

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ARIZONA HUMANITIES ANNOUNCES SPRING GRANT AWARDS**

*\$44,400 in Project Grants Awarded to 7 Organizations*

*\$6,596 in Mini Grants Awarded to 4 Organizations*

**PHOENIX, AZ** – Arizona Humanities is pleased to announce the spring Project Grant and Mini Grant awards for humanities projects taking place in Arizona. These incredible projects tell meaningful stories about Arizona and bring communities together to explore important cultural and historical themes. The projects include: historic walking tours of the Tucson Barrio, interactive exhibitions, a festival about the culture of sheep herding, a celebration of books and Arizona authors, sharing the stories of LGBT veterans, and more.

Brenda Thomson, Arizona Humanities Executive Director shared, “Congratulations to all of the grant recipients. We’re very excited to support such diverse projects that impact communities across Arizona. The humanities not only share powerful stories and bring history to life, but they also challenge us to ask profound questions about the world we live and work in every day.”

Project Grants are awarded twice yearly and organizations can apply for up to \$10,000 in funding. The next Project Grants Letter of Intent deadline is May 1, 2017. Mini Grants are available on a rolling basis to support innovative public programs, and organizations can request up to \$2,000 in funding.

For questions regarding the grants application process, contact Samantha Anderson, Grants Manager at [sanderson@azhumanities.org](mailto:sanderson@azhumanities.org) or 602-257-0335. Information and grant applications can be accessed at [www.azhumanities.org](http://www.azhumanities.org).

Read more about each Project Grant and Mini Grant Below.

### **PROJECT GRANTS**

**Amerind Foundation, Inc. – Dragoon, AZ**

***Transnational Deep History: Human Connections and Archaeology in the Ancient Borderlands of Arizona***

**Total Project Grant Award: \$10,000**

*Project Director: Eric J. Kaldahl, 520-586-3666 / [ekaldahl@amerind.org](mailto:ekaldahl@amerind.org)*

Through a series of ten public programs and a new exhibition, the *Transnational Deep History: Human Connections and Archaeology in the Ancient Borderlands of Arizona and Northern Mexico* project allows participants to explore the ancient cultural heritage of Chihuahua,

Arizona, and New Mexico. The Transnational Deep History project will generate a new bilingual (English/Spanish) exhibit at the Amerind Museum and speaker series held in Dragoon, Benson, Douglas, Sierra Vista, Tucson, and Willcox, Arizona. Both formats explore the Indigenous cultures that flourished between 600 and 800 years ago in the modern day states of Chihuahua, Arizona, and New Mexico, allowing the opportunity to learn about the ancient Indigenous people who called this region home.

**Borderlands Theater – Tucson, AZ**

***Barrio Stories Project: Barrio Anita***

Total Project Grant Award: \$10,000

Project Director: Marc David Pinate, 520-882-8607 / [marc@borderlandstheater.org](mailto:marc@borderlandstheater.org)

Building off the success of the first *Barrio Stories Project* last March, the Borderlands Theater's *Barrio Stories Project: Barrio Anita* creates an immersive walking tour experience showcasing the history, heritage, and architecture of Tucson's Barrio Anita, shaped by research collected from historical archives, oral histories, expert consultations and community meetings with current and past Barrio Anita residents. This project will result in large informational kiosks, exhibition displays, and multi-media video projected on the walls of historic buildings. Audiences encounter these unique displays on their tour along with original spoken word performances, shadow puppetry, tour guides, and historical reenactments.

**Jewish History Museum / Holocaust History Center – Tucson, AZ**

***MyLife Archive: Tucson***

Total Project Grant Award: \$4,400

Project Director: Yanara Friedland, 520-670-9073 / [programs@jewishhistorymuseum.org](mailto:programs@jewishhistorymuseum.org)

The *MyLife* project from the Jewish History Museum serves as both a living archive and historical resource to shed light on the daily realities and impact of larger cultural and geopolitical changes in the region on individual lives. *MyLife* is looking to address populations affected by historical themes such as removal, cultural assimilation, and relocation in a direct, person-to-person manner, particularly Holocaust survivors and newly arrived refugees from the Middle East. Through this project, the Jewish History Museum hopes to identify shared experiences between multiple communities and to invite interested participants to record their life story and co-create a *MyLife* biographical document to be highlighted in a community conversations series.

