REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Project Advisor for Podcast on 19th and 20th Century Black History in Philadelphia

Institutional Background
The Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP), founded in 1824, is one of the nation’s largest archives of historical documents. We are proud to serve as Philadelphia’s Library of American History, with over 21 million manuscripts, books, and graphic images encompassing centuries of US history. HSP serves more than 4,000 on-site researchers annually and millions more around the globe who use its online resources. HSP is a leading center for the documentation and study of ethnic communities and immigrant experiences in the 20th century, and one of the largest family history libraries in the country. Our collections also document the experiences and representations of African Americans from the colonial era to the present. Some of these collections include the Pennsylvania Abolition Society papers and the Leon Gardiner collection of American Negro Historical Society records. This will be the first podcast launched by HSP.

Project Overview
The Historical Society of Pennsylvania is seeking to pilot a podcast titled Resurrecting Voices: The Philadelphia Black Experience, funded by the Library of Congress (LOC).

Based on HSP’s collections and LOC’s digital collections, Resurrecting Voices will delve into significant events, influential figures, and untold stories that have shaped the Black community in Philadelphia during the 19th and 20th centuries. The podcast will also feature a genealogical component. The first episodes of the podcast are slated to air in the fall of 2023 and will continue into 2024 against the backdrop of HSP’s bicentennial anniversary.

HSP’s Programs and Communications Coordinator Selena Bemak will serve as the project lead and primary host of Resurrecting Voices. Director of Genealogy Programs and Services Katy Bodenhorn Barnes will co-host select segments with a genealogical perspective. A contracted audio and research technician will record and edit each episode, in addition to conducting research. Each episode will feature a guest speaker.

HSP is seeking a Project Advisor, who will provide scholarly direction for Resurrecting Voices. The Project Advisor will meet with speakers, establish talking points for each episode, identify areas of deeper research for content development, and perform other duties as needed.
Scope of Work
The Project Advisor will be instrumental in ensuring the historical integrity of the podcast. Responsibilities include:

1. **Content Development**
   - Provide guidance on selecting relevant themes and topics related to 19th and 20th century Philadelphia Black history
   - Identify collections from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Library of Congress for research
   - Advise on incorporating diverse perspectives and narratives into the podcast

2. **Research and Fact-Checking**:
   - Conduct preliminary research on 19th and 20th century Black history in Philadelphia
   - Assist in verifying historical facts, dates, and events mentioned in each episode
   - Offer recommendations for additional readings or resources to enhance the podcast’s scholarly foundation

3. **Script Review and Feedback**:
   - Develop talking points for each podcast episode
   - Review podcast scripts for historical accuracy, clarity, and coherence
   - Provide constructive feedback on the content, structure, and overall narrative of each episode
   - Ensure that the podcast respects the cultural nuances of the subject matter

4. **Other**:
   - Participate in bi-monthly meetings with the podcast production team to discuss project progress
   - Attend and present at Summer Fuse (in-person or virtual), hosted by the Library of Congress on July 18 & 19 [optional]

Compensation
The Project Advisor role offers a competitive compensation of $1,800 per episode. The project is expected to have up to five episodes in total. The Project Advisor will be contracted from July 2023 through April 2024.

Application Submission
Interested individuals are requested to submit the following:
   - Resume or curriculum vitae
   - Cover letter which details your interest in the project and your familiarity with HSP’s and LOC’s collections, and describes how your background aligns with the role of the Project Advisor
   - Name and contact information for two professional references

Application Timeline
- Proposal Submission Deadline: July 5
- Evaluation Period: July 5 through July 12
- Selection and Contracting: July 12, 2023 through April 12, 2024

Please submit your application materials in PDF format via email to sbemak@hsp.org no later than **Wednesday, July 5**. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Selena Bemak at sbemak@hsp.org or 215-982-2395.