

Maine Community Heritage Project

promoting community through the exploration of local history

APPLY NOW: Application Deadline, May 9, 2008

www.mainememory.net/mchp

The **Maine Historical Society**, in partnership with the **Maine State Library**, is seeking Maine communities to participate in the **Maine Community Heritage Project (MCHP)**, an innovative new program that promotes collaboration between local schools, historical societies, and public libraries through the exploration and celebration of local history. The MCHP grows out of the **Maine Memory Network** (www.mainememory.net), the Maine Historical Society's nationally recognized statewide digital museum, and is supported by a National Leadership Grant from the **Institute of Museum & Library Services**.

Why this program?

Virtually every community in Maine has its own rich and telling history—a vital but often underutilized community resource. Exploring local history can stimulate local pride, create a sense of connection, provide valuable educational opportunities, and even promote tourism and other kinds of economic activity. Yet most historical resources and information are dispersed throughout the community and difficult to access. Many local people have an interest and stake in preserving and using their local history—educators, students, librarians, local historians, town officials, boosters, citizens—but logistical obstacles, busy schedules, and scarce resources often make collaboration difficult.

Project Activities and Support

The Maine Community Heritage Project is an intensive one-year process that will mobilize teams from sixteen Maine communities around the exploration, gathering, and sharing of their local history. Local teams will receive **extensive training and support**, a **\$10,000 supporting grant**, and, importantly, the opportunity to **create a prominent website within Maine Memory that promotes their community** and radically expands access to information about its history. Working closely with Maine Historical Society and Maine State Library staff, local teams—each made up of representatives from local schools, historical societies, and libraries—will:

- inventory local historical and cultural resources;
- digitize 100-200 historic documents, photographs, artifacts, etc. from local collections and upload them to the Maine Memory Network;
- write an illustrated online narrative that introduces key themes and topics in the history of the community (approximately 3000 words);
- create online exhibits that draw on historic documents, photographs, artifacts, oral history interviews, and/or other resources to explore specific topics in local history;
- create a new website within the Maine Memory Network that showcases and provides access to these resources; and
- come together for a community-wide celebration of their work and community's history.

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Benefits of Participation

The program will provide numerous opportunities for students, teachers, local historical society members, librarians, and other people in the community to come together, to collaborate, and to share their particular interests, knowledge, and skills.

- **Librarians will:** (1) deepen their relationship and interaction with schools and historical organizations; (2) increase their capacity to serve as a key source for information about local history; and (3) continue to develop their technology skills.
- **Staff/Volunteers of historical organizations will:** (1) develop close partnerships with schools and libraries; (2) increase awareness of and support for their organization within their community and beyond; and (3) receive help digitizing, interpreting, and sharing their collections online.
- **Teachers will:** (1) develop skills, experiences, and relationships that enable them to more effectively engage their community; (2) participate in a project that is aligned to Maine's *Learning Results* (MLRs) and easily tailored to meet school curriculum objectives; (3) provide a meaningful service-learning opportunity for their students; and (4) earn contact hours for recertification.
- **Students will:** (1) become actively engaged in their community, learn about its history, and play a prominent role in sharing that history; (2) develop and apply research, critical thinking, writing, technology, communication, and literacy skills; and (3) achieve key academic goals and MLRs.

Application Process

Eight teams will be selected this May to participate in a project year that runs from June 2008-June 2009. Eight additional teams will be selected in May 2009 to participate in a second project year that runs from June 2009-June 2010. Applications should be submitted by local teams that include at least one school (grades 6-12), one historical organization, and one public library. It is our goal to accommodate, embrace, and nurture the particular culture and dynamics of *your* community; please contact us to discuss the makeup of your team if it doesn't seem to fit our eligibility requirements. **Please visit www.mainememory.net/mchp for full project description, application guidelines, and application form.**

Information Sessions

We will be holding four regional information sessions to share more information about the project and help interested communities develop their local teams and applications. Please call or email to RSVP.

Tuesday, March 25, 3pm:	Farmington Public Library
Thursday, March 27, 3pm:	Mark & Emily Turner Memorial Library, Presque Isle
Tuesday, April 1, 3pm:	Belfast Free Library
Thursday, April 3, 3pm:	McArthur Library, Biddeford

Key Dates and Project Timeline

May 9, 2008: Application deadline for 2008-09 cohort

May 30, 2008: Selection of local teams announced

June 27, 2008: Day-long project orientation at Maine Historical Society (Portland) for 2008-09 cohort

July-August 2008: Local team planning and inventory

September 2008-April 2009: Research, projects, writing, scanning, website production, etc.

April-May 2009: Production of initial website completed

June 2009: Community celebration

For more information

To learn more about the MCHP, please visit www.mainememory.net/mchp or contact Stephanie Philbrick, Community Partnership Coordinator, Maine Historical Society, by email at sphilbrick@mainehistory.org or by calling (207) 653-9677.