The Library of Congress is announcing Notices of Funding Opportunity (Notices) to award grants in support of projects that propose creative uses of the Library’s digital materials and that center the lives, perspectives, and experiences of Black, Indigenous, Hispanic or Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and other communities of color.

Grant opportunities are available for Libraries, Archives, Museums, and Minority-Serving Higher Education Institutions through two separate Notices that are open for applications June 7 – September 30, 2022 and can be accessed online at: www.loc.gov/programs/of-the-people/represent/connecting-communities-digital-initiative

**How to Apply**

Visit www.loc.gov/programs/of-the-people/represent/connecting-communities-digital-initiative for the full Notice of Funding Opportunity documents that contain detailed program and submission information. For more information, contact: LOC-grants@loc.gov

**Grants**

The Library of Congress intends to award three grants for the Libraries, Archives, Museums funding opportunity and three grants for the Higher Education funding opportunity. The Library’s intention is to make a total of six 12-month grant awards of up to $50,000 for each. The due date for applications is September 30, 2022.
The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world, with millions of books, recordings, photographs, newspapers, maps and manuscripts in its collections. The Library has dedicated significant resources to collecting born-digital materials and digitizing its tangible collections.

In January 2021, the Library announced a new initiative, Of the People: Widening the Path, that creates new opportunities for more Americans to engage with the Library and add their perspectives to the Library’s collections, allowing the national library to share a more inclusive American story. Of the People is supported through a gift from the Mellon Foundation.

The Library of Congress seeks to award Connecting Communities Digital Initiative grants to Libraries, Archives, Museums and Minority-Serving Higher Education Institutions to create digital and/or physical interfaces, publications or exhibits that incorporate Library of Congress digital materials into resources that meet local community needs. The aim is to support work that uses digital Library collections and centers the lives, experiences and perspectives of Black, Indigenous, Hispanic or Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander and other communities of color.

Background

The following list of examples is meant to inspire, but not limit the possibilities for what successful grants might include.

- A historical association proposes to create a collection of historic photographs combining Library of Congress and local collections, and invites the public to identify the people and sites in the photographs;
- A local museum proposes to collaborate with a documentary filmmaker in order to collect visual and manuscript materials from the Library’s collections relating to a particular group and incorporates oral histories and verbal traditions from group members into a film;
- An archive with local NAACP materials proposes to incorporate the Library’s NAACP collection into a book on the local chapter of the NAACP;
- A museum proposes to research movies set in their locale from the Library of Congress’ Moving Image Research Center and reproduce the movie posters for an exhibit;
- A librarian working with a teen club proposes to pull materials from the Library of Congress so that the club members can make graphic novels and zines;
- A public library proposes to plan a series of outdoor events for young people to create music and dances on TikTok using music from the Library’s Citizen DJ project.
The following list of examples is meant to inspire, but not limit the possibilities for what successful grants might include.

- A free online primary source collection or course pack on a particular topic designed for use by multiple courses;
- A web site that integrates parts of different Library collections that relate to a particular community, and shares the stories created by technology students and history students working together;
- A platform that showcases Library materials and community materials associated with a particular community’s traditions or history and invites students to record oral histories to be shared within the community;
- An online video that explains how to do family history traversing Library held materials such as newspapers, manuscript collections, etc. for a particular community;
- An augmented reality visualization that enables students and community members to explore the history of their town through underutilized Library collections;
- A podcast series that showcases unique finds from Library and community materials and invites students to produce, plan, and provide commentary or conduct interviews during each episode.

For detailed program & submission information, visit:
www.loc.gov/programs/of-the-people/represent/connecting-communities-digital-initiative