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Final Narrative Report

This report is due thirty (30) days after the completion date of the grant period, on July 31. Note that failure to submit this report within the timelines of the grant program could jeopardize receipt of the final 10% grant payment. Mail a total of **THREE** copies of the report, one with original signature. Send to:

**California State Library
Budget Office - LSTA
P.O. Box 942837
Sacramento, CA 94237-0001**

Date July 26, 2007

1. Grant Award ID # 40-6606

2. Project Title Whittier Public Library Historical Photograph Collection

3. FY 2006-2007

4. Total project period 7-01-06 to 6-30-07

5. Grantee Whittier Public Library

6. Address 7344 S. Washington Ave., Whittier, CA 90602

7. Contact Joanna Perez 8. Telephone/E-mail 562-464-3452

9. Needs To make the Whittier Local History Collections accessible on a daily basis to the community while addressing the citizen's need to know and better understand family, community, and California history.

Applicant Jurisdiction: _____

Project Title: _____

10. Project abstract.

The Whittier Historical Photograph Collection contains over 600 images documenting the foundation of the community of Whittier between 1880 and 1960. The majority of these irreplaceable images were donated in 1968 by Orville G. Espolt, local photo-historian. For almost 4 decades, these amazing one-of-a-kind images have certainly proved to be invaluable over the years in documenting local Whittier and California history. Local history scholars and members of the public including students at all levels are interested in using these photographs, but were frustrated by the lack of easy access for viewing and reproducing. Beginning to create the collection as an online resource aided in solving these problems by making the photographs available twenty-four seven both in the Library and from remote locations.

The goals of the LHDRP Project were to begin to digitize our collection of photographs in an effort to not only create a new outlet for these objects to be viewed; but to also aid in the preservation process of these materials. The Whittier Public Library had begun to pursue this goal in other similar projects such as digitizing selected resources such the "Shades of Whittier" photography collection; however we lacked the opportunity to offer our materials for viewing and research via the internet and online archival sources. The Local History Digital Resource Project presented the perfect opportunity for us to move ahead with this plan.

Our main objective for this project was to increase access to a collection that was otherwise locked away in a room. Prior to this project, our collection of photographs were housed in old binders that were not conservation safe. Thanks to the support of the LHDRP for the year of 2006-2007, 205 of these photographs have been not only digitized; but also rehoused in a more preservation friendly environment. In addition to increasing ease of access, we also hoped that our collection would spearhead the process of digitizing our other historical collections and make them readily available for the public. As a result of this project, we are now much more knowledgeable on the process of digitization projects. We are currently in the process of digitizing our collection of Whittier Daily News microfilm, creating an online portal for access to our "Shades of Whittier" collection, and are beginning to look towards digitizing the remainder of our historical photograph collection.

We see digitization of the historical materials in our large collection as a long term, ongoing program and we are committed to pursuing funding to keep it moving forward. We plan to cooperate with the Whittier Museum, the Whittier Historical Society and the Whittier Union High School District in publicizing our digital library using the local newspapers, cable channel and organizational newsletters. This project is only the tip of the iceberg. The LHDRP Project has allowed us to begin a journey in preserving California's past for the future. We are currently moving ahead with digitizing the rest of our photograph collection, as well as protecting the original photographs in a more preservation friendly environment. In this manner, the originals are now safe from harm yet can still be available for all to enjoy.

(Do not attach additional pages)

Applicant Jurisdiction: _____

Project Title: _____

11. Project accomplishments.

Goals and Objectives:

1. To create ease of access to the Whittier History Room Archives.

Result: Creating a digital version of each photograph has definitely provided ease of access and use by not only Library staff, but also for the community. Many of the newly digitizing photographs were able to be quickly accessed by City Developers for use in many current city projects including the construction of the Whittier Greenway Trail. Developers were able to access the digitized photographs quickly and created interpretive panels to be used along the Greenway corridor.

3. To increase use of the Whittier History Room Archives.

Result: We are currently in the process of creating an online portal via the Whittier Public Library website in an effort to display access to the newly digitized Whittier Historical Photograph Collection. We are also currently waiting to view the usage statistics via Calisphere. At this time, we have yet to see any statistics that would display increase in usage for our digitized collections.

2. To create a preservation friendly environment for the Whittier Historical Photograph Collection.

Result: Due to the LSTA funding, we were able to purchase archival-safe materials for our photograph collection. Prior to this project, our Historical archives had little to no funding for the preservation of our materials. Today, our photograph collection is rehoused under more archival-safe standards. As a result of digitization, physical contact with the original materials of the photograph collection will be kept to a bare minimum, furthering the lifespan of these historical materials.

Applicant Jurisdiction: _____

Project Title: _____

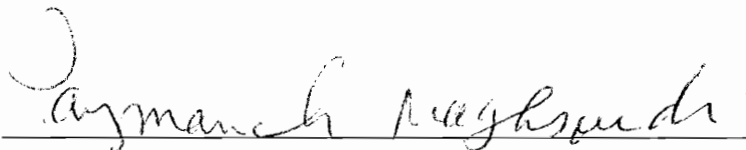
12. Subjective evaluation.

Clearly, the project was a success. We were given the opportunity to begin a digital collection of historical photographs for the benefit of the community and we emerged with a collection in which many will be able to take advantage of. Unfortunately, the project did have a few drawbacks. A few of our photographs were damaged during the digitization process; however we were compensated with the allowance of submitting 5 additional photographs for digitization. We also had the unfortunate circumstance of having some technical difficulties. Although these technical problems were solved, they were not solved in a timely manner. In the end, we do have a beautifully digitized collection of photographs that will surely benefit those persons who are interested in Whittier and California history. For the purposes of this project, and the objectives of the Whittier Public Library, this project has so far, proved to be quite successful.

13. Project continuation.

The Whittier Public Library has decided to continue the process of building digital archives. Although we have decided to discontinue the use of the ContentDM system, we have recently acquired the ArchivalWare program through congressional funding from United States Congressman Gary Miller. Thanks to the LSTA grant, the Whittier Public Library was able to begin the first footsteps into the world of digital archives. Our hope is to be able to continue building our digital archives to better provide access to the various forms of information that are housed at the Whittier Public Library. Through continued funding and programs like the LSTA grant and congressional funding, we will be able to provide top quality services in the area of digital archives and preservation.

14. Signature/Date



562-464-3452

Telephone

pmaghsoudi@cityofwhittier.org

E-mail