Of the People Offers New Round of Grants

BY LOLA PYNE

The Library has opened the second round of grant opportunities available through its Of the People: Widening the Path multi-year initiative.

Launched in January 2021 and supported by a gift from the Mellon Foundation, Of the People creates opportunities for more Americans to engage with the Library and add their perspectives to the collections, allowing the national library to share a more inclusive American story. The newly opened grant opportunities, designed and administered by Library staff, focus on cultural field research in diverse communities and digital storytelling.

Community Collections Grants

The Library is offering a second round of grants to document cultures and traditions of Black, Indigenous, Hispanic or Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and other communities of color historically under-represented in the U.S. and in the Library’s collections.

Administered by the American Folklife Center (AFC), the Community Collections grant program offers opportunities for individuals and organizations to document experiences from their own perspectives while enriching the Library’s holdings with diverse materials featuring creativity and knowledge found at the local level. Applications for the 12-month grants will be accepted through Aug. 1. Up to 10 grants are available

Chauncey Awarded Kluge Prize

The Columbia University historian is a trailblazer in LGBTQ+ studies.

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced this week that historian George Chauncey will receive the 2022 John W. Kluge Prize for Achievement in the Study of Humanity. Chauncey is the DeWitt Clinton professor of American history at Columbia University, a position he has held since 2017, and he directs the Columbia Research Institute on the Global History of Sexualities.

"Professor Chauncey’s trailblazing career gave us all better insight into, and understanding of, the LGBTQ+ community and history," Hayden said. "His work that helped transform our nation’s attitudes and laws epitomizes the Kluge Center’s mission to support research at the intersection of the humanities and public policy. He [is] the perfect choice to receive the 2022 Kluge Prize."

The Kluge Prize recognizes individuals whose outstanding scholarship in the humanities and social sciences has shaped public affairs and civil society. Chauncey is the first scholar in LGBTQ+ studies to receive the prize.

NOTICES

DONATED TIME
The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Amy McAllister at amcallister@loc.gov.
Lynette Brown

REQUIRED RECORDS MANAGEMENT TRAINING
The Records Management Basic Awareness 2022 training course is available through LOC Learn. All Library staff members, as well as all contractors, interns and volunteers who handle Library records, are required to take the course by Sept. 9. It takes about one hour to complete.
Per LCR 5-810, “Records Management,” each year all Library personnel are required to complete the course. LCR 5-810 also requires all new Library personnel to complete the course within 30 days of their start date.
For questions about the course content, contact the Records Management Division at records@loc.gov. For technical assistance in accessing the course, submit a request through AskHCD.
More information about records management is available here.

NO GAZETTE JULY 8
The Gazette will not publish on July 8 because of the federal July 4 holiday. Publication will resume on July 15.

COPYRIGHT OFFICE REPORTS ON WOMEN AUTHORS
The Copyright Office has released “Women in the Copyright System: An Analysis of Women Authors in Copyright Registrations from 1978 to 2020,” a report on women’s authorship as documented by copyright registrations between 1978 and 2020. Women represented 27.9% of authors of works registered in 1978 and 38.5% of authors of works registered in 2020.
In connection with the report’s release, the Copyright Office is providing a reference data set in XML format containing information from roughly 20 million copyright registration records.
Read more about the report and the data set here.

CORRECTION
The caption to the “From the Archives” photo in the June 17 issue incorrectly stated the sponsoring organization of the Library’s AIDS Memorial Quilt panel. The panel was sponsored by the Library of Congress Professional Association.

GAZETTE

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The Library’s central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.
ABOUT THE GAZETTE
An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.
Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at loc.gov/staff/gazette.
GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF
Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.
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GAZETTE DEADLINES
The deadline for editorial copy for the July 15 Gazette is Wednesday, July 6.
Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.
To promote events through the Library’s online calendar (www.loc.gov/loc/events) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to calendar@loc.gov by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.
Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

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Copyright Office Reports on Women Authors
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Summertime COVID Travel Safety

Kids are out of school, and the weather is nice – summertime is a great time to relax and recharge your batteries. As summer travel season approaches, the Health Services Division (HSD) provides the following COVID-related safety tips to ensure you have a healthy and fun summer vacation.

• Do not travel if you are sick.
• Make sure you are up to date with your COVID vaccinations prior to travel.
• Check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) guidance on COVID levels at your destination and prepare for any restrictions based on those levels. For U.S. destinations: CDC COVID Data Tracker: County View; for international destinations: COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Destination.
• There is no longer a requirement to test prior to entering the United States. HSD does, however, recommend testing three to five days after you return from travel.
• Wear a mask when you are in crowded indoor spaces. Gather outdoors when possible and consider getting tested before gathering indoors or around vulnerable individuals.
• Review the Library’s daily health screening tool and follow the reporting instructions before you return to work on-site after travel.

