



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

DIVISION OF PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

Narrative Section of a Successful Application

The attached document contains the grant narrative of a previously funded grant application. It is not intended to serve as a model, but to give you a sense of how a successful application may be crafted. Every successful application is different, and each applicant is urged to prepare a proposal that reflects its unique project and aspirations. Prospective applicants should consult the NEH Division of Preservation and Access application guidelines at <http://www.neh.gov/divisions/preservation> for instructions. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to consult with the NEH Division of Preservation and Access staff well before a grant deadline.

Note: The attachment only contains the grant narrative, not the entire funded application. In addition, certain portions may have been redacted to protect the privacy interests of an individual and/or to protect confidential commercial and financial information and/or to protect copyrighted materials.

Project Title: Preserving the Past, Planning the Future

Institution: Hula Preservation Society

Project Director: Keau George

Grant Program: Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

Project: Preserving the Past, Planning the Future

A. What activity (or activities) would the grant support?

Since 2000, Hula Preservation Society (HPS) has been building a one-of-a-kind repository preserving the voices of our esteemed native elders, through conducting oral histories that capture their lives, careers, wisdom, insights, and knowledge, and gathering associated tangible elements of those lives shared from their personal collections. The resulting HPS Archive was formally established in 2013.

This grant will support three complementary activities – assessment, education and training, and supply purchase. The primary activity is a General Preservation Assessment of the physical collections, to be conducted by Consultant Jeanne Drewes. The resulting report will offer recommendations for collections care, policies and practices, storage and handling, environmental conditions, and disaster planning.

Secondarily, the grant will assist in education and training of core team members through webinars, a cost-effective strategy given our geographic isolation. Chosen courses will focus on preservation and care of collections and are offered through the American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (AIC) and the Association of Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS).

Finally, environmental dataloggers will be purchased and training completed through the Greater Hudson Heritage Network, and storage boxes will be purchased per the consultant’s preliminary supplies list.

B. What are the content and size of the humanities collections that are the focus of the project?

The humanities collections that comprise the HPS Archive are the focus. They encompass the oral history sharing and materials contributions of over 100 elders. The elders were born in the 19-teens, 20s, and 30s, and as a result, readily embody and seamlessly interweave dance, cultural traditions, history, poetry, art, literature, philosophy, religion, socio-economic impacts, music, composition, changes in their mother tongue, and. As Hawaii State Archivist Adam Jansen states in his support letter, “HPS’s holdings capture and communicate over 100 years of lived experiences from throughout the islands – through the eyes of Native Hawaiians – reaching back to the late 19th century, through the pivotal time of the Territory of Hawaii and World War II, Statehood, and the Hawaiian Renaissance that took hold in the 1970s.” The Oral History Library forms the foundation of the Archive and contains 1st-person accounts of life during this pivotal century. Such primary source materials exist nowhere else and offer incomparable inter-disciplinary breadth and scope.

The archive contains approximately 30,000 items including:

- Moving images (2000 - present) - oral histories with over 100 elders, and documentation of associated presentations, performances, award/recognition events; Includes corresponding transcripts
- Photographs (1880s – present); 35mm slides (1940s - 1980s) of Hawaii landscapes, prominent figures, public events, major island activities, military happenings, and family images
- Photo albums and scrapbooks from the 1930s - 1950s of articles, magazine clippings, and pictures of Hawaii landscapes, prominent entertainers/ musicians, public events, and tourism marketing materials
- Papers & manuscripts dating back to the 1930s including newspapers, handwritten literary works, song sheets, choreography, stories, teaching materials, and career papers of elders
- Records of varying formats (78rpm, 45rpm and 33 1/3 LPs) from the late 1930s - 1970s
- Textiles including traditional hula attire dating back to the 1920s
- Artifacts including hula implements & instruments dating back to the 1940s
- Books on a wide variety of topics - many of which are no longer in print – including hula, Hawaiian history & culture, Statehood, traditional and modern Hawaii life, plants, customs, music, Hawaii politics, legends, island histories, and prominent people (politicians, academics, practitioners, etc.)
- Audiovisual materials including early film reels (1930s), magnetic audio reels (1940s - 1950s), and cassette and micro cassette tapes (1970s - 1990s) encompassing interviews and performances

We highlight the following three collections at HPS and their significance in the humanities arena:

Nona Beamer Collection - Nona Beamer (1923-2008) was a respected and beloved Hawaiian leader. As a teacher, performer, composer, author, community trailblazer, and arts educator, she spent her life promoting and teaching inclusion, perseverance, positive values, and lifelong learning – through the cornerstone Hawaiian -yet universal value- *Aloha*. Beamer was born at a challenging time in the islands – the conflicting cross-section of Hawaii and America. She struggled with being called a “half-breed” – Hawaiian and Caucasian blood - yet she persevered to become a leader who embraced the many nationalities and ethnicities she came to know and love over her 83 years. **DETAIL:** 4,000 photographs (early 1900s - 20th century); 60 linear ft of teaching papers, newspaper clippings, Hawaiian culture, history, language, music, and dance articles, unpublished and published stories, Hawaiian song lyrics, and Native Hawaiians Study Commission documents (from Beamer’s work as a Presidentially-appointed commissioner); 125 audio cassettes of interviews, lectures, and musical performances (1970s - 1980s); old-format video of hula methods from teachers in the family; film reels from 1931 taken by family friend and New York dance teacher Vivienne Mader showing hula, island scenes, and performances.

