of the American library experience past and present, while investigating the urgent issues libraries face today. The film seeks to inspire, entertain, and spark dialogue and engagement in communities, which mirrors the mission of public television and makes this ideal for public television audiences.

***Free for All*** is a project of Serendipity Films, a San Francisco and New Orleans-based documentary production company, and we are confident that the production team will produce a film that meets the high standards of public television. Director/Producer Dawn Logsdon has worked on many films for PBS, including KQED’s award-winning documentary ***The Castro***. Producer Lucie Faulknor has also worked with public television and has deep ties to the arts community locally here in San Francisco. Executive Producer Stanley Nelson is an Emmy Award-winning MacArthur “genius” and one of the premier documentary filmmakers working today. The entire production team has extensive experience and we are confident they will produce an informative and entertaining film.

While broadcast and carriage decisions are subject to final content review by our programming team, as well as dependent on public broadcasting guidelines and standards, we feel confident that ***Free for All*** will meet the high standards required for broadcast. It is my pleasure to express interest in this project on behalf of KQED, and I encourage your full support of ***Free for All: Inside the Public Library***.

Sincerely,



Holly Kernan  
KQED Chief Content Officer



# The Kitchen Sisters

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415 788 0290  
kitchen@kitchensisters.org  
@kitchensisters  
kitchensisters.org

The National Endowment for the Humanities  
Media Projects / Production Grants

August 13, 2019

Dear NEH Panelists,

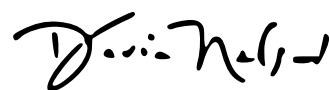
I write in support of the funding for the remarkable and important film, *Free for All* as it moves out in to the public sphere with humanities discussions at public libraries throughout the country. What a vital, meaningful project and a way of bringing the humanities deep into communities across America. As Peabody-Award winning storytellers, The Kitchen Sisters have a special affinity with libraries. In 2018, we began a fascinating exploration into their unheralded history in our NPR broadcast and podcast, *The Keepers*, discovering incredible drama and consequence in the lives of archivists, librarians, curators, collectors and historians.

We look forward to supporting the *Free for All* team at Serendipity Films with these humanities discussions at public libraries. We are excited by their kindred enthusiasm supporting the spirit of civic space, civil discourse, and accessibility that so many take for granted in our libraries. The documentary is a much needed spotlight on this history and the future role for these beloved but, in some places, threatened institutions. We will be advising them on best practices for gathering podcast material during their library discussion travels and serve as creative consultants on the subsequent production of their short series podcast.

The Public Discussions podcast production will bring the examination of library heritage to a grassroots level, deepening the public's engagement with the *Free for All* film and local libraries to a very personal level. The intimacy provided by the medium, which has contributed to the explosive popularity of podcasting in recent years, will ensure interest and immersion in these stories for many years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,



Davia Nelson  
The Kitchen Sisters

50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2795  
USA

Telephone 312 944 6780  
Fax 312 280 5014  
Toll Free 800 545 2433  
E-mail: [ala@ala.org](mailto:ala@ala.org)  
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**Barbara K. Stripling**  
ALA President

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Telephone: 315 443 1069  
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E-mail: [bstripling@ala.org](mailto:bstripling@ala.org)

# ALA American Library Association

January 7, 2014

Dawn Logsdon  
Producer/Director  
Serendipity Films, LLC

(b) (6)

Dear Dawn:

I am very pleased to convey the enthusiastic support of the American Library Association for the FREE FOR ALL documentary film and multimedia project. The ALA is the largest and oldest library association in the world. Our mission is to safeguard and promote the central role of libraries in our democracy and in the lives of our communities.

I commend you for the comprehensive research and development you have undertaken to ensure your understanding of the complex issues and challenges we face system-wide as well as those of different sized communities. Your team's participation at ALA conferences and the relationships you have developed with library professionals and users throughout the country will bring an authenticity to your media efforts and an eager anticipation throughout our large association and the communities we serve.

FREE FOR ALL is being created at a critical juncture in the long history of the American library. I am pleased about its resonance with our *Libraries Change Lives* Initiative as we work to enhance innovation, community engagement, impact, and widespread support for all libraries in the face of unparalleled economic challenges.

We look forward to continuing to provide information and staying updated during your production phase. We also look forward to continuing discussion of a possible premiere of the finished film at an ALA annual conference. All the best as you embark on production of this important film.

Best wishes,



Barbara Stripling  
President, American Library Association

September 23, 2015

Dawn Logsdon  
Director/Producer/Editor  
Serendipity Films, LLC  
1736 Stockton Street, Suite 3  
San Francisco, CA 94133

Dear Dawn:

On behalf of the Public Library Association (PLA), I am writing in support of the *Free for All: Inside the Public Library* documentary. While public libraries are beloved institutions in this country, many Americans are unaware of the support libraries provide their communities, support that goes well beyond books. In addition to traditional programs that support early literacy like “story times” and summer reading, libraries are lifelong learning centers that work with their communities to help where it is most needed: digital literacy training, career resources, STEM learning, veteran support services and so much more. The *Free for All* project helps shine a light on the amazing impact public libraries have on individuals and on communities.

As the national organization focused on strengthening public libraries and their contribution to the communities they serve, PLA plays a major role in public library advocacy and in influencing public perception about the library. We would welcome the opportunity to highlight the results of this valuable project at the local and national levels. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Macikas  
Executive Director

p (800) 545-2433 ext. 5PLA  
f (312) 280-5029  
[www.pla.org](http://www.pla.org)



January 6, 2019

I am honored to write a letter of support for the *Free for All: Inside the Public Library* film. The Urban Libraries Council has followed and actively supported this project since 2012 when Serendipity Films founders Dawn Logsdon and Lucie Faulknor contacted me for advice in my role as ULC's president and CEO.

ULC is a think and action tank of the leading North American public library systems, serving over 100 million people across the U.S. and Canada. ULC identifies leading practices and innovations that are essential for public libraries in their role as centers for education, digital inclusion and healthy, sustainable communities. We initiate needed research and develop new approaches and tools that enable libraries to achieve greater impact for the communities they serve.

I believe that *Free for All* is a film that could not be more important for our times. As technology and cultural shifts increase the pace and uncertainty of our everyday life, this film reminds us that our roots as a democracy are local and anchored by the public libraries across North America. It shows the world of libraries in rural and urban settings, the historic role of libraries and how libraries have evolved to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century opportunities and challenges.

We have already worked with the Serendipity Films team by inviting them to present to the ULC board of directors, showcasing their work at ULC's 2016 annual conference and promoting their successful Kickstarter campaign. All of these activities have created a tremendous buzz around the film's launch. ULC looks forward to further partnering with the Serendipity Films team on the communications and engagement campaign for the film.

I am proud to continue on as an advisor and passionate supporter of *Free for All*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SBenton", written in a cursive style.

Susan Benton  
President and CEO  
Urban Libraries Council

August 14, 2015

Media Panel  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear NEH Panelists,

Re: *Free For All: Inside the Public Library* documentary

Friends of the San Francisco Public Library is delighted to be a community partner supporting FREE FOR ALL, a feature length documentary that will chronicle a year inside San Francisco Public Library (SFPL),

Friends of the San Francisco Public Library (Friends) advocates, fundraises, and provides critical support for the San Francisco Public Library and related literary and educational programs. We believe a well-funded free public library is necessary to an informed population and citizenry and crucial to our neighborhoods, our city, our state and our democracy.