Questions? Contact HSD at hso@loc.gov.

New Integrated Support Services Director Appointed

As of this week, Integrated Support Services (ISS) has a new director: Patrice M. Higgins. She is responsible for infrastructure support at the Library, including the Facility Services, Safety Services, Health Services, Operations and Logistics Services divisions. She will also work closely with the superintendent of the Architect of the Capitol to coordinate operations and maintenance of Library buildings and grounds, and she will oversee a large contract workforce performing custodial, mail, freight and food services.

“We are fortunate and excited to have Ms. Higgins leading ISS,” Edward Jablonksi, the Library’s chief operating officer, said in announcing Higgins’ appointment. “Her impressive professional background provides the experience and expertise to ensure these vital services supporting the mission of the Library continue to be dynamic and overcome all challenges.”

“ISS is integral to the operations of the Library of Congress, and I am delighted to serve as the director,” Higgins said. “I will endeavor to bring energy, focus and accountability to the position as the directorate delivers customer-driven solutions to our internal and external stakeholders.”

Prior to coming to the Library, Higgins served as executive director of the U.S. Coast Guard Base National Capital Region, where she led 198 federal employees and military personnel in providing mission support. Higgins is also a supply corps officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve and holds the rank of captain. She is currently serving as commanding officer with the Navy Reserve’s Fleet Logistics Center in Norfolk, Virginia.

Over her career, which includes 20 years of experience with departments of Defense and Homeland Security activities and agencies, she has developed extensive expertise in facilities and building management, logistics, administration, human resources and financial and information management.

A native of Lyons, Georgia, Higgins holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Alabama A&M University; a master’s degree in business administration from Georgia College and State University; and a master’s degree in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

Higgins succeeds Elizabeth Scheffler, who retired in January. Jablonksi expressed his gratitude to Lemoyne Blackshear for her dedication and outstanding accomplishments over the past several months in her role as acting director of ISS.

Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/
Unique Pandemic-Themed Pulp Paper Art Acquired

The works draw on Hindu mythology to make sense of the pandemic.

BY WENDI A. MALONEY

Within weeks of COVID-19 upending nearly everything in March 2020, the Library started taking steps to document the pandemic’s impact on life in America and around the globe. More than two years on, a huge amount of material – photographs, web content, music, artwork and more – has been amassed, offering a window into how people have responded to this testing time.

Recently, the Prints and Photographs Division (P&P) added another stellar acquisition to the mix: two striking pulp paper paintings by the distinguished Maryland artist Helen C. Frederick, founder of the state’s Pyramid Atlantic Art Center.

She is well known for her use of hand papermaking as a creative medium and for her large-scale works. The newly acquired paintings, “Sanjeevani Black” and “Sanjeevani Red” measure 24 by 42 inches each.

“These are unique artworks whose essential composition and message rely on the artist’s use of handmade pulp paper, along with collage and hand drawing,” Katherine Blood, P&P curator of fine prints, said.

Frederick created the Sanjeevani paintings in 2021 to help herself make sense of what she was feeling and experiencing during the pandemic. To do so, she drew on an ancient Sanskrit epic, “The Ramayana,” composed by the Indian sage Valmiki around 200 B.C.

In the story, when King Rama’s brother, Lakshmana, is wounded in battle, the Hindu monkey god Hanuman sets off to find the life-saving herb Sanjeevani on Mount Dronagiri, where it was known to grow. Hanuman can’t find Sanjeevani, so he brings the entire mountain back to save Lakshmana.

In one of Frederick’s Sanjeevani paintings, she shows Hanuman as a white silhouette flying against a red background, carrying a mountain. In the other, Hanuman is a black figure on a white background, again carrying a mountain, but this time also surrounded by swirling vaccination needles, leaves and a maze.

“The mountain is left in fire, trees are damaged, leaves are falling off and needles are coming at him,” Frederick said of the painting in a conversation with Blood last summer.

As an artist, Frederick often deploys her virtuoso command of technical and aesthetic language to create beauty “as a gateway to challenging subject matter,” Blood said.

The Sanjeevani paintings are no exception. “Helen Frederick’s witnessing is not passive,” Blood added. “It is an open invitation to look and think together and carefully consider forward purpose, impact and action.”

Not only do the paintings complement the Library’s pandemic-related collections, but they also fill a gap of sorts in P&P’s holdings.

“Pulp paper artworks are a relative rarity in P&P’s collections,” Blood said.

She conferred with Jonathan Loar, the Asian Division’s South Asia reference specialist, in acquiring Frederick’s work.

“There are rich research connections to Hindu mythology in the paintings,” Blood said. “Jonathan was enthusiastically supportive of P&P’s acquisition of these compelling and meaningful artworks.”

View the paintings here. ■
Celia Roskin

Celia Roskin is an administrative support assistant for the Literacy Awards program in the Professional Learning and Outreach Initiatives office of the Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement.