**Museum of Northern Arizona Center – Flagstaff, AZ**

***Heritage Insights Series: Zuni, Hopi & Navajo Festivals***

Total Project Grant Award: \$5,000

Project Director: Anne Franke, 928-774-5211 / [development@musnaz.org](mailto:development@musnaz.org)

The Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) Heritage Insights series at the 27th Annual Zuni, 84th Annual Hopi, and 68th Annual Navajo Festivals of Arts & Culture strengthens MNA's institutional initiative of celebrating the cultural diversity of the Colorado Plateau by promoting cross-cultural understanding and increasing appreciation of the artistry, history, and cultural heritage of the Zuni, Hopi, and Navajo tribes. At each festival, the Heritage Insights program is complimented by live musical and dance performances; a vibrant artists market that includes demonstrations from both traditional and contemporary indigenous artists and presentations by

tribal experts, scholars, educators, and elders allowing attendees to learn directly from source communities.

**Old Pueblo Archaeology Center– Tucson, AZ**

***Who Are The Sobaipuri O'odham?***

**Total Project Grant Award: \$5,000**

*Project Director: Dr. Deni Seymour, 505-934-3364 / [denijseymour@aol.com](mailto:denijseymour@aol.com)*

Through the creation of a video, interactive lectures and discussions, the Old Pueblo Archaeology Center strives to promote understanding of the human experience through the eyes of the Wa:k O'odham and their ancestors. Using discussions and interviews with Wa:k O'odham community members, the video and subsequent discussions will highlight the issues of how public policy, politics, and economic interest have influenced our understanding of the Wa:k O'odham and how their heritage has been shaped and in some cases erased.

**Southwest Folklife Alliance– Tucson, AZ**

***Taste Bud Memories***

**Total Project Grant Award: \$5,000**

*Project Director: Leia Maahs, 520-621-4046 / [lejamaahs@email.arizona.edu](mailto:lejamaahs@email.arizona.edu)*

*Taste Bud Memories* is a series of public engagement activities, short digital stories and a documentary film focusing on local food and refugees in Tucson, AZ. The project aims to promote understanding of refugees' experiences by connecting food resources, local geography and the public at large in a broader discourse about food and food security through people's individual stories about food. Public programs include harvests, potlucks, cooking demonstrations, film screenings, scholar's panel, and story circle salons; the end products of *Taste Bud Memories* will be a series of digital stories, a documentary film and an online cook book.

**Tucson Botanical Gardens– Tucson, AZ**

***Food Traditions and Favorite Recipes from Tucson's Mexican-Americans***

**Total Project Grant Award: \$5,000**

*Project Director: Dr. Juliet Niehaus, 520-326-9686 / [horttherapy@tucsonbotanical.org](mailto:horttherapy@tucsonbotanical.org)*

Tucson Botanical Gardens (TBG) partners with the Catholic Social Services (CSS) senior nutrition programs to gather favorite recipes from Mexican-American seniors at El Pueblo Senior Center and the community at large. These are to be shared with the community through events hosted by TBG and CSS in September 2018, at which contributors will convey their unique ethnic and family stories through their recipes and discussion of newly emergent Tucson traditions of Mexican cuisine, resulting in the creation of a bilingual booklet of recipes. The project strives to contribute to the building of a diverse local community by bringing Mexican seniors and the community at large together to celebrate the ethnic traditions of the growing Tucson community.

