

Request Name: "Missing Stories" Completion

Description: Missing Stories: An Oral History of Ethnic and Minority Groups in Utah

Agency: Heritage and Arts

Purpose: To complete work with school districts throughout the state in developing curricula that complements the "Missing Stories" book and to conduct additional interviews, redesign and edits as has been determined by work conducted FY2018-19.

Funding for: \$40,000. – 2019 (One time)

Private Not-for-Profit



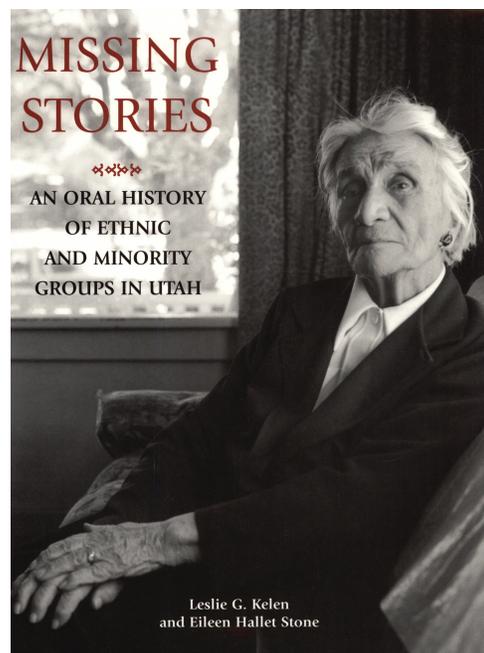
January 29, 2019

The Honorable Karen Kwan  
Minority Caucus Manager, Utah House of Representatives  
350 N State Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, UT, 84114

Dear Rep. Kwan:

The Center for Documentary Expression and Art (CDEA) respectfully requests \$40,000 from the Utah Legislature to complete the statewide “Missing Stories” project. Over the next two years, this project will expand and redesign the organization’s foundational documentary work: *Missing Stories: An Oral History of Ethnic and Minority Groups in Utah*.

*Missing Stories* was originally published by the University Press in 1995 as part of its Utah Centennial series. The 518 pg. book was the product of a ten-year (1982-1992) project that included five years (1982-1987) of field work, during which time the organization taped more than 700 oral histories and took 14,000 black-and-white photos in Utah’s Northern Ute, Jewish, Chinese, Italian, Greek, Japanese, Chicano/Latino, and African-American communities. In 1989, the Special Collections Department of the University of Utah, Marriott Library, purchased CDEA’s oral history tapes, transcripts, and negatives. The research collection is now available for use by students and scholars.



The new publication (working title: *When You Live in This World*) will differ from *Missing Stories* in three ways. First, oral histories will be organized and presented along a chronological-thematic axis (rather than as community profiles). This change will free CDEA to present a dynamic, multi-cultural dialogue that conveys Utah’s historic challenges and

achievements. Second, we will bring the book up-to-date by incorporating content from our 2000-2003 oral-history and photography project that documented stories of SLC's new immigrants and refugees, and we will add interviews with selected younger speakers. Third, we will use photos from both documentary projects. The result will be an exciting, readable, and illustrated oral-history that conveys the 20th and 21st century story of Utah's fast-growing multi-cultural society and provides Social Studies teachers (and general readers) the primary source material needed to engage with the life of our diverse people.

## **WORK ACCOMPLISHED TO DATE**

We're pleased to report that over the past 18 months (the legislature provided CDEA start-up funding in 2017 and 2018), we have accomplished the following:

- 1. Re-examined the content and design of the Missing Stories book to determine the reusability of published interviews and the book's format;***
- 2. Assessed portions of our original oral history collection to learn how many unused interviews could be placed in the new work (about two-thirds of the original project did not get selected for Missing Stories);***
- 3. Added the organization's 2000-2003 documentary effort ("From Many Shores"), which comprises more than 150 oral history interviews and about 5,000 photos, documenting SLC residents, including migrants, immigrants, and refugees;***
- 4. Presented a new, 7-page book proposal to the Univ. of Utah Press, which outlined using interviews in a chronological/thematic format (rather than in community profiles) to develop a dynamic, statewide, multi-cultural portrait;***
- 5. Signed a contract with the Univ. of Utah Press to deliver a completed manuscript by Dec. 31, 2021. Publication is expected 12-months after submission;***
- 6. Researched early 20th century Utah life, and met (and interviewed) Utah historians to build a small research team to work with CDEA staff.***

CDEA thanks the Utah Legislature for its past support. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the current proposal.

Sincerely,



Leslie Kelen, Director  
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SLC, Utah 84111