Our mission for the last fifty-one years has been to create, steward, and support a superior, free public library system in San Francisco. Committed to raising the standard of excellence of our libraries by funding programs and services beyond what is allocated in the City's budget, we have advocated for bond and ballot measures to provide both capital projects funding and operating support, resulting in millions of dollars for SFPL, a new Main Library and the transformation of San Francisco's neighborhood libraries. Today, SFPL is one of the most vibrant and innovative library systems in the country.

We believe that every community needs and deserves a vibrant, responsive accessible library. We also believe that communities must find the political will to fight for this critical institution that is rooted so deeply in their neighborhoods, villages, townships, boroughs, cities and towns. But it is critical to have a national dialogue as well about the American Public Library's future and to assess the high stakes for democracy if public libraries become extinct.

(cont.)



This story of the transformation of SFPL can give hope to other communities. The people of San Francisco—a city and county with many diverse needs—have spoken consistently for a long time, demanding more hours and more resources in their libraries. It has taken a long time, but the results are undeniable.

Friends also believes that this film will inform those who are unfamiliar with the modern library and modern librarians. The film will shock those who are unaware that libraries—the only civic institution where the doors are open to all and attendance is entirely voluntary—are in danger. We also hope the film can provide a call to action, inspiring communities to raise their voices and create the political will to defend an institution that is as much about creating the future as it is in preserving the past.

The credentials of the film production team are impeccable. Their passion for libraries and for the transformative nature of libraries is palpable. We look forward to working with them, watching the work's progress and seeing the story of the San Francisco Public Library through a new lens. We look forward to using this film as an educational and advocacy tool at the local, state and federal levels to ignite a passion for this critical community institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Doyle', with a stylized, flowing script.

Deborah Doyle  
Interim Executive Director

cc: Lucie Faulker, Producer  
Dawn Logsdon, Project Director  
Free For All: Inside the Public Library



CENTRAL LIBRARY

700 BOYLSTON STREET | COPLEY SQUARE | BOSTON, MA | 02116 | 617.536.5400 | WWW.BPL.ORG

December 21, 2018

Re: *Free for All* Screening

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Emily Todd, and I am emailing you from the Boston Public Library where I am the Adult Programs Librarian. Boston Public Library is excited by the possibility of hosting a screening and panel of the forthcoming documentary, *Free for All*.

Bostonians love their libraries. We are particularly proud of our status as the first municipally funded public library in the nation. This is reflected in the millions of visitors who come through our doors every year. BPL is fortunate in that the City has committed to library services throughout Boston's neighborhoods, as well as a commitment to the preservation of the Boston Public Library's historic cultural legacy, collections, and buildings.

As part of our 2019 programming, the library is engaging in a series of Living Room Conversations. This film could potentially tie into this larger programming series. It would certainly represent a needed opportunity to discuss the value of libraries, library workers, and library services. Our community screening would feature a mix of people. We envision this could include a librarian, a politician, a philanthropist, and Friend of the Library. Including such figures would make for a lively, multi-faceted discussion that really covers the wide range of stakeholders who have a vested interest in the library and its services. It could also include BPL staff members (several of whom are featured in this film).

Any event would take place in the Library's auditorium, Rabb Hall, which seats 320 community members. The space is equipped with the ability to host programs of this type. We are also able to livestream programs to people at home (if an option). The event would be mentioned on the library's calendar, our online newsletter, and promoted via social media (FB, Twitter, and Instagram).

Thank you so much for your time and consideration, and please let me know if I can provide any additional information. The BPL would be honored to host a screening.

Sincerely,

Emily Todd  
Adult Programs Librarian  
Boston Public Library  
617.859.2382 | etodd@bpl.org



CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY  
CITY OF CHICAGO

January 6, 2019

Dear Dawn:

I am happy to hear that **FREE FOR ALL** is moving forward with their work and I strongly support this important project. The changing landscape for public libraries is of great concern to millions of patrons in the cities and towns who depend upon them. Chicago is not alone in wrestling with many decisions necessitated by our economies, as well as enabled by the opportunities of living in an advanced and rapidly changing technological era. The world is changing. Public institutions need to be at the forefront of change to best serve our local populations.

I can't think of a better way to engage the American public in this discussion than a well-crafted film, coupled with the social media shorts that you are producing. The "Librarians to the Rescue" piece you did was well produced and we look forward to many more as your project continues to unfold. We are particularly pleased that the **FREE FOR ALL** team plans to highlight Chicago Public Library's recently launched "Pathways to Citizenship" program, as well as the history of our system. We look forward to working with you to provide archival imagery and filming access when you begin production.

Please keep us in the loop and let us know how we can help.

Brian Bannon  
Commissioner, Chicago Public Library



December 14, 2018

National Endowment for the Humanities

400 7<sup>th</sup> St SW

Washington, DC 20506

RE: Letter of Support for *Free for All* film

To Whom It May Concern,

All of us at the Columbus Public Library in Wisconsin—library staff, the Board of Trustees, the Friends of the Library and our 3,500 registered library users—anxiously await the release of the film *Free for All*. Ever since the filmmakers began production, we've been planning our Columbus, WI debut of the film. It's going to be a huge event in our community of 5,000 people!

**I write today in full support of the grant application for funds to help small, rural libraries like ours host a community screening of this film.** We heartily endorse the idea of putting this important film in front of as many people as possible.

*Free for All* will shine a light on public libraries in our country, and all we do to support people in need. In need of access to medical research, employment options, social interaction, home school lessons, a hot meal, basic literacy skills, and so much more. As one of the libraries featured in the film, we couldn't be prouder of what our small library does for our community. Simply put, the Columbus Public Library connects people in this increasingly lonely age. **Please support the filmmakers in their quest to connect people with this important documentary and all it stands for.**

Please feel free to contact me directly if you need more information.  
[cindy@ColumbusPublicLibrary.info](mailto:cindy@ColumbusPublicLibrary.info).

Thank you for your consideration of support for *Free for All*.

Sincerely,



Cindy Fesemyer, Library Director



Cuyahoga County Public Library  
browsing is just the beginning

December 19, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of endorsement and support for the independent film, *Free For All: Inside the Public Library*, produced by Lucie Faulknor and director by Dawn Logsdon. Over the past few years I have watched the project unfold from the perspective of a library director and past-president of the American Library Association. This film is an important contribution to the history of American libraries as well as the record of the American experience.

Cuyahoga County Public Library looks forward to hosting a premier screening event that would introduce the film to our community. We would build a learning event that would include a panel of humanities scholars or authors to enrich the viewing experience, tie the story of America's libraries to the history and principles of American democracy, and increase our audience participation through additional reading and discussion. We believe our community will benefit and be enriched through the enhanced understanding of libraries in society.

I have seen an early preview of the film and recognize the scholarly intent, entertainment value and documentation of the history of public libraries created by the filmmakers. We encourage you to support the film and the learning from humanities events that will be built by libraries and community groups across the country to support *Free for All*.

Sincerely,

Sari Feldman  
Executive Director  
Cuyahoga County Public Library

*Administrative Offices / 2111 Snow Road / Parma, Ohio 44134-2728 / p 216.398.1800 /  
f 216.398.1748 / [cuyahogalibrary.org](http://cuyahogalibrary.org)*



7711 Goodwood Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

December 26, 2018

Re: Support for *Free For All: Inside the Public Library* Documentary and Public Screenings

To Whom It May Concern:

The East Baton Rouge Parish Library fully endorses the making of the documentary *Free For All: Inside the Public Library* and all efforts to bring it to the national stage by way of public screenings in libraries.

We are proud to be considered as a part of the premiere rollout for this important documentary, profiling the many ways libraries work to keep democracy “free for all.” To facilitate this roll out, our administrative team commits to not only hosting the event free of charge at our beautiful Main Library at Goodwood but also in participating on the moderated panel following the free public screening. We propose to include local community planners and mental health practitioners as well as a humanities scholar on the panel discussion.