Tell us about your background.

I was born and raised in Durham, North Carolina. From a young age, I was immersed in a diverse and artistic community. Growing up, I attended a magnet school for the arts and fell in love with acting and the theater. Eventually, I began coaching acting classes; through them, I discovered my passion for teaching. These experiences led me to pursue a career in education. I attended Elon University, where I graduated with my bachelor’s in elementary education.

What brought you to the Library, and what do you do?

When I completed college in 2020, I was unsure of what I wanted to pursue professionally, although I knew I was interested in working in nontraditional educational environments. Coincidentally, I heard about internships in the Library’s Young Readers Center and Programs Lab from a friend and knew that was a perfect fit for me. I interned the summer after college graduation, then I served as a Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) intern in the fall. Through both internships, I became enamored with the Library and knew it was the institution where I ultimately wanted to land.

Before very happily making my way back to the Library this year, however, I interned for two members of Congress on Capitol Hill, and I worked briefly as an executive assistant at the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

I currently serve as an administrative support assistant to the Literacy Awards program in the Professional Learning and Outreach Initiatives office. I assist with the application process for the awards and overall maintenance of the program and help to coordinate events and outreach.

After only five months on the job, I feel fortunate to be where I am and enjoy working with all my fantastic colleagues.

What are some of your standout projects?

As a TPS Intern, I had the incredible opportunity to design interdisciplinary learning activities to enable teachers to use primary sources to compare the 1918 Spanish influenza outbreak to the COVID-19 pandemic. My research for the project was published on the Teaching with the Library of Congress blog, and it will be featured in Young Readers Center programming starting this summer.

For the Literacy Awards program, I have enjoyed facilitating conversations with our advisory board, helping to run a webinar series honoring our 2021 Literacy Awards winners, creating a StoryMap featuring winners and helping to mentor new TPS interns — it’s all coming full circle!

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

Like many people, I tried picking up more hobbies during the pandemic. As the weather gets warmer, you might see me painting in the park (I recently discovered an interest in watercolor painting), grabbing a coffee in an attempt to fulfill my personal mission to find the best cafe in D.C. or hiking in Harpers Ferry.

What is something your coworkers may not know about you?

When I was in the fourth grade, I entered a YouTube contest where I had to make a short video about my favorite book. I chose “The Thief Lord” by Cornelia Funke and created a talk show-style video where I interviewed characters from the book. I won the contest ($500 for me and $1,000 for my school library) and attribute my love of reading, filmmaking and acting to this experience. I went on to pursue acting in high school, and now I have an IMDB page and auditioned for Stranger Things!
cases related to LGBTQ+ rights. These include such landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases as Romer v. Evans (1996), Lawrence v. Texas (2003) and the marriage equality cases United States v. Windsor (2013) and Obergefell v. Hodges (2015).

Past Kluge Prize winner and Harvard historian Drew Gilpin Faust said Chauncey has entirely revised our understanding of LGBTQ+ history in the United States and in so doing has established it as one of the most vibrant fields of current historical inquiry. “Through his testimony in numerous court cases, he has brought the meaning of his work into the public sphere and has contributed in powerful ways to the establishment of marriage equality,” Faust said.

Faust also noted that Chauncey’s “generous mentorship of students and younger colleagues represents a signal contribution in and of itself.”

“Gay New York,” released during the 25th anniversary of the LGBTQ+ rights protests at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, looks at the gay community in New York City before World War II. It draws on newspapers, police records, oral histories, diaries and other primary sources to show that the gay world was much more vibrant and visible than previously believed and that the boundary between straight and gay behavior was permeable, especially among working-class men.

“Gay New York” won numerous prizes for its scholarship, including the Frederick Jackson Turner Prize from the Organization of American Historians, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for History and the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Men’s Studies.

“Why Marriage?” draws on Chauncey’s extensive research prepared for court cases in which he provided expert testimony. It traces the history of both gay and antigay activism and discusses the origins of the modern struggle for gay marriage.

Legal historian Sarah Barringer Gordon said Chauncey’s “work gave rise to an entire new field … and has expanded into arenas that affect daily life, such as marriage equality.”

Chauncey has edited several books and journal issues, published numerous academic articles and written for news outlets including the New York Times, the Atlantic, the New Yorker and the Village Voice.

Historian Martha Jones praised Chauncey, calling him a “path-breaking, field-defining” historian of LGBTQ+ Americans, adding that “he is a publicly and politically engaged intellectual whose work in connection with the long course of marriage equality litigation was decisive.”

Chauncey received bachelor’s and doctorate degrees from Yale University, where he was the Samuel Knight professor of history and American studies from 2006 to 2017. He also held posts as chair of the History Department, chair of the Committee for LGBT Studies and director of graduate and undergraduate studies for the American studies program.