D. Howard Hitchcock Collection - D. Howard Hitchcock (1861-1943) was a world-renowned painter with over 1,200 documented pieces, and many of his human and landscape subjects were based on the photos he took that now reside at HPS. **DETAIL:** 400 fragile images from 1890-1926, capture life for average Hawaiians (i.e. commoners) across the islands in the late 1800s and early 1900s, a period of extreme turbulence post-1893 overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy, and the 1898 establishment of the Territory. The Hitchcock Collection was gifted by his great-grandchildren who understood the humanities value of the images and wished for them to be shared through and in conjunction with the larger work of HPS.

Kent Ghirard Collection - Kent Ghirard (1918-2011) founded and led the the Hula Nanis, a premiere hula troupe of the 1940s - 1950s that was a fixture in the USO, greetings of war ships at Pearl Harbor and commercial steam ships in Honolulu Harbor, performances for troops on base and in military hospitals, and Waikiki hotel shows. They were the “face” of Hawaii during wartime and the decade that followed when island populations expanded (mostly through increased military and tourist presence), forever changing Hawaii’s landscapes, demographics, societal norms, political power structures, and cross-cultural dynamics. **DETAIL:** 2,350 photos & 35mm slides from the late 1940s - 1960s reflecting island life as Statehood approached, Hawaii landscapes, leading music/ dance figures, his premier hula troupe; 600 scrapbook pages of vintage material such as menus, advertisements, pictures, newspaper stories, and magazine prints from the early 1930s - 1960s; Hula costumes and implements from the late 1940s - 1960s; old-format video library of Hawaii, Hawaiian culture, and island history-focused documentaries.

C. How are these humanities collections used?

HPS’s humanities collections usage is three-pronged: 1) Programming, 2) Research, and 3) Sharing.

1) PUBLIC PROGRAMMING: Since 2001, HPS has hosted over 50 public programs on five islands and the U.S. Continent. We regularly partner with larger institutions for the purpose of community education and public programming, and our collaborators provide the venues and/or larger events we become a part of, and (most of the) marketing work, and HPS provides content leadership. Then with our partners, we select and prepare humanities materials from the collections, which typically surround a particular humanities theme/subject. This approach has allowed us to offer quality programming for nearly 20 years. Here are a few highlights:

- Honolulu Museum of Art – Digital screening of two historic 16mm films for the landmark “Hooulu Lahui: The King Kalakaua Era” exhibit. HPS led the digitization, re-editing, and subsequent honoring of the foremost exponent of hula – Iolani Luahine – on the 40th anniversary of her passing. (2018)
- Hawaii State Art Museum – Served as advisor on hula exhibit planning committee, provided hula artifacts, and edited 20 oral history segments of hula masters for the photo portion. (2008-2009)
- Bishop Museum – Served as advisor on planning committee of the Museum’s first-ever exhibit focused on hula, provided archival photos, and performed traditional hula for opening ceremonies. (2003)