We will promote the screening in our monthly newsletter, *The Source* (print and e-versions), and through normal media channels including our monthly television show. We will also market the event through social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Blog) and via an e-blast to approximately 95,000 patrons. In addition to local library community and film aficionados, targeted invitations will be sent to local mental health providers, members of the newly created Baton Rouge Health District, Volunteers of America, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, the new Bridge Agency, students and faculty working in Social Work, law enforcement, and other community organizations. The Library has already established good relationships with a number of invitees as part of our Mental Health month activities; most recently with local artist Ben Peabody’s *Art and Addiction* exhibit and subsequent program/discussion.

We are always happy to host screenings and discussions of topics of interest and importance to the community. Here in East Baton Rouge Parish, we have spent the last two years since the Great Flood of 2016 looking closely at our community and how the Library can better serve our diverse population. We see *Free For All: Inside the Public Library* as making an important contribution not only to the community discussion about the role of public libraries in the modern age, but also as a vehicle for reflection and training for our own library staff and stake holders.

Please give this project your favorable consideration,

Sincerely,

Mary Stein  
East Baton Rouge Parish Library System, Assistant Director



December 19, 2018

To whom it may concern:

We are extremely excited about the possibility of hosting screenings of the film "Free for All!" It's always wonderful for a public library to have the opportunity to share with the community why the library is such a valuable resource. We were thrilled to hear that Jackson is featured in the movie.

The nation is in an economic recovery that largely hasn't made it to Mississippi, and public libraries are struggling. We would love to have the opportunity to not only show this film to the communities we serve, but also to invite our funding authorities and other local government officials. By having the opportunity to see libraries around the country featured, they may realize the importance of libraries and the importance of what we do.

We are a large library system located in Hinds County, Mississippi. We serve a large, varied geographic area. We have busy inner city libraries, and extremely rural libraries that are surrounded by farmland. We truly serve people from all walks of life.

Our branches have a strong history of success with local history programs. This program should do extremely well, as did programming featuring the Tougaloo 9, James Meredith, the Civil War, authors such as William Faulkner, Margaret Walker Alexander, etc., all of which generated a strong positive response.

Please let us know if you need any other information and contact us if we can help in any way!

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Kim Corbett, Deputy Director  
Jackson Hinds Library System





December 13, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

Kansas City is a library town, reaffirmed in November by the remarkable 83-percent approval of a modest increase in the Kansas City Public Library's operating levy. So believe me when I tell you that not only we at the Library but also many others in our city are greatly anticipating the upcoming release of *Free for All: Inside the Public Library*.

We look forward to making it a centerpiece of the Library's nationally renowned public programming, scheduling a screening and discussion of the film as soon as it becomes available. Let me thank you again for creating this important documentary, which shines a timely light on the increasing importance of today's public libraries to their communities. We are, of course, much more than a repository of books. Our social services at the Kansas City Public Library extend, as elsewhere, to shrinking the digital divide through computer and internet access and education, health and wellness initiatives, and outreach to seniors and others who are homebound. For many, *Free for All* will underscore that. Others – and this may be more important – will come away educated, enlightened, and inspired.

Further, this window into the modern library lends reassurance in a time of division and discord that there remains a place in each community that truly is open to all, that serves and respects all points of view, that is an instrument of unity.

You have done libraries, and our country, a great service.

Again, thank you.

Crosby Kemper III  
Director





# CITY OF LONG BEACH

## DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY SERVICES

101 PACIFIC AVENUE • LONG BEACH • CALIFORNIA 90822 • (562) 570-7500 • FAX (562) 570-7408 • [www.lbpl.org](http://www.lbpl.org)

Re: Letter of Support for *Free for All: Inside the Public Library*

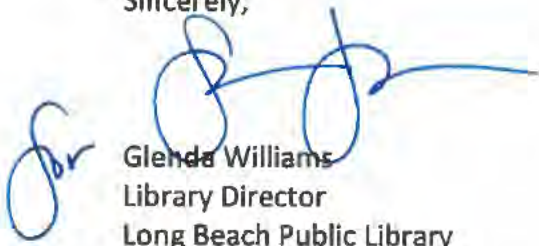
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the grant application submitted by Serendipity Films for the movie *Free for All: Inside the Public Library*. There is a strong need for this film, which will help counter misperceptions about libraries, and has the potential to be an important tool for community engagement. The goal of public libraries is to provide access to information to all patrons from all walks of life, so using this film to provoke civic discourse is one step in that direction. Many people are unaware of the diverse uses and needs of a modern public library, and this movie will help bring awareness to the mission and challenges of libraries.

We at the Long Beach Public Library look forward to hosting a screening of *Free for All* and using the screening as the impetus for a community conversation about how to improve our services. This fits within the library's strategic plan goal of telling our story, which may also help us in our own fundraising efforts. The screening is an excellent opportunity not only to tell our story, but to allow our patrons to tell theirs. The Long Beach Public Library looks forward to garnering community feedback and using that feedback to be more proactive in its services.

I believe the movie *Free for All: Inside the Public Library* will be an important conversation starter, and I hope you will approve of Serendipity Films' application to share this movie in public libraries.

Sincerely,



Glenda Williams  
Library Director  
Long Beach Public Library



NEW MEXICO



STATE LIBRARY

December 23, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

This serves as a letter of support for Serendipity Films application to the National Endowment for the Humanities regarding *Free For All, Inside the Public Library* film. I have watched the film trailer and find it most compelling and informative.

In our capacity at the State Library we would be willing to assist in the identification of library leaders in our state who could serve on a panel at public screenings of the film. I would recommend utilizing historic theaters in various rural communities in New Mexico. In Raton, NM – the Shuler Theater would be an ideal venue with a seating capacity of 450 seats. In Clayton, NM the Luna Theater seats 390. In Farmington, NM the Totah Theater seats 500 and in Las Cruces the Rio Grande Theater. There would probably be rental fees for the venues however these local theatres are the cultural hub of these communities. Our patrons in New Mexico love their libraries. At the Farmington Public Library for example there is a teen club that engages in various types of multi- media projects where people could record their library experiences.

On behalf of the New Mexico State Library, I commend Serendipity Films for their work to highlight that libraries are more than just books and banks of computers, libraries are still places where individuals gather to explore, interact, and imagine. As demonstrated in the film, libraries add value to our communities and serve as cultural centers for community residents.

Thank you for bringing this cultural project to our attention. I'm sure the review committee will heartily endorse the project as well.

Cordially,

Joy Poole  
Deputy State Librarian



19 December 2018

Dear Free For All and the National Endowment for the Humanities,

The New Orleans Public Library would be honored to host a screening of Free for All: Inside the Public Library. We have been anxiously waiting for its release and know that our library and community-at-large will be eager to be a part of this important and meaningful event. We are a diverse and cohesive community and allowing us this privilege would enhance our community by providing an opportunity for our citizens to participate in this cultural event, of which we are directly related given the loyalty our city has towards our library system.

Dawn Logsdon, director and producer of Free for All reached out to NOPL as an environment which she has accessed, and knows personally from her past endeavors and accomplishments. The library is extremely anticipatory of the release of the film for many reasons, in particular for the role we play as great supporters of public libraries and this film. Our city is unique and prideful in our collective support of continually working toward becoming more literate, engaged and more connected with one another which we can attribute in great part to our library system

The National Endowment for the Humanity's support would implement a venue for Free for All to share w our national and international library and information communities in a game-changing way. For Free for all to be given this opportunity to share the values, service, history and vision for the future of libraries and information dissemination would be reaffirming the foundation from which libraries work, day in and day out. Our New Orleans library community, which includes fifteen libraries fully back after Hurricane Katrina would have the opportunity to learn about libraries across the country and how our system fits into the democratic platform that is the library.

