



# LEHIGH VALLEY ENGAGED HUMANITIES CONSORTIUM

UNDERSTANDING TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE PAST HALF-CENTURY

[SITES.LAFAYETTE.EDU/LVEHC](http://sites.lafayette.edu/lvehc)

## Call for Proposals: *Building Digital Collections*

**Deadlines:** Feb.1st / April 1st / Sept. 1st / Dec. 1st

**Amount:** up to \$5,000

*The Lehigh Valley Engaged Humanities Consortium (LVEHC) seeks proposals to build well-defined digital collections that adhere closely to the LVEHC Main Themes (see below). We welcome proposals from librarians, archivists, educators, and community members who seek to catalogue, curate, and digitize relevant existing physical collections, acquire new physical collections for digitization, or build new audiovisual collections, for instance of oral histories.*

### **Introduction to the LVEHC:**

Generously funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through June 2021, the Lehigh Valley Engaged Humanities Consortium (LVEHC) (<http://sites.lafayette.edu/lvehc/>) fosters exploration of personal, historical, and community narratives that have emerged in the past half-century in the region using methods of the humanities and arts. The LVEHC is guided by a steering committee composed of representatives of a dozen Lehigh Valley academic and cultural institutions.

### **LVEHC Main Themes:**

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

### **Funding:**

- Awards may be expended as stipends for project partners (\$1,500 per person, up to two per proposal) and/or related project costs (for instance, acquiring new physical collections, renting or purchasing recording equipment and hard drives, paying for digitization services, etc.).
- Funds will be distributed in two even allotments: one upon notification of award, and one upon completion of the post-award responsibilities.
- Funding must be distributed to a sponsoring institution who will manage the funds in conjunction with the awardee. If the awardee's home or partner organization/institution is unable or unwilling to receive the grant funds, the awardee will be responsible for declaring the funds on their tax returns.
- Awardees will be responsible for retaining receipts related to grant expenditures.
- In addition to overhead, indirect costs, and capital costs (construction, renovation, equipment), the LVEHC Mellon Grant cannot fund food and catering expenses, venue rentals, projects in social sciences or STEM fields, endowment management fees, one-off conferences, and undergraduate travel, tuition, or financial aid.
- If you have any questions about the viability of a specific budget item, please contact the LVEHC Co-Directors or Coordinator for clarification.

### **Application Process:**

- Submit a completed proposal to the Steering Committee co-directors via the [Proposal Submission Form](#) or by emailing [LVEngagedHumanities@gmail.com](mailto:LVEngagedHumanities@gmail.com).
- Applications will be reviewed by the LVEHC steering committee; responses can be expected approximately three weeks after proposal submission.



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## **Proposals should contain:**

- A 200-500 word proposal narrative, including a summary of the proposed collection;
- An itemized budget outlining proposed expenses, using the [LVEHC Budget Proposal Form](#).
- List of any collaborating institutions/organizations (including a brief statement of support from participating librarians/archivists/other project partners);
- Anticipated possibilities for new research and teaching on transformations of the past half-century in the Lehigh Valley;
- Statement of how the proposed event aligns with the LVEHC themes (see above)

## **Considerations:**

- Special consideration will be given to collection projects that involve two or more institutions or organizations.
- Proposed collections that align with the LVEHC Themes (see above) will be prioritized for funding.
- Preference will be given to proposals that include a letter of support from a partnering librarian or archivist.
- Proposed digital collections must adhere to the [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation guidelines on intellectual property](#); they must be open access and available to the public for educational use. Oral history collections must implement the LVEHC Oral History Permissions Form.
- Applicants proposing oral history collections must also:
  - Submit their project through the IRB process
  - Implement the LVEHC Oral History Permissions Form

## **Post-award Responsibilities:**

A 250 word (one paragraph) reflective statement will be required within 30 days of the conclusion of the project. With the assistance of the grant coordinator, this statement will be developed into a blog post that will be posted on the LVEHC website and will also be used for grant reporting. The statement can be written in the first-person, should be accompanied by one or two photos of the author/s, and can be collaborative.

## **LVEHC Mellon Grant Steering Committee:**

Andrea Smith ([smithal@lafayette.edu](mailto:smithal@lafayette.edu)), Grant Co-Director, Lafayette College  
Charlotte Nunes ([nunescl@lafayette.edu](mailto:nunescl@lafayette.edu)), Grant Co-Director, Lafayette College  
Allentown Art Museum  
Cedar Crest College  
DeSales University  
Easton Area Public Library  
Karl Stirner Arts Trail  
Lehigh University  
Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVAIC)  
Lehigh Valley Research Consortium (LVRC)  
Moravian College  
Muhlenberg College  
Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society / Sigal Museum  
*LVEHC Mellon Grant Coordinator:* Kate Pitts ([pittsk@lafayette.edu](mailto:pittsk@lafayette.edu))

*\* Calls for Proposals are subject to change. Please consult the website (<http://sites.lafayette.edu/lvehc>) for up to date guidelines and restrictions.*