

GRANT APPLICATION – THE ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE PROJECT

Definition of the issue:

An important part of the history of the Chelsea area is being lost. Similar to the World War II Veterans history project, that was just completed as a collaborative effort between the McKune Memorial Library and the Chelsea Senior Center, the history of the one room school house is dieing off with the World War II era generation. This fascinating history must be recorded as it is just one generation away from being lost forever. We would like to do a multi-layered program involving the Senior Center, McKune Memorial Library and the Chelsea Historical Society. We at the Chelsea Senior Center have heard fascinating stories from our members about these schools and wish to preserve the memories, stories and history permanently.

Need:

Each day vital pieces of the history of our community is lost. We have the capability to preserve this information and must act quickly to insure it is not lost forever.

Activity:

This is a new activity for the Senior Center and community.

Basic Objectives:

The primary objective of the project is to record and preserve the history of the one room school houses in Western Washtenaw. Secondary objectives are to catalogue these resources, video tape the memories for archiving at the McKune Memorial Library and the Chelsea Historical Society and sharing this history with elementary school children in first person accounts.

Detailed Work Plan:

September 2007	Prepare advertising and publicity. Begin questionnaire development. Begin to advertise the project and recruit potential program participants. Begin solicitation of artifacts and memorabilia.
October 2007	Initial interviews by the Chelsea Senior Center and McKune Memorial Library staff.
November 2007	Continuation of interviews and selection process.
January 2008	Luncheon at the Taste of Home Café to honor those people selected to participate in the project.
January 2008	Program at the McKune Memorial Library to be taped and archived. Participants will be awarded certificates. Preparation of artifacts and memorabilia for exhibit at the Library and the Chelsea Historical Society.
February 2008	Grand Opening of the Exhibit at the McKune Memorial Library and the Chelsea Historical Society.

March-April 2008 Scheduling of and presentations to the Chelsea School District third grade classes on the history of one room school houses. (Coordinated by the Chelsea Senior Center).

Evaluation Plan:

There will be a number of criteria used to measure the success of the One Room School House program.

1. A minimum of 10 histories recorded.
2. A minimum of 200 people view the exhibit.
3. A minimum of 50 people to attend the luncheon.
4. At least four programs will be presented to Chelsea School Children.
5. A permanent exhibit will included at the Chelsea Historical Society
6. Permanent artifacts will be available at the McKune Memorial Library.
7. At least two articles will be in the Chelsea Standard.
8. The impact of the project will be that the importance of this history be recognized and acknowledged and that there is a permanent record for future generations to be able to access.

Geographic Boundaries:

Our program will be primarily focused on the Chelsea School District catchment area. This is zip code 48118. However we will include stories from Grass Lake, Manchester, and other bordering communities when they prove to enhance the project. It is estimated that 95% of the stories will come from Chelsea.

Relevant Qualifications and Experience:

The Chelsea Senior Center has 26 years experience in working with and providing services and opportunities for seniors. With a strong Board of Directors and vision for the future this organization has a proven track record. The Director of the Senior Center has repeatedly proven she is adept at networking with other professionals and organizations to create innovative and successful programs. This project will prove to be a source of pride to the participating organizations as well as the greater community.

Partnerships:

We will be partnering with the Chelsea Historical Society to store and exhibit articles that are collected. They will also be instrumental in helping collect memorabilia. The McKune Memorial Libraries, Adult Services Librarian, Bill Harmer will work closely with the Chelsea Senior Center to record histories, catalogue artifacts, and create the questionnaire that will be used with participants to elicit information needed for the video taping. The McKune Memorial Library will also keep historical information to be on loan to students and historians wishing to learn more about One Room School Houses. Artifacts will also be kept, where space permits, at the Chelsea Historical Society.

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Financial Information:

We are requesting a total of \$6,000 from the Chelsea Community Foundation. The time line is from September 2007-May 2008.

\$1,500.	Initial brochure design, printing, promotion, mailing.
2,000	Promotion of opening of event at the McKune Library (brochure)
1,000.	Staff Salary (cataloguing setting up exhibit)
200.	Video taping/tapes
400.	Editing
500.	Reception for Program (at McKune Memorial Library)
150.	Luncheon honoring participants (at Chelsea Senior Center)
250.	Photo reproduction

Total Request : \$6,000

We are not requesting additional financial support from any other sources. However volunteer and staff hours will be donated to the project.

There will not be a need for future funding following the completion of the project in May of 2008.

We have a certified audit in process at the present time. It should be completed in June. A copy will be provided upon request.