



## CONNECTICUT HUMANITIES FUND QUICK GRANT

**For applications submitted September 1, 2013 and later**

### PART 2: APPLICATION MATERIALS

- 2.1 APPLICATION COVER AND CERTIFICATION
- 2.2 PROJECT NARRATIVE
- 2.3 PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

## 2.1 APPLICATION COVER AND CERTIFICATION

PROJECT TITLE A Civil Rights History Harvest at Sheff 25th Anniv  
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION Trinity College  
APPLICATION DATE 3/3/2014  
GRANT PERIOD 4/7/2014 TO 6/30/2014  
CTH FUNDS REQUESTED \$1,500.00

### AUTHORIZING SIGNATORY

NAME Tom Mitzel TITLE Dean of Faculty  
ORGANIZATION NAME Trinity College  
ADDRESS 300 Summit St  
CITY Hartford STATE CT ZIP+4 06106-  
PHONE 8602972128.00 E-MAIL thomas.mitzel@trincoll.edu

**IMPORTANT!** THE AUTHORIZING SIGNATORY MUST CERTIFY THE STATEMENT BELOW BY CHECKING THE BOX.

☒ I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PRESENTED HERE IS TRUE AND ACCURATE; THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE GUIDELINES RELATING TO THIS APPLICATION; AND THAT THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH ANY GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BY CONNECTICUT HUMANITIES.

### PROJECT DIRECTOR (PROJECT DIRECTOR **CANNOT** BE FISCAL AGENT)

NAME Jack Dougherty TITLE Associate Professor of Ed Studies  
ORGANIZATION NAME Trinity College  
ADDRESS 300 Summit St  
CITY Hartford STATE CT ZIP+4 06106-  
PHONE 8602972296.00 E-MAIL jack.dougherty@trincoll.edu

### FISCAL AGENT (FISCAL AGENT **CANNOT** BE PROJECT DIRECTOR)

NAME Carol Kessel TITLE Associate Comptroller  
ORGANIZATION NAME Trinity College  
ADDRESS 300 Summit St  
CITY Hartford STATE CT ZIP+4 06106-  
PHONE 8602972032.00 E-MAIL carol.kessel@trincoll.edu

## 2.2 PROJECT NARRATIVE

### PROJECT SUMMARY

Please provide a succinct description of your project. (500 characters maximum, including spaces)

As part of the 25th anniversary of the Sheff struggle for quality integrated schools, we will conduct a "history harvest" to record, preserve, and share participants' memories of this key chapter in Connecticut's civil rights history. Panelists will present stages of the process (photo/document scanning, oral interviewing, video recording, and uploading to our digital repository), then discuss its significance with the audience and encourage them to visit stations at our April 26th event.

### RELEVANCE TO CTH FUNDING PRIORITIES

(500 characters maximum, including spaces)

The Sheff anniversary "history harvest" addresses several CT Humanities Fund priorities. Understanding how different people experienced this phase of Connecticut's civil rights movement through an historical lens will "address social issues through humanities disciplines." In addition to our 150-seat venue, our digital history platform will "reach broad audiences" now and in future years. Finally, through our multiple contributors, we will "foster collaboration among organizations."

### COMMUNITY RELEVANCE

How does your project serve the needs of your community? What, if any, input have they had in its creation?

(500 characters maximum, including spaces)

The struggle for quality integrated schools has touched the lives of thousands of students, parents, and teachers in metro Hartford, recognized as one of the most segregated regions in the North. Our racially diverse 8-person planning committee, with members from Hartford and suburban communities, selected the "history harvest" model as a way to capture personal memories of our shared past, in order to educate present and future generations on how people came together to make a difference.

## GOALS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

What do you intend to accomplish? What do you expect your audience to learn? (1,000 characters maximum, including spaces)

The primary learning goal of the Sheff "history harvest" is for audiences to recognize the value of participatory history through shared memories of the school integration experience. People whose lives were touched by the movement did not necessarily experience it in the same way, and understanding these differences builds a healthier respect for diversity. Second, conducting a "history harvest" at this 25th anniversary event is an ideal way to capture participants' collective memories and memorabilia through photo/document scanning and oral history video interviews. All of Elizabeth Horton Sheff's personal papers were lost in a devastating fire in 2010, and we risk losing the unwritten histories as people age. By educating the audience about the "history harvest" process, we seek to encourage their voluntary participation in digitally archiving and sharing their civil rights stories on the public web, for current and future generations.