- Honolulu Museum of Art – Recreated a 1948 program presented by Nona Beamer intended to educate audiences on authentic hula, during a time when hula was cast as simply a tourist dance, and not recognized for the true language and cultural preservation mechanism it is. The 1948 concert launched a 14-month educational tour of the continental U.S. with Beamer and her troupe. Original program printed in the newspaper and associated images and articles reside in the Beamer Collection. (2001)
- Brigham Young University-Hawaii – Digital preservation of inaccessible, old-format moving images featuring Hawaiian community leaders who were elders in the time of the Hawaiian Renaissance that began in the 1970s (2015-2018). These (now) digital moving images can be accessed free of charge with complete metadata on HPS’s Vimeo site: www.vimeo.com/channels/namakua
- Maui Arts & Cultural Center – Lecture/performance-style educational program focused on the rare, ancient form of storytelling called Hula Kii. Old format video, photos, and audio from the HPS Archive were woven throughout the program before a full house. (2017)
- World Conference on Hula - Over five world events, HPS presented 18 panel discussions, talk-stories, and workshops with native elders focused on their upbringings, lives in hula, changes in Hawaii, teachings, thoughts/insights. Q&A with audience always included. (2001, 2005, 2009, 2014, 2018)
- Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts – Collaborated on photo exhibit and concert focused on the 1950s and “typical” activities and cultural goings-on in the pivotal era for Hawaii. (2008)
- New York Botanical Garden – Partnered to present HPS’s documentary film “The Hawaiian Room” on the final day of the historic 5-month “Georgia O’Keeffe Visions of Hawaii” exhibit. The film explores the social and cultural impacts during the 30-year period (1937-1966) when young Hawaiian men and women were hired to share Hawaiian music and dance in New York City. (2018)
- Maui Arts & Cultural Center – Lecture/performance-style educational program focused on the musical and hula histories of the island of Maui. Old format video, photos, and audio from the HPS Archive were woven throughout the program held to a capacity crowd in the theatre. (2014)
- Mayor’s Office on Culture & the Arts, Windward Community College, Hawaii State Library, Volcano Arts Center, Maui Arts & Cultural Center – Photo exhibits and associated public programs with original artists from the renowned New York City venue, the Hawaiian Room. (2012-present)
- Pahoa Community Museum – Installed 30-piece photo exhibit with images culled from the Kent Ghirard Collection to showcase how Hawaii was being marketed to the world in the 1950s. (2008-2010)
- University of Hawaii-Hilo – Presented 10 public programs focused on a variety of topics, including renowned composer and hula master, Helen Desha Beamer, the ancient form of storytelling called Hula Kii, four ancient hula types brought to life through our youth, and the Hawaiian Room of New York City. Each program incorporated video, photos, and audio from the HPS Archive. (2008-2019)
- National Museum of the American Indian – Invited to collaborate for the purpose of presenting the rare storytelling form, Hula Kii, to audiences during the 2020 Hawaii Cultural Festival. Lectures, workshops, and performances will be included. Kii support materials (video of deceased masters sharing this form, old photos, and audio) from the HPS Archive are included in every such kii program.

2) ACADEMIC RESEARCH: College students from various disciplines have visited HPS for research. Masters candidates from the University of Hawaii-Manoa, Oxford University, Stockholm University, and Stanford University, to name a few, have conducted in-depth research over periods from days to weeks. Thesis titles have included: “Kahuli: Uncovering Indigenous Ecological Knowledge to Conserve Endangered Hawaiian Land Snails,” “Value Formation and Cultural Transmission through Bodily Practices of Hawaiian Traditional Dance,” and “Native Hawaiian Identity in Hapa-Haole Music and Hula Performance.” As Dr. Kamana Beamer says in his support letter, “As a Professor, I am extremely appreciative the Archive exists as a place I can send my students who seek primary source materials.”

3) COLLECTIONS SHARING: HPS works to make materials freely available through various means:

- ONLINE: Starting in 2014, HPS partnered with the cultural repository – the Papakilo Database (papakilodatabase.com) – to share manuscript, photo, newspaper, and audio collections materials. Each of the over 1,200 records includes historical context, native elder contributions, and details relative to the item. Since its launch in 2011, the Papakilo repository has logged nearly 300,000 visits.

- ONLINE: In 2018, HPS launched a free streaming video library with 79 individual pieces from the humanities collections. In less than a year, the library was utilized nearly 35,000 times. (www.vimeo.com/HulaPreservationSociety)
- LIBRARIES: HPS created two DVD-based educational resources entitled “Voices of Our Kupuna” (2013) and “Hoohalia: Stories From Our Kupuna” (2018). Copies were distributed freely to all 51 public libraries and 106 high school and university libraries across the islands.

D. What is the nature and mission of your institution?

"Preserving the Past, Sharing the Future"

HPS was established in 2000 to document the unique spirits, authentic voices and contributions of native elders born in the 19-teens, 20s, and 30s who were passing away with increasing rapidity around the end of the millennium. Oral histories were conducted with hula masters across the Hawaiian Islands. As our relationships blossomed, many elders chose to gift tangible elements from their personal collections that readily complemented and brought to life their 1:1 interviews. By 2013, the HPS Archive was born!

The commitment we made to our elders from day one was to share their stories, insights, wisdom, and experiences with current and future generations. They did not take the time and effort to share just to have something sit on a shelf or in a drawer. Making their collections available for research, education, and public programming is a top priority for HPS. The examples in section C. provide insight into some of our endeavors and accomplishments to that end.

The HPS Archive is located in the small town of Kaneohe on the Windward side of Oahu. It has 4 rooms—a workroom and 3 collections rooms, the latter of which total 436 square feet. The Archive is open over 225 days a year, Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm, Fridays 10am-2pm, and by appointment on weekends.

