

## **a. Project Description**

### **1) Please describe your project. Describe your topic, the period(s), people, and events it relates to, and its significance to the history of your community and Maine.**

The topic of our project is Edna St. Vincent Millay. Millay has significant ties to the Camden area, and the Camden Public Library has accumulated significant amounts of materials relating to Millay.

Because of Millay's ties to Camden, many members of our community, as well as researchers and summer tourists ask for information relating to her. They are able to access information through the library, however, much of the Millay collection is neither catalogued nor digitized.

### **2) Please provide a brief description of your project team and community.**

The library has the staff resources and community resources to curate the collection, as well as digitize and catalog the collection. Heather Bilodeau has a solid understanding of the collection. We have a number of members in the community, including local 'historian' Barbara Dyer who have direct knowledge of Millay and her works. Our library Director, Nikki Maounis, has extensive experience in research and cataloging. In total, the skill set of the individuals involved to catalog and digitize this collection are extensive.

### **3) What are your goals for developing this project?**

Our goals are to make this collection accessible as a result of cataloging and digitizing the collection. Doing this will not only preserve a valuable piece of the library's collection, but will also enable it to be accessed beyond the library's 'walls.' We have the technical resources and skill set to complete the project, however, we do not have the financial resources to put toward additional staff time and supplies to effectively catalog and digitize this collection – focusing on this is our primary goal/request for this grant.

## **b. Historical Collections**

### **1) Please describe the historical collections you will work with and want to share. What type of materials do they include (e.g. photographs, documents, artifacts, etc.)?**

### **2) What is the condition of the materials you will work with? How and where are they stored? Have they been cataloged in any way?**

- Historical collection: 3 oversized black binders containing Edna St. Vincent Millay-related photos, letters, and news clippings; organized by doctoral student in 1996 with finding aid but never digitized. *(important to see attached description of this part of the collection)*
  - These items are in archival pages
  - Not cataloged in Past Perfect
- Box of more than 50 original photographs and letters donated by Joan Sawyer Tibbetts, a local resident. Her relative, Corinne Sawyer, was Millay's closest childhood friend and former librarian at the Camden Public Library.
  - Only 16 items of these have been digitized and cataloged in Past Perfect
  - Many of these items in the Tibbetts collection are fragile and need proper preservation. All items are to be stored in archival containers in climate-controlled conditions.

### **3) Describe the extent of your team's knowledge about your topic and collections.**

We have extensive knowledge of Millay and the components of the collection, and we have a proven ability to complete the cataloging and digitization.

**c. Partners –N/A (see response below)**

We do not have any external partners for this particular grant as we are focused in the short term to catalog and digitize the collection. The library has the skill set and the knowledge of the collection to be able to do that.

What we envision, however, is a follow-up grant involving numerous partners that will allow us to take this collection and transform it into an “Online Exhibit” in the future. In doing so, we will be able to involve local schools (and their curriculum) as well as local businesses (like the Whitehall Inn) and historical societies, all of whom have an interest in sharing and promoting the Millay collection.

**d. Outreach and Evaluation**

**1) Describe how you will promote and share your project with your community.**

We have a variety of tools and resources that we are able to utilize to promote and share our project. We have an extensive following (over 2,400 people) who receive our “eNewsletter” and we would be able to share this resource with them and allow them to link directly to the collection from the eNewsletter. Additionally, we hold more than 600 programs per year and have well over 20,000 people attend these programs. We would utilize our programming capabilities to host a program regarding Millay (which would be well attended given our community’s interest in Millay), and through this programming we could discuss the Millay collection.

Additionally, parts of our collection are currently being catalogued by the Library of Congress through the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections. These bibliographic records (in MARC 21 format) are made available in OCLC WorldCat. The Millay collection would be included in this Library of Congress cataloging effort.

**2) Please describe how you will evaluate the project’s success. (A short written report is required upon completion of the project.)**

The true way to evaluate this project’s success is through a traditional pre/post use of the collection following the cataloging and digitization. The goal is to make it accessible. Currently the collection is viewed by very few people. Because it’s not catalogued, there is no true way to gauge the number of people who access it. Our estimates put use of the collection (or ‘views of the collection) at less than 50 per year. We would expect a minimum of a 100% growth following a successful cataloging and digitization effort – essentially more than 100 uses/views of the collection.

Additionally, we would also anticipate that the serious research use of the collection would rise. Once it is made more accessible and people understand what we have in the collection, we believe that more in-depth use of the collection would take place.