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October 19th, 2009

In January 2010, The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and its Senior Exhibition Partners, including BRIDGES for a Just Community, the Ohio Chapter of the NAACP, and the Urban League of Cincinnati, are collaborating to present an exhibition on the history of lynching in America from the 1870s to the 1960s.

The exhibition, entitled *Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America*, will be on display from January 19 through May 31st 2010 in the Jack H. Skirball Changing Exhibit Gallery at the Freedom Center.

As a programmatic feature, the Freedom Center will be accepting up to ten (10) **Request for Proposals** which will allow community organizations to partner with the Freedom Center on collaborative programming around the themes outlined within. As a guide, enclosed you will find the following:

- Exhibition Overview
- Exhibition Mission Statement
- Exhibition Thematic Framework
- Location of Programs
- Proposal Selection Timeline
- Selection of Proposals
- Programming Restrictions
- Proposal Format
- Proposal Submission Template
- Proposal Submission Requirements

If you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding the RFP Process please feel free to reach me at any of the contact information below. Thank you in advance for your consideration and I look forward to working with your organization in the very near future.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles C. Davis, Jr.'.

Charles C. Davis, Jr.
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
50 East Freedom Way
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513.333.7528 - phone
cdavis@nurfc.org - e-mail

EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photographs in America is an exhibition of more than 100 postcards, photographs and other memorabilia from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This exhibition documents an era in American history that permitted unspeakable acts of terror against an unprotected segment of its population.

There were nearly 5,000 documented African-American lynching cases between 1882 and 1968, though there are other estimates that suggest twice as many undocumented cases.

Snapped at various lynching events and depicting crowds of onlookers who gathered to enjoy the spectacle, these postcards were sold as souvenirs or sent to acquaintances.

The goal of this exhibition is “to create for diverse audiences an environment that provides understanding of the subject matter, reflection, dialogue, and a platform for constructive action.”

EXHIBITION MISSION STATEMENT

The Freedom Center’s *Without Sanctuary* project mission is to look back at a violent period of American history, bear witness to the atrocities that occurred, and keep watch over those without sanctuary today.

EXHIBITION THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

Looking Back

An Examination of the historical roots that led up to the lynching era (1882-1968) – slavery and the slave experience, racism, Black Laws, etc. – and provides the background knowledge necessary to understand the exhibition.

Bearing Witness

This theme is focused on the subject matter contained in the exhibition – lynching, Jim Crow laws, and memories of lynching activity etc. – and the emotional context and consequences derived from the subject matter.

Keeping Watch

This theme ties the lessons of the past to the experiences of those without sanctuary today – human on human violence, complexities of race relations, hate groups, etc. – and acknowledges those determined to establish sanctuary for those without.

LOCATION OF PROGRAMS

NURFC Programs

The Freedom Center exists as a safe house for the community's free exercise of dialogue. In concert with the Without Sanctuary Exhibition request for proposals, approved programs will have the opportunity to utilize Freedom Center space and facilities free of charge.

After submission and approval of RFP, the RFP review team will work with the partnering organization to determine the space most appropriate to accommodate each individual program.

Community Programs

In addition to programming imbedded at the Freedom Center, the review team is open to partnering with community organizations to hold external events in relation to the Without Sanctuary exhibit.

Presentations associated with the Without Sanctuary exhibition should still follow all applicable guidelines. In addition to the standard proposal application, for external programming there should be included

PROPOSAL SELECTION TIMELINE

- Official Release of Without Sanctuary RFP – October 19th, 2009
- Submission Deadline – January 13th, 2010
- Period of Review – January 18th 2010 – February 3, 2010
- Announcements – Letters of Acceptance complete with dates and times of programming will be sent out on February 5th, 2010.