He was awarded Yale’s teaching prize for his lecture course on U.S. lesbian and gay history, which more than 300 students took the final time he offered it. Chauncey taught at the University of Chicago from 1991 through 2006 and has been a member of the New York Academy of History since 2007 and the Society of American Historians since 2005.

“I am deeply honored to receive the Kluge Prize and grateful that the Library of Congress has recognized the importance and vibrancy of the field of LGBTQ history,” Chauncey said.

The Library will collaborate with him to create programming to bring his expertise on LGBTQ+ history to the public and policymakers in an accessible, engaging way.

Awarded every two years, the international Kluge Prize highlights the value of researchers who communicate beyond the scholarly community and have had a major impact on social and political issues. The prize comes with a $500,000 award. Additional funds from the Library’s Kluge endowment, which funds the award, are being invested in Kluge Center programming.

Chauncey joins a prestigious group of past prizewinners, including Danielle Allen, the noted scholar of citizenship and democracy who received the prize in 2020; Faust, a former Harvard University president; philosopher Jürgen Habermas; Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former president of Brazil; and John Hope Franklin, the renowned scholar of African American history.

Hayden selected Chauncey from a short list of finalists following a request for nominations from scholars and leaders all over the world and a three-stage review process by experts in and outside the Library.

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To make a report, contact OIG via the online form at [www.loc.gov/about/office-of-the-inspector-general/contact-us/](http://www.loc.gov/about/office-of-the-inspector-general/contact-us/) or report by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.
for up to $50,000 each to fund field research within the targeted communities.

Community Collections grants support research that produces ethnographic cultural documentation, such as interviews of community members or audiovisual recordings of a cultural activity. AFC will archive the collections to preserve and showcase this rich and valuable cultural documentation, expanding its representation and inclusion of contemporary cultural expressions and traditions that may otherwise be absent from the national record.

The program is open to U.S.-based individual applicants and nonprofit organizations, including institutions of higher education, professional associations and community groups.

Of the People announced the inaugural recipients of Community Collections grants in March. Their projects include “Community on the Line: The Culture of R&B Urban Line Dancing in the Philadelphia, New Jersey and Delaware Tri-State Area”; “And We Are Still Here: Indigenous Culture Bearers of Houma Communities”; “Documenting the Stories, Agricultural Traditions and Culture of Specialty Coffee Farmers in Puerto Rico”; “Unearthing the Lost Songs of Kohala”; and more.

Connecting Communities Digital Initiative

The Library’s Connecting Communities Digital Initiative is also offering a second round of grants through Of the People for educational and cultural institutions that seek to amplify the stories of Black, Indigenous, Hispanic or Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and other communities of color by using the Library’s digital collections. The initiative focuses on ways technology can enable storytelling and expose more people to the Library’s expansive collections.

The funding opportunities include three grants for higher education institutions and three grants for libraries, archives or museums of up to $50,000 each. Applications will be accepted through Sept. 30.

Higher education grants support students and faculty and staff members in two- and four-year minority-serving colleges or universities who engage in projects that make significant and meaningful use of the Library’s digital collections to facilitate teaching and learning that benefits students, staff members or community members.

Grants in the libraries, archives and museums category support applicants who can demonstrate experience working with the community or group on which a project is centered and create a project that makes significant and meaningful use of the Library’s digital materials.

Applicants in both grant categories – higher education and libraries, archives and museums – must center the lives, experiences and perspectives of one or more of the following communities: Black, Indigenous, Hispanic or Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander or another community of color.

Of the People announced first-year recipients of the Connecting Communities Digital Initiative grants in May. The funded projects are “Harlem Renaissance Meets Huston-Tillotson University”; “Crafting Stories, Making History: The African American Experience in Covington, Kentucky”; and “Black Film Archive: Tenderness in Black Film.”

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A schedule of informational webinars for applicants is available on the Of the People site along with links to program information and application details. To receive notifications and updates about Of the People, subscribe to its blog.

CALENDAR

28 TUESDAY

Career Showcase: The Librarian of Congress and the deputy librarian for library collections and services will discuss the new associate librarian for researcher and collections services position. 1 p.m., online. Contact: jlof@loc.gov.

Webinar: Learn about the Law Library’s collections and other legal research subjects. 1 p.m., online. Contact: kgoles@loc.gov.

30 THURSDAY

Webinar: The Law Library will provide a basic overview of Congress. gov. 2 p.m., online. Contact: kgoles@loc.gov.

Live at the Library: Visit the Jefferson Building’s exhibits; enjoy food and drinks. 5 to 8:30 p.m., Great Hall. Tickets required. Contact: 7-8000.

Conversation: Washington Nationals pitcher Sean Doolittle will discuss his love for books with Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. 7 p.m., Coolidge Auditorium. Tickets required. Contact: 7-8000.