We would be honored to assist in coordinating with Free for All to host an event(s) in New Orleans, our city. A screening of the film and a panel discussion is a perfect way to gather our community in an engaged and meaningful way. We believe this opportunity would benefit our community greatly through its relevance to our audience, and by revealing the history of our library landscape and how it is connected to the many landscapes which we can identify with, we can learn from and with which we will continue to support, partner with and grow alongside.

Thank you for your consideration,

Robin Goldblum

Librarian

Adult Literacy liaison

Assistant Branch Manager, the Mid City Library / 4140 Canal Street / NOLA / 70119  
504.596.2654



New York  
Public  
**Library**

Dear Ms. Logsdon:

I'm writing to express my support for your documentary FREE FOR ALL: Inside the Public Library. As the largest public library system in the country, we understand the essential need for public libraries. The work you've done developing this story – researching our archives and visiting our local branches – will highlight this important topic and inform the public at large. We would be proud to participate in the production of this film.

In addition to checking out materials, public libraries have become community learning centers where residents can gain new skills, be inspired and collaborate with others. The New York Public Library offers a variety of resources that support users of all ages from diverse backgrounds, including children, students, immigrants, professionals, and senior citizens. We offer a wealth of opportunities both online and on-site via our literacy classes, Out of School programs, technology training, and career resources - as well as public programs that educate and entertain featuring leading experts, authors, and speakers. With 92 locations across the Bronx, Staten Island and Manhattan our branches represent the fundamental importance of libraries to a community.

Thank you for considering The New York Public Library for this important film. We look forward to supporting your mission to spark a national dialogue about libraries.

Sincerely,

Tony Marx

President of The New York Public Library



December 21, 2018

Dear friends,

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support on behalf of Serendipity Films and its proposal to share its new film *Free For All: Inside the Public Library*.

At Portland Public Library, our vision is to serve as the civic and cultural center of a dynamic region in which citizens are literate, informed, and engaged. To that end, PPL offers a variety of cultural and civic programs and exhibits, bringing the community together to advance the shared issues and interests that are critical and timely.

Portland Public Library is also currently in a process to tell our public library's story, to re-introduce ourselves to the community as the dynamic, evolving, and thriving community hub that we are. Having the opportunity to host a screening of the film and a panel for discussion will offer a perfect platform to extend the community conversation about the importance and impact of public libraries in our times.

PPL is delighted to support Serendipity Films in this application to the National Endowment for the Humanities, and to be a partner in extending the impact of this special film.

Sincerely,

Sarah Campbell  
Executive Director  
Portland Public Library

#### OFFICERS

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James M. Pierce

Belinda Ray, *ex officio*

Nate Stevens

Andrew T. Wallace

Sam Zager

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sarah Campbell

January 4, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Queens Library is pleased to support Serendipity Films, LLC in their outreach proposal to NEH. Queens Library serves 2.3 million Queens residents in one of the nation's most ethnically diverse counties through 63 local libraries and seven Adult Learning Centers. In Fiscal Year 2018 (FY 18), Queens Library circulated 12.4 million items; had 11.4 million visits to our locations; hosted over 1.4 million attendees at 86,281 free programs; and answered 3.8 million reference and directional inquiries.

Should Serendipity Films, LLC be successful in their grant proposal, Queens Library will screen the documentary "Free for All: Inside the Public Library" at one or more of our locations, facilitate a Q & A with the filmmakers and advertise the program widely through a flyer, on our website, in QL Magazine, and through social media.

We look forward to collaborating with Serendipity Films, LLC to bring greater awareness of the learning opportunities and resources of public libraries to a wide audience.

Sincerely,



Karen Vermut

Coordinator of Adult Services

Queens Library



*San Francisco Public Library*  
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 - 4733

December 17, 2018

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Serendipity Films and their upcoming documentary film, *Free for All: Inside the Public Library*. San Francisco Public Library has very proudly been a part of this project from its inception and, from the top down, SFPL staff are all avid supporters of this effort to tell the stories of the many ways that libraries are critically important to our democracy.

We at SFPL are all eagerly awaiting the debut of *Free for All*. Too often, our public libraries are misunderstood and considered an antiquated service from a different era. Many people don't know about the amazing work that goes on inside libraries across the country; the way they quietly provide sanctuary and support to the neediest in our communities; help to assimilate immigrants and newcomers to their cities; and provide one of the rare free spaces in which all are welcome. We look forward to this film and illuminating those library stories of connecting people and building experiences in which all can share.

San Francisco Public Library would very much like to host at least one hometown screening of the documentary, and, if possible, we would love to see it screened at many of our neighborhood libraries. SFPL would also be happy to provide a library leader to serve on a panel discussion about the film in whatever venue it might be screened.

Sincerely,

Michelle Jeffers  
Chief, Community Programs & Partnerships  
San Francisco Public Library



800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501-2294

**T** 605.773.3131

**F** 605.773.6962

**library.sd.gov**

December 19, 2018

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the documentary, *Free for All: Inside the Public Library*. South Dakota's libraries, like all American libraries, whether large or small are centers for learning, research, literacy, resource sharing, community building and skills acquisition. Primarily they exist for people who might otherwise not have access. However though many appreciate the value that libraries provide, oddly enough, most Americans do not know the stories of the women and men who built and developed our public library system across the United States. We have lost the understanding of the vital roles that free public libraries have played throughout our history or the current challenges that face this institution today.

That's why I was pleased to see that *Free for All* will be addressing these questions. We are excited to make the film a marquee event in several cities around our great state of South Dakota once the film is finished, and we are looking forward to the lively discussions that it will spark. On a personal note, when I viewed the trailer, I found tears coming to my eyes. Both library directors of our two largest systems later confessed that they too teared up when viewing the trailer. It is truly an amazing production. I believe this film will not only "spark" great civic discussions, not only will it inform and teach, but it will be a strong tool for renewed civic engagement in the funding and support of our public libraries throughout the state. My strong opinion is that will happen all across the United States.

We hope you will join us in supporting this important film that will be a critical touchstone for libraries for many years to come.

Thank you,

Daria Bossman, South Dakota State Library

Pierre, South Dakota 5750



January 7, 2014



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express our library's enthusiastic support of *Free for All: Inside the Public Library*. We are very grateful to have such a talented team of film makers working to help communicate how essential public libraries are to our democracy and to the economic and cultural vibrancy of our nation.

In the age of Google and a time when so many of methods of gathering and sharing information are shifting from print to digital, we are often asked if libraries are necessary any more. Public library funding is continually in peril from public officials who think, as one of our local council members notoriously suggested, "We should just give everyone a laptop and close the libraries." But anyone who actually visits a public library will see that there is more demand for our staff, programming, collections, and meeting spaces than ever. Public libraries provide essential services to all ages, ethnicities, incomes, faiths, and community members with widely varying abilities and interests.

Not everyone knows how to use a laptop, how to navigate the internet, how to complete online job applications or use email. Library staff are asked every day to explain the difference between an email address and a web address, often when someone on the wrong side of the digital divide has been told that they need to go online to apply for a job, complete a mortgage application, or complete some essential state or federal documentation. Companies and government agencies at all levels are going paperless to save costs, when 40% of our population still lacks home computer and internet access. Public libraries fill that gap, while also providing tech savvy small business owners and deployed employees much needed wireless access, printing, and a quiet place to work and meet with clients.

