



Welcome!

Please enjoy the refreshments, the
presentation will begin at 6:15

Thank you to Paradigm Coffee + Music for
supplying cookies and iced tea!



Final Project Presentation

Presented by Green Bicycle Co. and Guests



National Trust *for*
Historic Preservation®
Save the past. Enrich the future.

Project Introduction



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

The Opportunity

Made possible with support from National Endowment for the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, the Telling the Full History grant program helps interpret and preserve historic places of importance to underrepresented communities across states and territories of the United States.

Green Bicycle Co.

- Creating Conscious Communities
- Adding people to the equation
- Focused on increasing representation

Sheboygan County Historical Society and Museum

- Core project partner
- Interest and support from Travis Gross, Executive Director
- Support from Board of Directors

Developing the Project

Our interpretation of the grant and “telling the full history” of underrepresented communities went beyond places but lived in people and their stories. Additionally, we sought to identify gaps and resources and make connections – empowering people to tell their stories.

Grant Application

- Green Bicycle Co. took the lead on writing the grant and developing the project
- Sheboygan County Historical Society and Museum (SCHSM) officially applied for the federal funding

Identifying Project Partners

- Built on trusted relationships
- Sheboygan County LGBTQ Alliance
- John Michael Kohler Arts Center
- Hmong Women's Society

Our project was one of 80 grantees, of over 400 applicants, across the country. We were awarded \$25,000.

Our application acknowledged history beyond buildings for underrepresented communities.



Project Overview



The Purpose

To develop a better understanding of the role that underrepresented communities played in the history and evolution of Sheboygan County, lifting up the histories of Sheboygan communities, and educating and creating a model for continued communications and partnerships.

Green Bicycle Co. Team

Green Bicycle Co. acted as the organizer and facilitator for this project.



Heather Cleveland,
AICP

Urban Planner & Community
Developer



Barbara Alvarez
Community Educator



Ava Stroessner
Intern - Plymouth High
School

Acknowledgements

- The National Trust for Historic Preservation
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- Sheboygan County Historical Society and Museum
- Sheboygan County LGBTQ Alliance
- John Michael Kohler Arts Center
- Sheboygan Hmong Mutual Assistance Association
- Sheboygan Hmong Women's Society
- Sheboygan Mead Public Library
- Sheboygan County League of Women Voters
- Live Forever Project

Acknowledgements

- Women in Politics Interviewees:
 - Amanda Salazar
 - Angela Ramey
 - Barb Felde
 - Betty Ackley
 - Deb Sabol-Williams
 - Grazia Perrella
 - Janet Ross and Maeve Quinn
 - Kathleen Donovan
 - Kristy Yang
 - Leslie Laster
 - Marilyn Montemayor
 - Nanette Bulebosh
 - Rebecca Clarke
 - Roberta Filicky-Peneski
 - Suzanne Speltz
- LGBTQ Interviewees:
 - David Pittner
 - Nina Soul

Acknowledgements

- Play Writers:
 - Written by: Yer Yang
 - Script revised by: Blia Vang, Yeng Vang, Phai Yang, Mai Yia Vang, Stacey Wolf, Shiela Yang, and Mai Her
 - Stage Play Revised by: Houa Vang
- Play Director:
 - Houa Vang
- Play Cast:
 - Houa Vang from Hmong Woman Society
 - Houa Vang the play director
 - Luther Yang
 - Devin Vue
 - UJ Xiong
 - Shiela Yang
 - Malina Yang
 - Jasmine Xiong
 - Shiane Luaj Ntxhi Yang, Sophia Nkauj Hmoob Yaj, Carson MuajHmoo Yang, Naomi Xiong
 - Leahness Her, Charlie Vang
 - Devin Vue, Brian Yang, Charlie Vang, Tux Yang
 - Jasmine Xiong, xai xiong, Leahness Her

High School Internship

It's an opportunity to connect youth with community work while providing an opportunity to them to learn.

Ava Stroessner began work on this project in June of 2022 and is a senior at Plymouth High School during the 2022–2023 school year.



Duties

Assist with research, community outreach, and other project tasks

- Transcribing interviews
- Attending LGBTQ Alliance meetings
- Researching Hmong Community and how they came to Wisconsin and Sheboygan County
- School presentation

Focus Communities

- LGBTQIA+
- Hmong
- Women in Politics

Partner Organizations

- Sheboygan County LGBTQ Alliance
- Hmong Women's Society
- Sheboygan County League of Women Voters

Community Engagement Methodology

As engagement is planned and begins with different groups, it's important to evaluate the status of each group, and apply appropriate engagement methods.

