

Maine Memory Network

Community Mobilization Grants

promoting community through the exploration of local history

APPLY NOW: Next Application Deadline, April 1, 2012
(Deadline to follow: September 1, 2012)
www.mainememory.net/grants

Maine Historical Society (MHS), in partnership with **Maine State Library (MSL)**, is seeking applicants for **Maine Memory Network *Community Mobilization Grants***, designed to empower Maine communities to share their history online. Local teams identify historical collections, stories, or projects they want to share, and Maine Historical Society staff helps the team plan its project, and provides the training, technical infrastructure, grant, and support needed to get it done. Once completed, the project becomes part of Maine Memory Network (www.mainememory.net) where it will be accessible to the community and to a quickly growing audience that includes more than 500,000 researchers, students, professionals, and other visitors annually.

Program Description

This program is a partnership between MHS, MSL, and participating organizations. In addition to receiving financial support, your team agrees to participate in training and will receive extensive support. Through the process, participants will be empowered to share their history online, develop a broad range of skills, and increase organizational capacity to engage and serve the community. All projects will be shared through and become part of Maine Memory Network which provides a robust technical infrastructure, a platform for training and skills development, consistent standards, and the broadest possible access to your projects.

Local partnership is strongly encouraged in all project categories (and required in category III). Collaboration is a cornerstone of Maine Memory Network. Developing local partnerships will help your organization/team find support and resources in your community, and ensure that the digital material you create has a wide and eager audience.

Project Categories

Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to contact MHS staff prior to discuss their project idea prior to applying.

I. Digitization Projects

Training and stipends are provided to help organizations and local teams digitize, catalog, and use Maine Memory Network to manage and share their collections online. In the process, participants will develop technical skills, identify resources and partners in the community, and establish a meaningful presence online (including 25+ items).

Application Deadlines: April 1, September 1

Notification Date: late April and September

Grant: up to \$1,000 (depending on size and scope of project)

Required Training: Spring: May 17; Fall: October 11 (2012 dates)

Project Period: up to one year

Key activities: identification, selection, and digitization of historic collections; cataloging; use of Maine Memory Network tools; community outreach

Partnership: encouraged

II. Online Exhibit Projects

Training and stipends are provided to help organizations and local teams share stories and topics from their community's history online. These might range from the history of a particular business or industry, to the community's experience during a national event (e.g. the Civil War), or any other topic that illuminates an important aspect of the community. In the process, participants will develop technical, project planning, and collaboration skills, deepen local partnerships, digitize 25+ items, and create a substantial, illustrated online exhibit.

Application Deadlines: April 1, September 1

Notification Date: late April and September

Grant: up to \$1,500 (depending on size and scope of project)

Required Training: Spring: May 17; Fall: October 11 (2012 dates)

Project Period: up to one year

Key activities: online exhibit planning; research; selection and digitization of historic material; cataloging; use of Maine Memory Network tools; writing and design for the web; community outreach

Partnership: strongly encouraged with at least one other organization

III. Maine Community Heritage Projects

The MCHP is an intensive one-year program that mobilizes Maine communities around the exploration, gathering, and sharing of their local history. Each year (July-June), four local teams—each made up of representatives from local schools, libraries, and historical organizations—will work closely with MHS staff to build substantial websites within Maine Memory Network dedicated to the history of their communities. Local teams will lead a community-wide engagement with their town's history, identify and share resources, develop substantial technical, project planning, and collaboration skills, deepen local partnerships, and create a substantial website that provides a centralized place for their community to access its history. The program will create numerous opportunities for students, teachers, local historical society members, librarians, and others in the community to come together, to collaborate, and to share their particular interests, knowledge, and skills.

Application Deadlines: April 1

Notification Date: late April

Grant: up to \$4,000 (depending on resource needs of the team to complete the program requirements)

Required Training Dates: 3 days: July 19-20, 2012 **AND** January 17, 2013

Project Period: one year

Key activities: project planning; community outreach, engagement, and collaboration; identification of key themes, topics, and events in local history; research; digitization of historic material (150 items); cataloging; use of Maine Memory Network tools; writing, design, and exhibit planning for the web

Partnership: application requires participation of library, historical organization, **AND** school

Note: Please review full MCHP description (www.mainememory.net/mchp) prior to applying. Successfully completing the program requires a significant commitment of time and effort by your local team.

Support Provided by MHS

Local teams will receive extensive training and support throughout the course of their project. Topics covered will include project planning; digitizing historic documents, photographs, and artifacts; using Maine Memory Network tools for uploading, cataloging, and managing materials; and community outreach and collaboration. The program encourages high standards of historical practice and increase communities' capacity to care for, use, and interpret collections.

Grants will be provided to local teams to support costs directly related to the program. We are mindful that the greatest obstacle to collaboration often is not interest but time and resources. Grants are intended to help your community achieve its projects goals by providing support where your team needs it. Grants may be used for: equipment, materials, staff support, services, and miscellaneous program costs. If you have questions about what grant funds can be used to cover, please contact Larissa Vigue Picard (see contact information below) or consult the "Budget Planning & Samples" document on the MMN Resources page at www.mainememory.net/share under the Project Planning section.

Program Requirements

Participants commit to participating in required training, completing the projects proposed in their applications, and meeting reporting requirements. Participation in training sessions is required. Held at Maine Historical Society in Portland or in other regional locations, trainings include program orientation, training in the use of Maine Memory Network tools, presenting material on the web, and other training determined by your project type. Additional training and support is available upon request.

Application Process

Prospective applicants are *strongly encouraged* to contact MMN staff in advance of submitting an application to discuss their project ideas. Staff members will be happy to provide feedback to applicants in the early stages of their planning process.

Applicants in all project categories are required to complete and submit the appropriate application form. There are two application deadlines each year for digitization and online exhibit projects: April 1 and September 1. Applications for Maine Community Heritage Projects are only accepted for the April 1 deadline. Application and instructions available at: www.mainememory.net/grants.

For More Information

To learn more, please visit www.mainememory.net or contact Larissa Vigue Picard, Community Partnership Coordinator, at: lvpicard@mainehistory.org, 207-774-1822 x215.

The Community Mobilization Grants Program grows out of Maine Memory Network (www.mainememory.net), the Maine Historical Society's nationally recognized statewide digital museum that features a constantly growing online collection of more than 20,000 historical items contributed by 250+ historical organizations around Maine; hundreds of online exhibits that explore a diverse range of themes and topics in Maine history; lesson plans; a gallery of student history projects; online tools that allow site visitors to create and share their own exhibits; and much more. This project is supported by a National Leadership Grant from the **Institute of Museum & Library Services**.