Public libraries also provide a vital point of connection and service in times of individual and community crisis. After hurricanes Katrina and Rita, our libraries were filled beyond capacity with both parish residents and evacuees who needed information, computer and phone access. In the wake of the BP Horizon Oil Spill, our libraries became the information and computer access hubs that both long time residents and transient spill workers turned to for information about available jobs, assistance, and training.

*Free for All: Inside the Public Library* will do tremendous public good by telling the compelling individual and community success stories that public libraries make possible and bear witness to every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Hamilton".

Jennifer Hamilton

Community Services Librarian

Terrebonne Parish Library

151 Library Drive, Houma, LA 70360

jen@mytpl.org

(985) 850-5306



# VERMILION PARISH LIBRARY

PO DRAWER 640 ABBEVILLE, LA 70511  
405 E. ST. VICTOR ST. ABBEVILLE, LA 70510  
337-893-2674 FAX: 337-898-0526

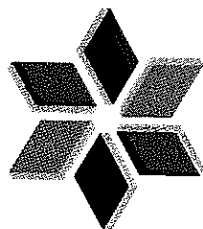
January 6, 2014

Free For All Film Making  
Inside the Public Library  
Attn: Dawn Logsdon

I would like to offer my support for the "Free for All Film Making Project: Inside the Public Library". I feel this project is very important especially today with all the changes libraries are facing. Vermilion Parish Library is willing to provide access to film. We have already begun working with the team regarding rural library access and look forward to continuing this wonderful project.

Regards,

Charlotte Trosclair, Director  
Vermilion Parish Library



# WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

October 11, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

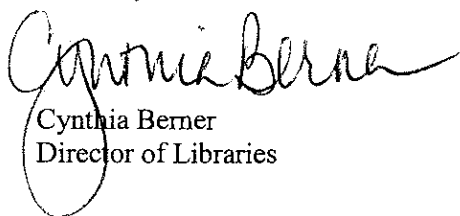
The Wichita Public Library would be pleased to have the opportunity to host a public screening of "Free for All." Our community just completed a 14-year project to build a new main library, the Advanced Learning Library, which opened in June 2018. Throughout the process, we often heard "Why do we need a new library?"

Our library has undergone many changes in order to meet the challenges of a technological world. Our residents have started to experience these changes as they visit our new Advanced Learning Library. But the conversation can't end with this building. Beyond their experiences with our own library, we want to help our local residents to understand that as public institutions, libraries have not remained rooted in outdated ways of doing business. Instead, libraries are creating new ways of reaching out to people for their lifelong learning, career and personal development, and family enrichment needs including the creation of innovative community partnerships for health and wellness, entrepreneurial support, technological training, early literacy skills development, improved quality of life, and general access to information. By sharing the stories incorporated into "Free for All," we believe that we can help our residents to better understand the potential of their public library and to challenge us to do even more to be one of their most valued community assets.

The Library will be celebrating the first anniversary of the Advanced Learning Library in June 2019. As part of that event planning, we envision a public screening of "Free for All" with a panel of community leaders from education, government, business, social work, and perhaps others to discuss the concepts presented in the film and localize the ideas to our community. We are also working to obtain rights to screen the film "The Public," a fictional story about a library's role in supporting its homeless citizens. We believe that film screenings are a great way to open public dialogue. The Advanced Learning Library has a Conference Room for 300 people, which would give us a large forum for our film screening and corresponding conversation.

The Wichita Public Library stands in support of the widest possible distribution of this film. The topic is one that will raise the profile for the work currently done by libraries throughout the U.S.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Berner  
Director of Libraries

CB:caed



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

Budget Form

OMB No 3136-0134  
Expires 6/30/2021

Applicant Institution: *Video Veracity*

Project Director: *Dawn Logsdon*

Project Grant Period: *06/01/20-05/31/22*

[click for Budget Instructions](#)

**PHASE ONE: 16 Free For All: Public Library Discussions Initiative screenings, with post-screening discussions and curated events co-presented by select public libraries in four U.S. regions**

**PHASE TWO: Development, production and Marketing push of Public Library Engagement Toolkit to public libraries to use to organize screenings & events using their own resources.**

**Online Trainings for Free For All: Public Library Discussions Initiative Hosts & Scholars**

	Computational Details/Notes	(notes)	Year 1	(notes)	Year 2	Project Total
			06/01/20- 5/31/21		06/01/21- 05/31/22	
<b>1. Salaries &amp; Wages</b>						
Public Engagement Director (Sam Ball)	ANNUAL FTE (b) (6)	50%	(b) (6)	50%	(b) (6)	(b) (6)
Project Director/ <i>Free For All</i> Film Director (Dawn Logsdon)	ANNUAL FTE (b) (6)	50%	(b) (6)	50%	(b) (6)	(b) (6)
Public Engagement Associate (Humanities Scholar Position)	ANNUAL FTE (b) (6)	50%	(b) (6)	50%	(b) (6)	(b) (6)
Public Engagement Coordinator (Jennifer Huang)	ANNUAL FTE (b) (6)	40%	(b) (6)	40%	(b) (6)	(b) (6)
Social Media Assets Digital Editor/Web Technician	ANNUAL FTE (b) (6)	10%	(b) (6)	10%	(b) (6)	(b) (6)
Office & Outreach Manager Lucie Faulknor	ANNUAL FTE (b) (6)	40%	(b) (6)	40%	(b) (6)	(b) (6)
Graphic Designer - Printed materials and Toolkit package design	ANNUAL FTE (b) (6)	10%	(b) (6)	10%	(b) (6)	(b) (6)
Podcast Producer/Editor	ANNUAL FTE (b) (6)	25%	(b) (6)	50%	(b) (6)	(b) (6)
<i>Subtotal</i>						\$390,500
Fringe Benefits 8%				8%		\$31,240
<i>Subtotal Salaries &amp; Wages</i>						\$421,740
<b>3. Scholar, Partner &amp; Consultant Fees</b>						
Lead Humanities Advisor (Wayne Wiegand)	fee		\$1,500			\$1,500
Panel Facilitator Honoraria		16 panels	\$500			\$8,000
Scholarly Honoraria		16 panels	\$500			\$8,000
Engagement Advisor (Stanley Nelson)	Fee		\$1,500		\$1,500	\$3,000
Outreach Consultant (Sonya Childress)	Fee		\$1,000		\$1,000	\$2,000
Impact Strategist (Ellen Schneider)	Fee		\$1,000		\$1,000	\$2,000
Library-Professional Evaluator	1 eval		\$500	1 eval	\$500	\$1,000
Honoraria for Celebrity Guest Panelists	\$500 fee x 1 panelist	16 panels	\$500			\$8,000
Honoraria for program librarians advising the development of materials for Enagagement Toolkit	\$400 - regional librarian adviser honorarium	4 regional librarian advisers	\$1,600	4 regional librarian advisers	\$1,600	\$3,200
ALA Project Coordinator	Fee		\$7,500		\$5,000	\$12,500
ULC Program Coordinator	Fee		\$7,500		\$5,000	\$12,500