## PROJECT DETAILS

Include the following information: Title, theme(s), format(s) and a brief 2 – 3 line program description(s); date(s) and time(s) of program(s); location(s) and audience capacity of the venue(s); name(s) of speakers and presenter(s); admission and other fees. (5,000 characters maximum, including spaces)

1,500 characters in the box below

The 25th anniversary of the original 1989 Sheff v O'Neill case for quality integrated schools will be commemorated by the Sheff Movement coalition with a public forum on Saturday, April 26th from 9am-12:30pm. The forum is free and open to the public, and located in a large room that seats over 150 people at the University of Connecticut Law School on Elizabeth Street in Hartford, CT. We seek financial support from the CT Humanities Council to sponsor a public presentation and community dialogue regarding the "history harvest" portion of this event, and to cover most of our space rental fees.

Nationally, the "history harvest" model has been popularized by historian Will Thomas, Chair of the History Department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (and coincidentally, a graduate of Trinity College, Class of 1986). In a recent issue of the Perspectives magazine of the American Historical Association, Thomas and his colleagues described the "history harvest" concept and offered examples of mutual partnerships, including several with African-American historical societies. Thomas et al. recommend that organizers plan these events with local groups around a particular theme, and publicize that the "harvest" collects only digital copies, while owners keep the originals and voluntarily grant permission for the copy to be publicly shared online (see <https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/january-2013/history-harvests>).

## PROJECT DETAILS (CONTINUED)

3,500 characters in the box below

Overall, the Sheff 25th anniversary event will feature several speakers and panelists who will discuss the past and present school integration struggle in the local community, as well as Connecticut's role in the national context. For this CTH proposal, we focus directly on the "history harvest" portion of the event, which is a collaboration between Trinity College, the Sheff Movement, and additional supporters.

Specifically, presenters Karen Taylor (Trinity College) and Pedro Bermudez (Real Art Ways) will explain the "history harvest" concept and highlight the value of Sheff participants telling their stories "from the ground up." Both will walk the audience through the stages of the process: scanning personal photos/documents, conducting an oral history interview, recording and editing video, and uploading all of these digital items (with written consent of the owner) to the Trinity College digital repository, which offers long-term preservation and makes them publicly available. Furthermore, Taylor will conduct a live oral history interview with a pre-selected participant in front of the audience, and Bermudez will show how he created a short video with previously-recorded content downloaded from the digital repository. Finally, the presenters will open up a discussion with the audience on the Sheff history harvest as a means for keeping civil rights history alive, and encourage participants to visit stations for photo/document scanning and oral history video recording, located in adjacent rooms.

The "history harvest" stations will be staffed by trained Trinity student volunteers during the half-day anniversary event. Advance publicity materials will encourage participants to bring Sheff-related personal photos and documents to the scanning station, to be digitized and immediately returned to the owner. Also, audience members will be invited to sign-up for a 15-minute oral history video recording at a two (or more) booths. Trinity volunteers will prompt them with questions such as "What is your earliest memory of the Sheff case?" and "Looking back, what lessons have you learned from your Sheff experience?" At both stations, contributors will be asked to sign a Creative Commons consent form that preserves their copyright over their content, while allowing us to digitally archive and share the content on the public web. (See <http://ontheline.trincoll.edu/oral-history/creative-commons/>).

In the weeks following the event, Karen Taylor will upload "history harvest" content to the Trinity College digital repository (<http://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/cssp/>). Currently, the repository holds 8 oral history interviews/transcripts, and 5 documents related to Sheff. We will request that the Trinity Library create a specific web page on the repository to feature content on this topic. Furthermore, we are consulting with the Connecticut Digital Archives staff at UConn about feeding these digital items and metadata into state and national repositories, to enhance search and access for broader audiences.

Project director Jack Dougherty, an associate professor of educational studies at Trinity and historian of cities, suburbs, and schooling, is donating his time to coordinate the history harvest. Similarly, the Sheff Movement is donating the time of its community organizer, John Humphries, and the 8-member planning committee to coordinate the logistics of the 25th Anniversary event.