**MINI GRANTS**

**Arizona Historical Society– Flagstaff, AZ**

***Flag Wool and Fiber Festival 2017***

**Total Project Grant Award: \$1,996**

*Project Director: Sacha Siskonen, 928-774-6272 / [ssiskonen@azhs.gov](mailto:ssiskonen@azhs.gov)*

Located at the Pioneer Museum in Flagstaff, the Flag Wool and Fiber Festival bridges the divide that sometimes crops up between the arts and the humanities. Sheep herding is a part of Arizona history and indigenous communities have long-standing traditions of herding sheep and using their wool to create beautiful textiles. At the festival, artisans and demonstrators connect the history to the art through their textiles and fiber arts creations, keeping these traditions alive. The Flag Wool and Fiber Festival, held the first weekend in June, brings together wool growers, artisans and fiber-related vendors to share their knowledge and experience creating goods using natural materials grown in Arizona. Educational demonstrations are ongoing throughout the festival, and more in-depth workshops are offered by experienced teachers on both Saturday and Sunday.

**Arizona Jewish Historical Society– Phoenix, AZ**  
***Phoenix Jewish Documentary Film Series - Spring 2017***

**Total Project Grant Award: \$600**

*Project Director: Dr. Lawrence David Bell, 602-241-7870 / [lbell@azjhs.org](mailto:lbell@azjhs.org)*

The Jewish Documentary Film Series consists of screening a series of documentary films relating to Jewish history or culture over the course of Spring 2017. The series promotes awareness and dialogue about people of diverse cultures and a greater awareness of history in particular through documentary film. The project's goal is for members of the public to gain insight into Jewish history and culture, and to promote greater understanding and respect between people of different races, religions, and cultures.

**Arizona Press Women Inc. dba Arizona Professional Writers – Payson, AZ**  
***Payson Book Festival***

**Total Project Grant Award: \$2,000**

*Project Director: Connie Jean Cockrell, 928-478-6793 / [connie.cockrell@gmail.com](mailto:connie.cockrell@gmail.com)*

Beginning in 2015 the now annual Payson Book Festival promotes literacy and showcases AZ authors. Presented by the Rim Country Chapter of Arizona Professional Writers, this free community event is a celebration of books for all ages but especially children and families. A variety of activities will beckon visitors to enjoy author presentations, workshops and panel discussions where they can exchange ideas and quench a hidden thirst for literature. The third Payson Book Festival, themed "Reading takes us to amazing places" is scheduled for July, 22nd, 2017 at the Mazatzal Hotel and Casino ballroom and a portion of the proceeds will benefit college scholarship funds for local students.

**Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation - Southern Arizona Senior Pride – Tucson, AZ**  
***Serving with Honor, not Equality: LGBT Veterans, World War II to Now***

**Total Project Grant Award: \$2,000**

*Project Director: Lavina Effie Tomer, 520-312-8923 / [soazseniorpride@gmail.com](mailto:soazseniorpride@gmail.com)*

As part of a 2016-2017 series to promote understanding and appreciation of LGBTQ contributions to culture and history, on April 2 Southern Arizona Senior Pride will present the journeys of LGBT veterans and LGBT service members from World War II to the present. This event includes a screening and discussion of *Coming Out Under Fire*, an award-winning documentary about Gay Men and Women in World War II with independent producer Arthur Dong (a documentary filmmaker on LGBTQ and Asian American issues). Continuing the



history of Gays in uniform, local LGBT veterans will tell moving stories about serving before, during and after “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”. Through this program, Southern Arizona Senior Pride hopes to illuminate a part of history that has not been visible or understood and strengthen the cultural life of Southern Arizona.

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## **Arizona Humanities**

<http://www.azhumanities.org>

*Mission: Arizona Humanities builds a just and civil society by creating opportunities to explore our shared human experiences through discussion, learning and reflection.*

Arizona Humanities is a statewide 501(c)3 non-profit organization and the Arizona affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Since 1973, Arizona Humanities has supported public programs that promote understanding of the human experience with cultural, educational, and non-profit organizations across Arizona.