Considerations

- Become a supportive, genuine partner in the group
- Build trust
- Respect and learn from group members, strive to understand group dynamic

Focus Community: LGBTQIA+

Community Engagement Methodology:
Committee Model, which works directly with members a group to develop project goals and outcomes.

LGBTQIA+ Task Force

Worked with members of the Sheboygan County LGBTQ Alliance to determine goals.

- 8 members joined the task force initially and a group of 3 provided specific direction for the interviews and webpage
- Introduced similar projects nearby
- Organized scanning days and conducted interviews
- Organized reception for "Traveling Exhibit – We Will Always Be Here: Wisconsin's LGBTQ+ Historymakers" from the Wisconsin Historical Society



Sheboygan LGBTQ History Exhibition

- The “History” page on the Sheboygan County LGBTQ Alliance website is developed and live.
 - Includes national, state, and local history



Website includes local history and interviews from the project

Local History

Sheboygan has our own rich LGBTQ history, from safe spaces, to the first legal same-sex marriage, to the banning of conversion therapy, to the first pride picnic, and to the formation of the Sheboygan County LGBTQ Alliance. Below are stories of local residents who have been part of making LGBTQ+ history in Sheboygan County.



David Pittner

"I will continue fighting for our community as long as I have breath in my body. But, I mean, I think we need to continue to fight the good fight. We need to make sure that our voices are heard. We need to ensure that we are protecting our community and that we are also letting the much larger community of Sheboygan know that we have a lot to contribute, that we vote, we have jobs, we buy houses, we live within this community."

[Listen/Read David's Interview](#)

Website offers the opportunity for community members to submit their stories

Share your own story

Tell us your story, your family's story, or a story you heard about. It could be your coming out story, your wedding story, an event you attended, a story about how you found your queer community, who inspired or supported you, or anything else related to queer life in Sheboygan County!

You can submit as little as a sentence or two, share a longer document, or attach photos, including scanned documents (e.g. posters, tickets, flyers, programs) or even images of physical items (just take a good photo and attach). There are really no rules- we want to know all kinds of histories, herstories, and their stories- and they don't all have to be sunny. We know folks have struggled, and folks have triumphed. And most of us are just doing our best! All our stories matter.

SUBMISSION FORM: <https://forms.gle/uYuzYrdNTgXtRfvg9>

Focus Community: Hmong

Community Engagement Methodology:
Support Model, which helps the a group reach
an existing project that relates to local history.

Hmong Community Task Force

Worked to support the Hmong Community on a play about the history of the Hmong people.

- Partnered with Hmong Women's Society
- Collaborated with the Play Committee

Developing the Play

- Connected community theater professional:
 - Helped format the play
 - Helped group understand and plan components (costumes, sounds, lighting, direction, set design)
- Lead Actors from the Hmong community
- Play was developed and rehearsed
- JMKAC hosted the play in their annex space



Sheboygan Hmong Community History Exhibition

"We Crossed The River"

Play about the history of the Hmong people



Focus Community: Women in Politics

Community Engagement Methodology:
Liaison model, which communicates findings
and project goals with members of that
community.

Women in Politics Task Force

- Investigate suffrage connections
- Give voice to untold stories
- Educate community on voting rights in WI

Because Wisconsin was the first state to ratify the 19th amendment, this is an important history that needs to be told.

Partner Organization

Sheboygan County League of Women Voters

- Support for project
- Participate in events
- Promotion through network
- Introduced key community members and work that has already been done

Interviews

- 16 interviews collected
- Women who have run for office
- Documented unique experiences

These stories not only helped us learn from underrepresented voices, but also built up enthusiasm for this project and community stories.

Live Forever Project

A grassroots organization who has collected local stories for at least seven years. Through this partnership, we were able to learn from their own collection methodologies, as well as learn how the stories could be turned into artistic expressions.



Project Update

- Hosted October 23, at the Green Bicycle Co.
- Shared project progress
- Shared information on voting
- Poets from Live Forever Project shared their creations
- More than 30 people attended



Sheboygan Women in Politics History Exhibition

- To date, sixteen stories have been recorded and transcribed.
 - There are plans for these files to be uploaded and hosted on the Sheboygan County Historical Society & Museum website.
 - The Live Forever Project will also have the opportunity to upload and host these files to their own website.
 - This digital exhibit will contribute to a community archive for the Historical Society & Museum.