Kitchen Sisters Coordinator			Fee		\$5,000		\$14,000	\$19,000
<i>Subtotal Consultant Fees</i>								\$61,700
<b>4. Special Engagement Activity Production Costs</b>								
	Youth/Senior Oral History Lab Production costs (4 Labs)							
		Cameraperson	\$1,000	4				\$4,000
		Soundperson	\$600	4				\$2,400
		Camera Package Rental	\$650	4				\$2,600
		Sound Package Rental	\$150	4				\$600
		Bag lunches (for 8 )	\$150	4				\$600
	Story Hour costs (12 Story Hours)							
		Fee for podcast literary rights	\$350	12				\$4,200
		Snacks & water for audiences	\$120	12				\$1,440
<i>Subtotal Special Engagement Activity Production Costs</i>								\$15,840
<b>5. Travel - Free For All: Public Library Discussions Initiative events by region and city</b>								
<i>Travelers include Project Director/Free For All Filmmaker, Public Engagement Coordinator, and Public Engagement Associate.</i>								
<b>REGION 1: Northeast</b>								
Boston, MA								
	Airfare SFO to Boston	per person	\$400	3	\$1,200			\$1,200
	Ground transportation	per person	\$150	3	\$450			\$450
	Meals - 4-day trip	per person	\$300	3	\$900			\$900
	Lodging - 3-night stay	per person	\$600	3	\$1,800			\$1,800
New York, NY								
	Airfare Boston to NYC	per person	\$200	3	\$600			\$600
	Ground transportation	per person	\$150	3	\$450			\$450
	Meals - 4-day trip	per person	\$300	3	\$900			\$900
	Lodging - 3-night stay	per person	\$600	3	\$1,800			\$1,800
Homestead, PA								
	Airfare NYC to PA	per person	\$200	3	\$600			\$600
	Ground transportation	per person	\$150	3	\$450			\$450
	Meals - 4-day trip	per person	\$300	3	\$900			\$900

	Lodging - 3-night stay	per person	\$600	3	\$1,800			\$1,800
Washington, DC								
	Airfare PA to DC	per person	\$200	3	\$600			\$600
	Airfare DC to SFO	per person	\$400	3	\$1,200			\$1,200
	Ground transportation	per person	\$150	3	\$450			\$450
	Meals - 3-day trip	per person	\$200	3	\$600			\$600
	Lodging - 2-night stay	per person	\$400	3	\$1,200			\$1,200
<b>REGION 2: South</b>								
Columbia, SC								
	Airfare SFO to SC	per person	\$500	3	\$1,500			\$1,500
	Ground transportation	per person	\$150	3	\$450			\$450
	Meals - 3-day trip	per person	\$200	3	\$600			\$600
	Lodging - 2-night stay	per person	\$400	3	\$1,200			\$1,200
Atlanta, GA								
	Airfare SC to GA	per person	\$200	3	\$600			\$600
	Ground transportation	per person	\$150	3	\$450			\$450
	Meals - 4-day trip	per person	\$300	3	\$900			\$900
	Lodging - 3-night stay	per person	\$600	3	\$1,800			\$1,800
Jackson, MS								
	Airfare GA to MS	per person	\$200	3	\$600			\$600
	Ground transportation	per person	\$150	3	\$450			\$450
	Meals - 3-day trip	per person	\$200	3	\$600			\$600
	Lodging - 2-night stay	per person	\$400	3	\$1,200			\$1,200
Baton Rouge, LA								
	Airfare MS to LA	per person	\$200	3	\$600			\$600
	Airfare LA to SFO	per person	\$500	3	\$1,500			\$1,500
	Ground transportation	per person	\$150	3	\$450			\$450
	Meals - 3-day trip	per person	\$200	3	\$600			\$600
	Lodging - 2-night stay	per person	\$400	3	\$1,200			\$1,200
<b>REGION 3: Midwest</b>								
Sioux City, SD								
	Airfare SFO to SD	per person	\$500	3	\$1,500			\$1,500

	Ground transportation	per person	\$150	3	\$450			\$450
	Meals - 3-day trip	per person	\$200	3	\$600			\$600
	Lodging - 2-night stay	per person	\$400	3	\$1,200			\$1,200
Milwaukee, WI								
	Airfare SD to WI	per person	\$300	3	\$900			\$900
	Ground transportation	per person	\$150	3	\$450			\$450
	Meals - 3-day trip	per person	\$200	3	\$600			\$600
	Lodging - 2-night stay	per person	\$400	3	\$1,200			\$1,200
Kansas City, MO								
	Airfare WI to MO	per person	\$300	3	\$900			\$900
	Ground transportation	per person	\$150	3	\$450			\$450
	Meals - 3-day trip	per person	\$200	3	\$600			\$600
	Lodging - 2-night stay	per person	\$400	3	\$1,200			\$1,200
Cuyahoga, OH								
	Airfare MO to OH	per person	\$300	3	\$900			\$900
	Airfare OH to SFO	per person	\$500	3	\$1,500			\$1,500
	Ground transportation	per person	\$150	3	\$450			\$450
	Meals - 4-day trip	per person	\$300	3	\$900			\$900
	Lodging - 3-night stay	per person	\$600	3	\$1,800			\$1,800
<b>REGION 4: West</b>								
Salt Lake City, UT								
	Airfare SFO to UT	per person	\$300	3	\$900			\$900
	Ground transportation	per person	\$150	3	\$450			\$450
	Meals - 3-day trip	per person	\$200	3	\$600			\$600
	Lodging - 2-night stay	per person	\$400	3	\$1,200			\$1,200
Portland, OR								
	Airfare UT to OR	per person	\$300	3	\$900			\$900
	Ground transportation	per person	\$150	3	\$450			\$450
	Meals - 3-day trip	per person	\$200	3	\$600			\$600





<b>10. Total Indirect Costs</b>								
<b>a. Fiscal Sponsor Fee: 3% of total project funding</b>			<b>Per Year</b>	3%	\$0		\$0	<b>\$20,819</b>
<b>Effective Period: 09/01/19-08/31/21</b>								
<b>11. Total Project Costs</b>			(Direct and Indirect costs for entire project)					<b>\$692,399</b>
<b>12. Project Funding</b>				<b>a. Requested from NEH</b>	Outright:			\$310,000
					Federal Matching Funds:			\$0
					<b>TOTAL REQUESTED FROM NEH:</b>			<b>\$310,000</b>
				<b>b. Cost Sharing</b>	Applicant's Contributions:			\$0
					Third-Party Cash Contributions:			\$401,988
					Third-Party In-Kind Contributions:			\$0
					Project Income:			\$0
					Other Federal Agencies:			\$0
					<b>TOTAL COST SHARING:</b>			<b>\$401,988</b>
<b>12. Total Project Funding</b>								<b>\$711,988</b>

Total Project Costs must be equal to Total Project Funding —> ( \$692,399 )  
 Third-Party Contributions must be  
 greater than or equal to Requested Federal Matching Funds —> ( \$401,988 )

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### List of collections of materials to be used by the project

The producing team has identified and/or acquired a wealth of sources that will enrich the web documentary and other components of the **Free for All** multi-platform project, including the following. Under the leadership of our consulting archivist Kenn Rabin, we will continue to research and identify materials.

**American Library Association Archives:** managed by the University of Illinois Archives, covers the history of the American Library Association and Librarianship. Includes annual reports, historic photos, cartoons, and first-person stories from librarians and library patrons.

**Andrew Carnegie Collection:** managed by University Archives at Carnegie Mellon University, contains photos, articles, letters and more about Andrew Carnegie's life and work.

**Andrew Carnegie Correspondence Collection:** managed by the William R. Oliver Special Room at the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh, contains correspondence and clippings about the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh.

**Andrew Carnegie Personal Papers:** managed by the Library of Congress, includes correspondence, reports, memoranda, speeches, articles, book files, financial papers, printed materials, and other papers relating to Carnegie's steel manufacturing and other business and philanthropic activities.

**Archive Films Collection:** managed by Getty Images is one of the largest footage archives of historical and vintage footage in the world.

**Chicago Public Library Collections** – includes black and white photographs of library users during the Depression, also of African American branches

**Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers 1836-1922:** managed by the Library of Congress includes digital reproductions of historic newspapers from 35 states. A joint project of the NEH and Library of Congress, the collection is accessible through an Internet-based, searchable database.

