

Clearwater Public Library System
100 N. Osceola Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33755

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Media Contact:

Linda Rothstein, M.Ed., MLIS
Reference Services Manager
(727) 562-4970, ext. 5284
linda.rothstein@myclearwater.com
<http://www.myclearwater.com/cpl/>

CLEARWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM WINS FEDERAL GRANT

Library wins grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to preserve community history

WASHINGTON (December 16, 2015) — The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) today announced \$423,464 in grants to 38 cultural organizations to bring historical records and artifacts currently hidden in family attics and basements across the country and make them digitally available to the wider public and for posterity. The Clearwater Public Library System has been awarded \$12,000 and is one of only two institutions in the state of Florida to have been awarded the grant.

These are the first awards made under NEH's new Common Heritage grant program, which was created in April 2015 as part of *The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square*, an agency-wide initiative that seeks to enhance the role of the humanities in civic life.

The Common Heritage grant awarded to the Clearwater Public Library System will allow it to host "digitization days," encouraging members of the public to share materials important to their family or community histories, such as photographs, artifacts, family letters, and works of art.

These items will be digitized, along with descriptive information and context provided by the community attendees. With the owner's permission, the digitized materials will be made publicly available through the library's online Pinellas Memory Project <http://clearwater.pinellasmemory.org>. Contributors will receive a free digital copy of their items to take home, along with the original materials.

This NEH Common Heritage grant will also support library programming that celebrates and expands knowledge of the community's past and the diverse histories of its members. It will coincide with programs and activities throughout 2016 in celebration of the Clearwater Public Library System's 100th anniversary.

"We know that America's cultural heritage isn't found only in libraries and museums," said NEH Chairman William D. Adams, "but in our homes, in our family and community histories, and the stories and objects we pass down to our children. These new NEH Common Heritage grant projects will help capture this vitally important part of our country's heritage and preserve it for future generations."

NEH Common Heritage grants of up to \$12,000 were awarded to 38 community cultural organizations in 21 states and the District of Columbia. The official press release can be accessed here: <http://www.neh.gov/news/press-release/2015-12-16>

ABOUT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: <http://www.neh.gov/> [47].