

Council Grove Area Foundation Application for Grant

Questions:

1. The Morris County Historical Society and The Morris County Arts Council
2. Address – Morris County Historical Society – PO Box 207- CG
Morris County Arts Council – 623 East Main - CG
3. Officers- Morris County Historical Society –Dave Cosgrove, Pres., Sharon Haun, Vice Pres., Jan Sciacca, Secretary, and Sharon Haun, Treasurer
Morris County Arts Council – Cheerie Baker, Pres., Max Byram, Vice Pres., Sid Wilkerson, Treasurer, and Lori May, Secretary
4. Contact Person- MHS – Sharon Haun
MCAC – Cheerie Baker
5. Tax-exempt- MHS – Yes
MCAC – Yes
6. Title of Project and Brief Description:

Legacy Songs of Morris County

The purpose of this grant is to capture Morris County history through song and video. Longtime Morris County citizens will be asked to share their personal memories, stories and events that shaped the people, culture, and development of the area. Dr. Monte Selby will meet with residents to develop their stories into professional quality songs, followed by creating videos that bring the songs to life through related photos or images. Each song/video will be available to the world through Youtube, with DVD copies provided for the library, historical society, arts council, schools and other interested parties. A culminating concert will feature the original songs to celebrate the fascinating history of Morris County, and to honor the elder citizens of the area.

7. Geographic area served: Morris County. Since the videos will be online, it will be accessible to former residents of the area, their families, etc.
8. What group will be benefited: The goal is to benefit all of Morris County by capturing historical memories that would otherwise disappear with time. Another important benefit is that those involved - older citizens of the county - will have a chance to be heard and have their memories shared with younger generations.

9. Anticipated Project Period: Possibly June 8 - July 13, 2018?

The time frame is flexible, but the project will take four to five weeks of Dr. Selby's time. There will be approximately two weeks of meeting with residents and writing the songs, followed by the community concert. Then, he will work from home in his studio to create professional recordings. He will hire additional musicians and video help to complete the project in a timely manner.

10. This is a request for a special project.

11. Total Project Cost: \$15,500.

12. Amount Requested from Foundation: \$3100.

13. This is the first request for support.

14. Other Grant Applications? The plan is to request funds from each foundation in Morris County.

15. Other grant applications are currently being submitted

16. Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to bring Morris County history to life through an engaging project involving the arts. It will respectfully honor elder citizens by connecting their historical memories with younger residents in the area. The project's culminating concert will allow residents to come together to celebrate local history, and music and video recordings will be available to future generations.

17. Problem:

A problem that many modern communities face is a gradual loss of appreciation and understanding of local history and culture. Since technology has brought information of the world "to our fingertips", it's easy for the value of local history and culture to disappear. In addition, current culture does not always show meaningful appreciation for it's oldest citizens. As an aging population disappears, so do the first-account historical stories. The **Legacy Songs of Morris County** project will bring a spotlight to the stories of it's oldest citizens, present their memories in a modern and engaging format, and draw attention to the fascinating history of the area.

18. Project Implementation:

The first step will involve a bit of research to determine which longtime citizens are able and willing to share their time and memories. The Council Grove Senior Center is an example of a good place to start the conversations about locating "who has the stories to tell?" The goal will be to locate about 10 individuals. Ideally, the individuals

represent distinct stories and historical memories. Each person will be given a clear description of the project and the process for songwriting.

Dr. Selby will meet with people at a comfortable location of their choice; home, senior center, assisted living center, etc. As the song is developed, each person will have a chance to offer feedback. All "songwriters" will be invited to the culminating public concert. With their consent, a videographer will ask them to talk a little about the project and their story/song. When the professional recording and video is available, each person will receive a copy.

19. Local Support:

The Morris County Historical Society and the Morris County Arts Council would love to see this project funded. The **Legacy Songs of Morris County** project brings attention to both local history and the arts, and supports the mission of each organization. As stated on the Morris County Arts Council website, "The purpose of the Arts Council shall be to act as a coordinating, educational, and service corporation to foster, promote, encourage, and increase the knowledge, appreciation, and practice of the arts in Council Grove, Morris County, and the surrounding area." Also, "The purpose of this Society shall be: to represent the historical interest of Morris County and its citizens; to promote and encourage interest in history, with emphasis on local history, through exhibits, educational programs and activities; to do research and disseminate information to the public; to collect, preserve and work for the preservation of objects, historic structures, manuscripts, publications, photographs and other materials and information relating to the history of Morris County and its citizens; to administer any property owned by MCHS and to carry on any historical, educational, interpretive and research activities relating to the properties, collections and the interests of the Society."

20. Who else in the community is working on this problem? While there are many local efforts to preserve Morris County history, and to promote the arts, there is no similar project to the **Legacy Songs of Morris County** proposal.

21. How will you coordinate with others working on this problem?

A contact person for the MCHS and the MCAC will coordinate with Dr. Selby to plan and implement this project.

22. If awarded, how will the grant you are requesting be used?

The grant will be used to support travel expenses and honorarium for Dr. Selby. Through grant funds, he will also pay additional musicians and video support. Grant funds will support any costs associated with meetings for songwriting, the concert, materials, and advertising.

23. Is there any additional information you would like to be considered in our determining whether to make this grant?

The **Legacy Songs of Morris County** project will be new to local residents, but it is a proven process that has been highly successful in other locations. Dr. Selby has worked with over 40,000 students and adults across three continents using songwriting as a way to capture history, personal stories, school themes, or important ideas. His songs are heard on network television, radio, stage productions, videos, commercials, websites, and included on a 2012 Grammy Award winning album. *Music Row* magazine describes his songs as “a delightful variety” - “funky” - “astonishing” - “Wow”! He has many roots in Kansas and Morris County, and would love to connect his music and songwriting to the stories of local residents (many of whom already know Monte).