

Rep. Romero

Request Name: Missing Stories Project

Description: This project will expand and redesign the organization's foundational documentary work. Missing Stories: An Oral History of Ethnic and Minority Groups in Utah. The new work will be a people's history, in the manner of Studs Terkel's bestselling American Dreams, Lost & Found, and will provide primary-source material for Utah 7th grade Social Studies teachers and a portrait of Utah's diverse people for the general public.

Agency: Economic Development

Funding Amount: Education Fund - \$40,000 – 2020 (One-time)


CENTER FOR
DOCUMENTARY
EXPRESSION
AND ART

January 10, 2020

The Honorable Angela Romero
Minority Assistant Whip, Utah House of Representatives
336 South 300 East, Ste 200
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Dear Representative Romero:

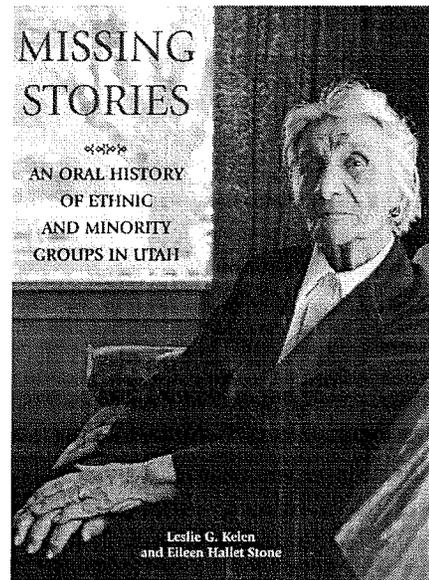
The Center for Documentary Expression and Art (CDEA) respectfully requests a final \$40,000 appropriation from the Utah Legislature to complete its statewide “Missing Stories” project. This project will expand and redesign the organization’s foundational documentary work—*Missing Stories: An Oral History of Ethnic and Minority Groups in Utah*. The new work will be a people’s history, in the manner of Studs Terkel’s best-selling *American Dreams, Lost & Found*, and will provide primary-source material for Utah 7th grade Social Studies teachers and a portrait of Utah’s diverse people for the general public.

Missing Stories was originally published by the University Press in 1995 as part of its Utah Centennial series. The 513 pg. book was the product of an eleven-year (1982-1993) 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.

The new publication (working title: *When You Live in This World*) will differ from the original *Missing Stories* book in three ways:

- First, interviews will be organized along a chronological-geographic-thematic axis rather than as “ethnic and minority” or community profiles. This change will permit CDEA to evoke the interactions of Utah’s diverse people and to more fully present the experiences of individuals involved in major historic events such as the early 20th century European, Mexican, and Asian migrations, subsequent community building, labor organizing, mining and other industrial development, Prohibition, Americanization, the Great Depression, WWII, Civil and Human Rights actions, Women’s rights, and Native American issues, etc.;

- Second, the new work will incorporate up-to-date content from CDEA’s 2000-2003 project, which taped more than 150 interviews on SLC’s multi-cultural west-side; this will include interviews with deep-rooted “west siders,” newer immigrants from Polynesia, Korea,



Mexico, Iran, and Central America; refugees from the Former Soviet Union, Bosnia, Kosovo, the Middle East, and Africa; and members of Utah's LGBTQA+ community;

• Third, up to 40 new oral histories will be conducted (and considered for inclusion) with minorities in leadership roles in the arts, business, medicine, politics, scientific research, finance, religion, education, and social justice work that ranges from the LGBTQA+ to the climate-change and the "Me, Too" movements.

WORK ACCOMPLISHED TO DATE

We're pleased to report that over the past 18 months (the legislature provided CDEA start-up funding in 2018 and 2019), we accomplished the following:

- 1. Re-examined the content of the Missing Stories book to determine the reusability of both published interviews and the book's original format;***
- 2. Assessed the original CDEA oral history collection to learn how many unused interviews can be used in the new work (two-thirds of the original project did not get selected for Missing Stories);***
- 3. Decided to add the contents of CDEA's 2000-2003 documentary effort ("From Many Shores"), which comprises more than 150 oral history interviews and about 5,000 photos, documenting SLC West-side residents, including migrants, immigrants, refugees, and LGBTQ people;***
- 4. Also decided to add up to 40 new oral history interviews with with minorities in current leadership roles in the arts, business, medicine, politics, scientific research, finance, religion, education, and social justice work;***
- 5. Presented a 7-page book proposal to the Univ. of Utah Press, which outlined using interviews in a chronological/thematic format (rather than as community profiles) to develop a dynamic, statewide, multi-cultural portrait;***
- 6. Executed a book contract with the University of Utah Press to deliver a completed manuscript by 12, 31, 2021;***
- 7. Added an Education-Outreach Coordinator to CDEA staff to enable director Leslie Kelen to work close to full time on the new book in calendar years 2020 and 2021;***
- 8. Interviewed Utah historians to build a research team to work with CDEA staff.***

CDEA gratefully acknowledges the Utah State Legislature for its past support.