## AUDIENCE AND MARKETING

Who is your target audience for this program? How will you let them know about it? Please identify any specific groups you will work with to market your program, the methods you will use, and any specific media outlets you will utilize (e.g. print, broadcast, social). **How will you publicize CTH funding for your project?** (1,500 characters maximum, including spaces)

In addition to attracting an audience, our challenge is to introduce the "history harvest" concept so that participants bring photos/documents to be scanned and feel comfortable recording an oral history interview. Our marketing strategy blends traditional face-to-face outreach and paper handouts with newer web technologies. An initial "save-the-date" handout and a "history harvest" introduction with samples currently appear on this Trinity College website (<http://commons.trincoll.edu/edreform/resources/sheff25years/>). Planning committee member Gina Chirichigno (One Nation Indivisible) has designed a visually-appealing graphic and is coordinating a website redesign for the Sheff Movement. CTH funding will be prominently mentioned in all paper and digital advance publicity and the event program.

The Sheff Movement will invite attendees from its prior events to the April 26th anniversary, and planning team members will recirculate invitations through social media. Organizers will make a presentation at the March or April meeting of Hartford-area magnet school principals, reach out to parent/teacher/student contacts in the region's 50+ magnet schools, and collaborate with CREC and allied groups to contact alumni of magnet schools and the Project Concern/Open Choice city-suburb transfer program. Planners also expect to invite one or more schools to organize brief student performances to broaden participation by age levels.

## EVALUATION

How will you know your project was successful? (1,000 characters maximum, including spaces)

Multiple pieces of our program allow us to evaluate success at different stages:

- 1) At the April 26th panel presentations by Karen Taylor and Pedro Bermudez, they will open up audience discussion on the significance of the "history harvest" model. Both the number and type of audience questions and comments will help us measure engagement.
- 2) During the half-day April 26th event, each "history harvest" station will record the number of visitors who share photos, documents, and oral histories. By comparing visitor logs before and after the Taylor/Bermudez presentation and discussion, we can evaluate their influence on participation.
- 3) Shortly after the event, Taylor will upload "history harvest" contributions to the Trinity digital repository, where both quality and quantity of items will indicate success.
- 4) Before and after the event, we will monitor web traffic to the "history harvest" site to measure the success of outreach to broader audiences.

## 2.3 PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Please provide brief biographical statements for your project's presenters and moderators you propose to fund with CTH support.

PRESENTER #1	
NAME	Karen Taylor
TITLE	Researcher
ORGANIZATION NAME	Trinity College, Hartford CT

**BIO STATEMENT** (500 characters maximum, including spaces) Taylor is an adult student who transferred from Capital Community College to Trinity College, where she is completing her Bachelor of Arts with a major in Educational Studies. In addition to developing computer skills as a Student Technology Assistant, she has done primary source historical research and written web essays on the Sheff case. As a Hartford resident and mother of 7-year-old twins at an interdistrict magnet school, she takes a personal interest in this topic.

PRESENTER #2	
NAME	Pedro Bermudez
TITLE	Communications Coordinator
ORGANIZATION NAME	Real Art Ways, Hartford CT

**BIO STATEMENT** (500 characters maximum, including spaces) One of the original Sheff plaintiffs, Bermudez was four years old when his Hartford family joined the case in 1989. Bermudez began making films at an early age, received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Hartford, then earned a Masters of Fine Arts at one of the world's top film schools, the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. Today he is an award-winning director, filmmaker, and cofounder of Revisionist, a film and music video production company.

PRESENTER #3	
NAME	
TITLE	
ORGANIZATION NAME	

**BIO STATEMENT** (500 characters maximum, including spaces) Please note that the Sheff Anniversary program will include additional panelists who will speak about their personal history with the case (such as Elizabeth Horton Sheff and her son Milo Sheff, the lead plaintiffs; Martha Stone, UConn Law School; Dennis Parker; ACLU Racial Justice Program. But they are not listed here because we only seek CTH funding for the "History Harvest" portion of the event.

PRESENTER #4	
NAME	
TITLE	
ORGANIZATION NAME	

**BIO STATEMENT** (500 characters maximum, including spaces)