**Civil Rights Digital Library:** managed by University of Georgia, features unedited news film from the WSB (Atlanta) and WALB (Albany, GA) television archives held by the Walter J. Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection at the University of Georgia Libraries.

**Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection:** managed by the Library of Congress, an extensive pictorial record of American life from 1935-1944 and includes Work Projects Administration prints and photographs.

**Footage Farm:** includes more than 3000 hours of footage from 1894 through the present much of which is public domain material.

**Historic Films Archive:** includes over 50,000 hours of footage from 1895 to the present. Of special interest to the project are news, documentary, historic and educational film clips.



**Hollywood Librarian Project Archives** –archives of documentary project produced by Anne Seidl. Large collection of feature film clips that have library plots or settings, extensive video interviews with retired librarians and administrators.

**ITN Source:** one of the world's largest historic film collections includes historic newsreels, international news and documentaries and footage from the Fox Movietone News Collection.

**Library of Congress: Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division:** Paper Print Collection and Prints and Photograph Collection.

**Library History Buff Website:** managed by Larry Nix, a collection of web sources about library history, library memorabilia and artifacts, and postal artifacts related to libraries.

**Louisiana Digital Library:** managed by Louisiana State University, combines the resources of Louisiana's public and private academic libraries with 22 participating libraries, archives, museums, and historical centers.

**Moving Image Research Collections (MIRC):** managed by University of South Carolina, has an estimated 6000 hours of archival footage, including local television news, home movies, fiction and documentary films, including the Fox Movietone News Collection from 1919-1944.

**MyFootage.com:** an independent stock footage agency founded by a group of archivists and researchers covering all genres including Americana, vintage commercials, cartoons, documentaries, education & industrial films, features and newsreels including 1950s documentaries about public libraries.

**National Archives and Records Administration/Motion Picture, Sound & Video Branch:** Collection H: Harmon Foundation Collection, 1922 – 1967; Moving Images Relating to Anti-Poverty Programs, 1940 - 1979

**National Archives and Records Administration/Still Pictures**

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library Public Domain Photographs; Works Progress Administration; Photographic Prints Documenting Programs & Activities, Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Predecessor Agencies, 1922 -1947; Central Photographic File of the War Relocation Authority, 1942 - 1945

**New Deal Network:** managed by the Roosevelt Institute is a database of photographs, political cartoons, and texts devoted to the New Deal gathered from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, the National Archives and Records Administration, the Library of Congress, and other sources.

**New York Public Library, Archive of the NYPL-** includes collections of late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century photos of users, especially immigrants, some 16mm film, drawings and correspondence.

**The New York Public Library, Donnell Media Center** - extensive collection of 16mm films, many produced by libraries or advocacy groups, that illustrate the changing mission of public libraries.

**New York Public Library, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture** –collection of Regina Andrews, the first African American librarian in NYC. Includes filmed interviews with her, photos, correspondence and journals.

**Oddball Film & Video:** a San Francisco company specializing in offbeat footage. Of special interest is Oddball's educational films, including documentaries from 1930's-1970's about books, libraries and library integration.

**Prelinger Archives:** managed by Rick Prelinger, Getty Images, and the Library of Congress, this collection of films contains over 60,000 completed films and over 30,000 unedited film relating to U.S. cultural history, the evolution of the American landscape, everyday life and social history.

**ProQuest Historical Newspapers Public Library History Collections:** across the country, including collections at: the Tompkins County Public Library of Ithaca, New York; Southwest Harbor Maine Public Library; Birmingham Alabama Public Library; Utah State Library in Salt Lake City; New York Public Library; Queens Public Library; Chicago Public Library; Cleveland Public Library; North Carolina Public Libraries; New Orleans Public Library; among others.

**Public Library History Collections** across the country, including collections at: the Tompkins County Public Library of Ithaca, New York; Southwest Harbor Maine Public Library; Birmingham Alabama Public Library; Utah State Library in Salt Lake City; New York Public Library; Queens Public Library; Chicago Public Library; Cleveland Public Library; North Carolina Public Libraries; New Orleans Public Library; among others.

**Robert Dawson's *Public Library: An American Commons Collection***: managed by Robert Dawson is a photographic survey of public libraries throughout the United States.

**San Francisco Bay Area Television Archive, San Francisco CA** -Includes footage from KQED, KPIX and KTVU, all of whom produced news reports about SFPL.

**San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection & San Francisco History Center and the San Francisco Public Library Media Archive**; managed by the San Francisco Public Library.

**South Carolina Public Library History Collection, 1930-1945**: consists of photographs and documents from the archives of the South Carolina State Library and highlights public libraries, bookmobiles, librarians, and patrons, including photographs and documents relate to the federal Works Project Administration Library Project in South Carolina, 1935 - 1943.

**State Library of North Carolina, Legacy of Libraries in NC Collection** – -extensive collection of vintage rural library photos, especially bookmobiles.

**UCLA Film & Television Archive**: the second largest moving image archive in the United States after the Library of Congress, and the world's largest university-based media archive and holds the entire Hearst Metrotone News Library.

**Wayne Wiegand Collection**: includes visual materials and historic documents Wiegand has collected for his recent book *Main Street: The Public Library in the Life of the American People, 1850-2000*.

**Wisconsin Library Heritage Center** – extensive archives of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission and individual public libraries throughout Wisconsin.

**University of Wisconsin at Madison, School of Library Science** – large collection of un-transferred 16mm library training films and promotional videos.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Social Media and Audience-Generated Content**

The **Free for All Public Library Discussions Initiative** will not include any audience-generated content, nor will Free for All's website will include or accept any solely user-generated content. However, we will employ social media as part of our PR efforts for the initiative and include a package of social media posts, resources, and examples in our Library Engagement Toolkit. Note on funding for social media: We are not requesting NEH funds for social media-related costs. Social media efforts will be supported by the Knight Foundation.

Posts generated during the engagement period will be hashtagged #freeforallfilm, and we will also encourage the public to adopt that hashtag. This will allow us to monitor and regulate social media conversations and make adjustments as needed, in consultation with humanities advisors. While we can't expect everyone on social media to adopt the respectful and thoughtful tone of the Free For All film and advisors, our pre-approved social media posts will emphasize the values of respect and democracy embodied by the public library.

In all cases where we use or supervise social media, we will take special care to monitor all referenced sites and discussions to ensure that they are unbiased and free of harassing, salacious, or partisan content. We will also include clear social media guidelines for libraries and other institutions that express the importance of monitoring content and provide best practices for doing so effectively. We will work closely with partner library organizations ULC and ALA and individual libraries in developing suggested guidelines based on these organizations past experiences with their own projects – and in accordance with ALA censorship guidelines.

To ensure that responses to social media posts help generate online conversations that are as productive as possible, our Library Engagement Toolkit will include social media moderation guidelines that draw from sources such as WAN-IFRA, the nonprofit organization presided by New York Times Company Vice-chair Michael Golden to serve publishers and editors. As WAN-IFRA's Social Media Moderation, Emerging Best Practices points out, editors who believe in freedom of speech as a right and responsibility largely agree that freedom isn't significantly limited "by deleting or blocking comments because there is now an abundance of places where people can express themselves online." WAN-IFRA: "One of commenting's greatest strengths is that it allows for a multitude of voices to be heard. But what happens when a comment just constitutes undesired noise or contains vile language or illegal material?" Simply deleting the material was the main response. The project team will take this approach to filtering inflammatory or disrespectful commentary from project social media pages, and will invite project partners to do the same.