SELECTION OF PROPOSALS

The Freedom Center's *Without Sanctuary* project will be accepting program proposals for the duration of the project period. Proposals that encourage thoughtful dialogue are thematically relevant and research and evidence based and are highly encouraged. The *Without Sanctuary* Advisory Team will consider the highest quality proposals which:

- Align with the Exhibition's Thematic Framework;
- Appeal to a diverse group of individuals;
- Include defined outcomes useful to participants after they leave the program;
- Engage participants in highly interactive learning;
- Foster meaningful dialogue among program participants;
- Demonstrate clarity, organization and feasibility;
- Are supported by evidence-based research and/or practices;
- Present information in a new and/or creative way that increases motivation and commitment to the issues that affect our communities;
- Demonstrate conscientiousness to the sensitive nature of the issues and the diverse people involved.

Time-Length

All sessions are to be 60-90 minutes in length. To be accepted all proposals must support the exhibition mission and thematic framework.

PROGRAMMING RESTRICTIONS

A request made by an organization may be denied if the Without Sanctuary Project Team determines after proper inquiry that the proposed forum will constitute a clear and present danger to the orderly operation of the institution by the program's advocacy of:

1. The violent overthrow of the government of the United States, the State of Ohio, the City of Cincinnati or any political subdivision thereof; or
2. The willful damage or destruction, or seizure and subversion of the institution's building or other property; or
3. The forcible disruption or impairment of, or interference with, the institution's regularly scheduled museum visitation or other educational functions; or
4. The physical harm, coercion, intimidation or invasion of lawful rights, of Freedom Center officials, staff or volunteers; or
5. Other local disorder of a violent nature.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

Artistic Presentation

Session may allow for the inclusion of a video presentation, spoken word or other artistic expression. Artistic presentations should be thirty (30) minutes or less and provide an opportunity for dialogue with the project participants about how the presentation relates to the project's mission and themes.

Panel Discussion

Session is an opportunity for a facilitator and presenters to interact with program participants in a roundtable discussion on a specific topic that is related to and or supports the project's mission and themes.

Panels should be limited to a maximum of four (4) panel participants with one (1) facilitator. Session should leave at least twenty (20) minutes for questions and/or discussion with the audience at the end.

Workshop

Session intended to share information through interactive activities.

Other

Session is intended for use ***only*** if the presentation does not fit into any other category. Session should still follow set time limits and all other program criteria.

Note: You may be asked to combine or adjust your proposed topic or session, in the event that there are major similarities or overlaps with other submitted proposals. Please note on your application if you are unwilling or unable to do so, and we will take this into consideration.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

1. **Presentation Title** [Should be brief (15 words or less), descriptive and enticing]
2. **Presenter(s)** [Repeat information for additional presenters]
Lead Presenter/Other(s) (*Lead Presenter will receive all correspondence*)
Name/Title:
Affiliation/Organization/School:
Mailing Address (including City, State, Zip)
Phone/ Alternate Phone:
E-Mail:
3. **Abstract** [Brief summary of the proposed presentation – 35 words or less]
4. **Proposal Description** [Narrative outlining nature of proposal, program, presentation format and role of presenters – 250 words or less]
5. **Presentation Category Selection (60-90 Minute Sessions)**
Please indicate the category that best describes your presentation. Also indicate if your presentation is either youth led or inclusive of youth presenters.
 - Workshop
 - Panel
 - Artistic Communication
 - Other
6. **Presentation Framework** [Please indicate the **ONE** theme that is most applicable to your presentation]
 - Looking Back
 - Bearing Witness
 - Keeping Watch
7. **Audio/Visual Needs** (projector, screen, etc.)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- **Proposal Submission:** Proposal may be submitted in one of the following ways:
 - **Electronically (preferred):** cdavis@nurfc.org
 - Microsoft Word or Adobe formats only
 - **Fax:** 513-333-7718, Attn: Charles C. Davis, Jr.
 - **Mail:** National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
Attn: Charles C. Davis, Jr.
50 East Freedom Way
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Proposals must include all components outlined in the Proposal Submission Template. Failing to provide any of the requested information may result in your proposal being ineligible for consideration.