



## LEHIGH VALLEY ENGAGED HUMANITIES CONSORTIUM:

UNDERSTANDING TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE PAST HALF-CENTURY

<http://sites.lafayette.edu/lvehc>

### LVEHC Digital Archive Information Sheet

#### ***What is the LVEHC?***

Generously funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through June 2021, the Lehigh Valley Engaged Humanities Consortium (LVEHC) fosters exploration of personal, historical, and community narratives about the past half-century in the region using methods of the humanities and arts. The main themes of the LVEHC are:

- The **diversity** of communities in the Lehigh Valley in the past 50 years.
- The changing nature of **work** in the Lehigh Valley in the past 50 years.
- The evolving **landscape**, environment, and sense of place in the Lehigh Valley in the past 50 years.

Underpinning all of these main themes is the value and process of story-making. We welcome proposals that center the themes above, highlighting community narratives and individual people's stories, from the celebratory to the critical.

The LVEHC is guided by a steering committee composed of representatives of a Lehigh Valley academic and cultural institutions including the Allentown Art Museum, Cedar Crest College, DeSales University, the Easton Area Public Library, the Karl Stirner Arts Trail, Lafayette College, Lehigh University, the Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges, the Lehigh Valley Research Consortium, Moravian College, Muhlenberg College, and the Sigal Museum.

#### ***What is the LVEHC Digital Archive?***

One of the main outcomes of the LVEHC Mellon grant will be a digital archive of materials including oral histories, family photographs, business documents, historic maps, ephemera, material objects, and other primary source materials that bear witness to diverse ethnic and immigrant communities, emergent economies in the de-industrial era, relationships between culture and the environment, and other topics relevant to the main themes of the LVEHC. This digital archive will be a public, freely available resource on the internet for educators, scholars, students, and others who wish to explore transformations of the past half-century in the Lehigh Valley.

#### ***Why should I contribute to the LVEHC Digital Archive?***

By contributing to the LVEHC Digital Archive, you are making it a richer, more representative resource that will enable more inclusive research on the recent history and culture of the Lehigh Valley.

#### ***How can I contribute to the LVEHC Digital Archive?***

You can volunteer to offer an oral history. You can lend photos, documents, or other items to be digitized for potential inclusion in the archive. Depending on the capacity of LVEHC partner institutions, you may also donate items for permanent archiving and exhibition purposes.

#### ***What happens when I contribute to the LVEHC Digital Archive?***

With a representative of the LVEHC, you will complete the appropriate permissions forms, and coordinate logistics to contribute materials and/or an oral history interview. You will be credited as a contributor to the digital archive, unless you request otherwise. You will receive digital copies of your oral history interview recording and transcript; digital copies of any materials you lend will be provided to you upon request. We will alert you when the digital archive launches.

*Contact: Charlotte Nunes, LVEHC Mellon Grant Co-Director, (610)330-3149, [nunesc@lafayette.edu](mailto:nunesc@lafayette.edu)*