



2022-2023 ILLUMINATION FUNDING REQUEST

Organization Name: Springfield History Museum

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PROJECT DETAILS

Dollar amount requested: \$1,000

What will the Springfield Arts Commission (SAC) funds be used for?

The Springfield History Museum will invest SAC sponsored funds to support the 2022-2023 chapter of our annual special exhibit, ILLUMINATION. SAC funds will serve to support a celebrated community-driven project that advances cultural literacy and heritage appreciation of historically marginalized communities for all ages, backgrounds and walks of life. This builds bridges in the community, nurturing curiosity and dialogue.

The project expense budget includes:

- \$1,000 – Story Collector Honorarium
- \$1,000 – Photographer Honorarium
- \$2,000 – Event Materials
- \$1,000 – Event Programming*
- \$1,000 – Exhibit Materials

*Notes specific SAC funding support

Project overview:

The land we call Springfield today is home to more than 60,000 residents, all of whom have unique personal and ancestral stories that contribute to our collective history, and our rich, multicultural present.

ILLUMINATION invites us to educate ourselves, to develop cultural literacy as we discover more about our neighbors, our forebears, and perhaps a little more about ourselves along the way...

We use interviews, photographs and personal objects to share stories that illuminate the intersectionality of our Springfield identity.



This year we are working with the community to explore what it means to be an Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander in Springfield, Oregon.

The culminating works from this annual project become part of the Springfield History Museum archive, available to the public into the future. Select images and narratives will also become part of the permanent heritage exhibit on display at the History Museum.

Our project team includes:

- **Aimee Yogi** (she/her) is our project consultant and guide, helping us to outreach to and engage the community in the development of the exhibit including special events. She identifies as Japanese American and has lived in Springfield for 44 years and is a retired administrative staff at the University of Oregon. She is an active volunteer for the Asian American Foundation, the Japanese American Association of Lane County, Hospice of Sacred Heart, Hearts for Hospice and the Eugene Springfield Community Emergency Response Team.
- **Thomas Hiura** (he/him) is our Story Collector. He identifies as Japanese American and has lived in the Eugene-Springfield area for most of his life. He is a graduate student in Education Leadership, a hip-hop artist, and hosts a podcast/YouTube series called Broken Class where he interviews artists, social activists, civic leaders and government officials including most recently Mayor Lucy Vinis of Eugene.
- **Mimi (Melissa) Nollo** (she/her) is our Photographer. She identifies as Filipino American, born in Manila and raised in a family of writers in the Philippines. She has lived in the US since 1989 and has established herself as a photographer and digital artist in the northwest. She is the creator of Our Stories – Immigrants of America.

Detailed explanation for SAC fund support:

- Investment in event programming (\$1,000) including:
 - The exhibit will include three (3) public special events including:
 - Exhibit Opening Reception, 2nd Friday Art Walk Friday, December 9th, 2022
 - Lunar New Year Celebration Late January (date TBD), 2023
 - Exhibit Closing Reception, 2nd Friday Art Walk Friday, March 10th, 2023
 - Special events will include refreshments, music and/or other cultural performance, guest speaker(s) and screening/projection of stories and photography to celebrate the cultural diaspora of the Asian American community in Springfield, Oregon.

Is the project contingent on another funding source separate from SAC?



Yes. The Springfield History Museum can invest \$500 and staff for the project. In addition to this request to the SAC, we have four (4) other pending funding requests.

The project revenue budget includes:

- \$500 – Springfield History Museum (confirmed)
- \$500 – City Manager’s Office, City of Springfield (confirmed)
- \$4,000 – Springfield Rotary Service Project Grant (pending)
- \$1,000 – Springfield Utility Board (pending)
- \$500 – Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Access Committee, City of Springfield (pending)
- \$1,000 – Springfield Arts Commission, City of Springfield (pending)

We are prepared to scale the project accordingly based on the outcome of pending funding requests. This will also scale our capacity to support education and literacy efforts and impact.

How the community or aspects of the community will benefit from this project:

The intention of ILLUMINATION is to cultivate inclusion, equity and access to the arts, culture and heritage of our region. We achieve this by using exhibits and activities that educate and develop cultural literacy, while expanding representation of historically marginalized voices in the Springfield History Museum’s collection.

We envision a Springfield community where race, class, sexual orientation, gender, age, mental or physical ability do not pre-determine the success, safety, or health of our people. Supporting education and cultural literacy is a fundamental step in healing past harms and developing a healthy future. These efforts help us to address and overcome the inherent bias and discrimination in museum institutions, such as gatekeeping and the erasure of historically marginalized communities.

ILLUMINATION serves to educate and enlighten members of our community of all ages, backgrounds and walks of life with cultural literacy and responsiveness. This builds bridges in the community, nurturing curiosity and dialogue. The project serves to develop relationships and trust today with members of the community that have been historically marginalized and left out of the historical narrative – such as the 2022-2023 focus on those who identify as Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander. We hope that the Museum 25-100 years from now will offer a more inclusive representation of the people of Springfield today -- their stories, contributions, struggles, successes etc.

Will this contribution result in the achievement of your goals for the project?

Absolutely! This chapter of ILLUMINATION is the latest in an evolution of exhibits that have been well received by the community. SAC support will allow us to not only sustain but expand the culture and heritage impacts of this program.



Last year our program was led by two incredible Latinx identified individuals who captured and celebrated the stories of six local Mexican-American residents. In spite of COVID limitations, we engaged over 1,100 community members during our regular open hours and special events related to the exhibit and had over 31,300 engagements on social media.

This year, with support from the SAC, we will have a robust team of three (in addition to our staff) working directly with the community to co-design and co-create this exhibit.

ILLUMINATION is an example of the Springfield History Museum actualizing our vision of community ownership and pride of the collection and the space – through direct involvement and representation of *all* of Springfield.

What is the timeframe for the completion or implementation of this project?

Our timeline includes:

- First Community Gathering of stakeholders in the local Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community hosted in hybrid format (virtual and in-person) by the Springfield History Museum on Tuesday, October 4th, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- Project team will be collecting stories and photographs from the present moment through the end of November. Completed exhibit materials are due to the Museum no later than Monday, November 28th, 2022.
- Installation Monday – Thursday, December 5th – 8th, 2022
- ILLUMINATION exhibition will be Friday, December 9th, 2022 - Saturday, March 11th, 2022.
- Exhibit Opening Reception, 2nd Friday Art Walk on Friday, December 9th, 2022
- Lunar New Year Celebration, late January (date TBD), 2023
- Exhibit Closing Reception, 2nd Friday Art Walk on Friday, March 10th, 2023
- Processing materials for inclusion in the archive and permanent exhibit through the end of 2023.