Live Forever Project Presentation

Impact

Community Connections

- Building relationships through different community engagement models, we were able to develop connections that we may not otherwise have formed.
 - Example: conversations with the Sheboygan County League of Women Voters, we were introduced to members of the community that have already conducted research about women's suffrage in Sheboygan. Those members then introduced us to the Live Forever Project which collects stories and turns them into artistic expressions.
- Telling the Full History Fund was able to introduce various organizations and members with one another. This has the potential to lead to more sustainable community-based projects.

Reflection and Dialogue

- This project included interviewing members from the community about their own experiences in Sheboygan.
 - Such initiatives required participants to reflect on their own positionality, history, and actions within Sheboygan and consider what the future holds for Sheboygan.
 - These reflections were recorded, transcribed, and will be shared on a website. This will encourage others in the community to reflect on these stories and how they connect with their own experiences in Sheboygan.
- Such reflection fosters dialogue between community members.

Education

- Educating the community about the experiences of voices that have historically been underrepresented.
 - There are a variety of modalities for people to learn about women in politics, the LGBTQ+ community, and the Hmong community.
 - These will continue to be fostered on a website that shares these stories and takeaways.
 - Community organizations and teachers will be welcome to use these findings in their own community-based events and programs.

Challenges

Who asked for this?

- Green Bicycle Co. saw the opportunity for the project and sees the needs in general for increased representation and support towards that end.
- We see, overall and not only with this project, that it can be difficult to move towards something different when not everybody sees the end or sees the need for a different end.
- There are an abundance of federal and state opportunities, but who should drive those efforts?
- The capacity within small organization is limited and in our case with all the communities we engaged with – all volunteers.
- We worked to listen and evolve and pivot whenever possible.

Shift from the status quo.

- The grant favored historic preservation and/or activation of buildings.
- History may be recognized as more recent.
- The Museum is accustomed to creating exhibits and providing education within their campus.
- The Museum's Executive Director, Travis Gross, recognized the national shift, but the change is slow and challenging.

Limited Capacity

- All of the community organizations that we partnered with either fully or mostly volunteer driven.
- The Museum has a small staff with their own on-going duties.
- One of the community organization could have been the entire focus and gone further, but we didn't know which one would take off.
- Connections with schools for on-going work or engagement was difficult. Teachers and students are at and beyond capacity.

Recommendations and Next Steps

Webpage(s)

- Add the Project Page to the Museum's new website:
 - Link to completed project works:
 - Link to Sheboygan County LGBTQ Alliance's History page.
 - <https://www.sheboyganlgbtqalliance.org/history>
 - Link to the SUAB HMONG NEWS Channel "We Crossed The River TO MEET OUR FATE "YAV TOM NTEJ" A Play by YER YANG and Directed by HOUA VANG.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTG-mMC8Khw>
 - Link to the Sheboygan County League of Women Voters history page (coming soon).
 - Host the Sheboygan Women in Politics interviews.
 - Share the Live Forever Project poems and song.
 - Share resources for others to tell their history.

Federal Grants

- Qualifying to apply for federal grants is an intensive and intimidating process. Registering for the application portal and obtaining and maintaining the necessary DUNS and SAM registrations. The Museum has this already set-up.
 - D-U-N-S® stands for "data universal numbering system." D-U-N-S® numbers are issued by Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) and consist of nine digits. System for Award Management (SAM)
- Partner with organizations on historical projects.
- This may be a capacity issue for the Museum, but it is an even larger barrier for underrepresented organizations.
- This may not be in the scope for the museum today, but perhaps it can be considered in the future.

Beyond the Building

- Consider moving beyond the Museum's buildings for exhibitions, education, and engagements.
- When considering education, consider holding workshops to assist people in the community to tell their history.
- This is an important consideration for increasing representation in our communities history and story telling.
- Small inclusions lead to more inclusion leads to big inclusion leads to representation.

During one of our conversations with the Hmong Women Society's Play Committee, someone mentioned that a pivotal moment in a sense of belonging was their participation in the 4th of July Parade.

HEATHER CLEVELAND

Continue Outreach

- Continue work on the Hmong Long-Term Exhibit. Ensure it is an opportunity rather than an obligation.
- Meet people where they are.
 - Join groups, coalitions, boards and organizations (such as the LGBTQ Alliance, etc.) to build trust and be engaged when opportunities for collaboration arise.
- Connect with organizations when traveling exhibit opportunities arise and coordinate and celebrate together.

Thank you!