HPS has a small core team with only two full-time staff – Executive Director and Collections Manager - and a part-time Videographer/Editor. The rest of the work is accomplished with the help of student interns from the University of Hawaii’s Hawaiian Studies or Library Information Science graduate programs, community volunteers, and three primary elder guides. In any given year, we have between 8-10 volunteers at HPS, half of whom come in on a weekly basis. HPS operates primarily through grant funding supplemented by in-kind services. The operating budget for 2018 was \$155,000.

E. Has your institution ever had a preservation or conservation assessment or consultation?

HPS has not had an assessment before, but in 2012, we engaged the services of an archivist to assist us in developing initial archival processing and policy manuals, and provide hands-on training for our team in processing and sorting of raw materials, primarily in the realm of papers, manuscripts and photographs. The team felt reinforced to open the HPS Archive in 2013 upon the completion of the collaborative effort.

F. What is the importance of this project to your institution?

The focus for the last 18 years has been building the archive, and although this work still continues, long-term strategies for proper care of the treasured materials is of utmost importance.

In the last six years, we have worked to continually stabilize and rehouse materials, maintain a climate-controlled space, and build capacity. There is much to learn and do! The assessment will provide critical guidance and a foundation to move forward, and it will help inform HPS’s future grant-seeking priorities.

Education and training are ongoing at HPS. Due to our location in the middle of the Pacific, online learning is practical and cost-effective. Two team members will receive training through courses from the American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (AIC) and the Association of Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS). Both offered web courses in 2019 and have reassured us such courses will be available again in 2020.

AIC's *Collections Management for Smaller Institutions* 4-week course offers "essential aspects of collection management, from the acquisition and registration of objects through the care, use, and deaccessioning of objects." ALCTS conducts a *Fundamentals of Preservation* 4-week course offered four times/year with participants learning "the principles, policies and practices of preservation in libraries and archives." The knowledge gained through these courses will improve preservation practices as team members implement course teachings, recommendations, and strategies in collections management.

The procurement of three PEM2 environmental dataloggers will assist in assessing initial climate conditions of three rooms within the archive and provide reliable instruments going forward. To date, we have utilized lower-tech means to track temperature and humidity. The dataloggers will provide accurate data which will assist in maintenance of the HVAC system and potential re-organizing of collections. To implement the loggers, team members will take two educational webinars: *Developing an Environmental Monitoring Program* and *Using the PEM2 and its Software for Monitoring the Environment*. Final line item is a set of storage boxes recommended by the consultant to assist in housing newly donated items.

G. What are the names and qualifications of the consultant(s) and staff involved in the project?

Project Director: Keau George – Ms. George has been with HPS since 2011 and has been Collections Manager since the Archive's establishment in 2013. She earned a B.A in Hawaiian Pacific Studies from the University of Hawaii-West Oahu and has worked with non-profits for over 15 years. In 2016, she earned a Digital Archive Specialist certification from the Society of American Archivists and served on the Association of Hawaii Archivists Board from 2015-2018. Ms. George continues to seek learning opportunities and education in the archival arena and regularly attends conferences and workshops. She has presented at the Association for Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums (ATALM) conference.

Consultant: Jeanne Drewes - HPS will collaborate with Ms. Drewes for the General Preservation Assessment. She works at the United States Library of Congress as Chief of Binding and Collections Care in the Preservation Directorate, and as Manager for the Mass Deacidification Program. She earned an M.A.L.S. from the University of Missouri and in the last 30 years has worked with numerous organizations (exs. AIC, FAIC, ALCTS, IFLA), presented at conferences, published papers, been a grant writer and reviewer for NEH and IMLS, and most recently received the ALA ALCTS Ross Atkinson Lifetime Achievement award.

H. What is the work plan for the project?

August 2019: HPS will contact consultant Jeanne Drewes and sign an agreement for services.

September 2019: HPS will order and install 3 PEM2 dataloggers and register for the free eClimate Notebook subscription. Team members will view Greater Hudson Heritage Network webinars.

October-December 2019: 1) Virtual pre-visit survey conducted by Ms. Drewes, with assistance from Ms. George using Skype/FaceTime. Pre-survey document will be submitted to HPS for discussion. 2) HPS will schedule Ms. Drewes' flight from D.C to Honolulu.

January-March 2020: 3-day visit by Ms. Drewes (*add'l 2 days for travel to & from*) to conduct a general review of site (incl. climate and layout), collections assessment (physical states, housings, etc.), review of preservation practices, processes, and policies, staff interviews, and present preliminary findings.

February-November 2020: Two team members will take web courses - Ass'n of Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) & American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (AIC).

April-June 2020: Ms. Drewes will draft a General Preservation Assessment Report and submit it to HPS.

July 2020: Assessment report will be finalized between Consultant Drewes & HPS. A final report will be submitted by HPS to NEH, along with required reporting and financial accounting. Project completed.