While we understand and embrace that different project partners have different freedom of speech policies, we have made agreements with all partners that they will continually remind commenters of ground rules for respectful interaction with others in the public sphere. We will be careful to discuss these agreements with new potential partners and we will remain consistent with the spirit of these agreements when onboarding new project partners. Additionally, we will honor any commenter's request to remove his or her own comments from the project's social media properties.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT A REQUESTED POSITION IN PUBLIC HUMANITIES**

As part of our proposed budget for the **Free For All** engagement discussions program, we request \$60,000 to compensate a full-time Public Engagement Associate for the full two years of the initiative. The responsibilities of the Public Engagement Associate, while essential and challenging, will be strictly defined and limited in scope, taking into account that the position is for a recent graduate with entry-level experience. While the primary role of the new employee would be to help implement the discussions initiative, he or she would also support the broader outreach and engagement efforts of Video Veracity and Serendipity Films for the Free For All project.

### **Recruitment**

Per NEH requirements, we will recruit applicants who have graduated in the last five years from a humanities MA, PhD, or MLIS program. This position targets a recent advanced graduate in library studies, American studies, or American history with a focus on the development of public institutions in our nation. Our hiring committee will recruit from a wide, national, and diverse pool of applicants, drawing on our connections with librarians, our humanities advisory board, and other contributing scholars as well as advertising directly to the public via academic journals, department newsletters and job boards, and online at our own and partner sites. We will work with our partner organizations and other library and public history-related groups to spread the word, creating postings at the ALA, PLA, ULC, ARSL, as well as the National Council on Public History (NCPH), the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), and the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Casting a wide but strategically aimed net, we will also advertise the Public Engagement Associate position on the National Council for Public History [website](#), H-Net and H-Grad, and reach out to contacts in all major public history and humanities programs, including the University of Minnesota; Rutgers; [NYU](#), where our scholar Eric Klinenburg is the Executive Director and where we recently were invited to participate in a symposium on the future of public libraries; and [Florida State's School of Information](#), where Wayne Weigand is professor emeritus and whose program emphasizes library history. We'll also look to top library schools such as the University of Illinois and the University of Washington, and circulate the open position through the [Humanities Action Lab](#) consortium, which includes many public history and humanities programs. We will also recruit through the [Library History Roundtable](#), both via its listserv and its [2020 summer seminar](#), and through [Metalab](#), Simmons College Library school, and these programs at the University of Wisconsin, Madison: <http://www.wiscprintdigital.org/>, <https://ischool.wisc.edu/programs/>.

### **Position to be filled**

The Public Engagement Associate would work directly with libraries, our partner organizations, and the public during Phase One of the initiative's to help organize and manage events and to gather data that can be used to assess the initiative's effectiveness. In Phase Two, he or she would process the collected data and use the results to inform the development of our Library Engagement Toolkit, creating a set of best practices for libraries to use in implementation of their own events.

### **Job tasks for the Free For All Public Library Discussions Initiative:**

- Work closely with the rest of the engagement team, library staff members, and partner organizations to help manage the logistical setup and smooth operation of four types of **Free For All** engagement events:

film screenings and panel discussions; lectures by scholars; teen/senior oral history labs; and Story Hour events.

- At all library engagement events, gather data both to evaluate the initiative's effectiveness and to build into a Library Engagement Toolkit to extend the project's reach. Data will be collected via in-person and online surveys with all participants as well as observational data such as attendance counts, numbers and types of questions asked during Q&As, etc.

- Assist the media team member in collecting audio interviews and photographs with event participants when possible.

- Lead evaluation efforts for the initiative, using the data and media collected at library events as well as online and in-person surveys and reports from participating scholars and librarians. Track engagement by a number of metrics including Free For All and library website traffic, social media analytics for each local screening and special activity, and responses to online elements of our Toolkit, including film clips and our dynamic humanities reading/viewing list.

#### Goals to be achieved:

- The development, production, and dissemination plan for a versatile and evergreen Library Engagement Toolkit to participating libraries in the Free For All program's second year, working with project partners and under the supervision of the Engagement Director.

- The successful implementation of engagement events in Phase One of the project, in collaboration with the Free For All team, partners, scholars, and library staff.

#### Job tasks as part of the Public Engagement Team:

- As part of the wider engagement team, support outreach activities and events where appropriate.

- Assist with the dissemination of information about the project internally and externally via the website, attendance at conferences and meetings, publications and outreach events

- Contribute to the data-driven evaluation of wider Free For All public engagement activities.

#### **Candidate's profile**

The **Free For All: Public Library Discussions Initiative** is about engaging scholars with the wider public for mutual engagement. In particular, we hope to engage a wide span of Americans who use the library, including families, seniors, kids and teens, and underserved communities. The ideal post-holder will demonstrate passion about the history and culture of the library, an informed understanding of its complex role in American life, and enthusiasm about the day-to-day mechanics of public engagement for diverse audiences.

The candidate should have demonstrated ability to develop and produce effective public engagement resources and materials, even if his or her experience has been minimal. Some experience of organizing engagement events would be advantageous, though not required. A background in library studies, or substantial experience engaging directly with library staff, is preferred. The successful candidate will be proactive, enthusiastic and enjoy building working relationships with a diverse set of stakeholders including humanities scholars, librarians and library staff, authors, and diverse subsets of the public. He or she will have excellent collaborative and organizational skills; proven facility with data collection,

analysis, and synthesis; problem solving capability; and strong verbal and written communications skills. A high level of computer literacy, particularly with software involving spreadsheets and editing, is required. Familiarity with graphics and template-based web design software is preferred.

### **Expected outcomes**

The inclusion of the Public Engagement Associate will ensure the smooth execution of our program as well as opening a door and providing excellent hands-on engagement and evaluation experience to a newly minted humanities scholar. The post-holder will join a team of engagement, outreach, and media professionals to participate in a dynamic and fulfilling project to engage the public with a little-known chapter of their own nation's history: the story of the public library. He or she would be a highly valued member of our team, bridging the academic and media worlds and strengthening our partnerships in his or her day-to-day work. He or she would bring rigor and imagination to our engagement events in Phase One while keeping us focused on the bigger picture of wide dissemination to libraries in Phase Two.

Evaluation, despite being essential to the effective scalability of engagement programs, is too often pushed into the background due to time or budget constraints. The ability to hire a Public Engagement Associate would allow our team to build data-driven evaluation into every facet of our initiative and use it to create a useful, versatile, and research-based engagement package for libraries to use for years to come. Helping create the Library Engagement Toolkit will provide tremendous experience for the Public Engagement Associate and will be central to the initiative's success.

### **Hiring process:**

Public Engagement Director Sam Ball will convene a committee to solicit and review applications. In addition to Ball, the committee will include *Free For All: Inside the Public Library* film director Dawn Logsdon and two of our key scholars: Robert D. Putnam, PhD, Professor of Public Policy at Harvard and author Wayne A. Wiegand, PhD, who has been a principal guide to our research and recruitment of scholars. The committee will conduct an initial eligibility review on the System for Award Management (SAM) to eliminate any applicants with delinquent federal debt or who have been suspended, debarred, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from eligibility for covered transactions by any Federal department or agency.

In the application process, we will require applicants to submit a cover letter detailing their special interest in the library and suitability for the position as well as a curriculum vitae, graduate school transcript, writing sample, cover letter, and three letters of reference from graduate school advisors, professors, or previous employers.

Applicants will be directed to the **Free For All** project website for a full job description, eligibility requirements, and online application, including the upload of CVs and other required attachments. We will contact finalists via email to arrange in-person or Skype interviews in our San Francisco office. After careful review of all applications and consultation with our partners the American Library Association, the Association of Rural and Small Libraries, the Urban Libraries Council, the committee will make a final selection within six weeks of commencement of the grant period.



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