**NEH Application – Level I**

**Project Director**

[Project Director Name] **Email:**

[Project Director Current Job Title] **Phone:**

[Project Director Institutional Affiliation]

[Institutional Mailing Address]

**Institutions**

Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media Department of History

Department of History and Art History American University

George Mason University 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW

4400 University Drive, MSN 1E7 Washington, DC 20008

Fairfax, VA 22030

**Application Information**

**Project Title:** Doing it for the Money- A Public History Podcast

**Grant Period:** 05/01/2020 – 01/30/2021

**Field of Project:** History – Public History and Scholarly Communications

**Project Description:** Podcasts have emerged as an effective platform on which to share historical scholarship with audiences ranging from middle school students to senior graduate students and interested general audiences. However, existing podcasts have a relatively limited scope, tending to feature the work of scholars who have reached tenure-track positions and who have published in their respective fields. Furthermore, academic culture is now more inclusive of graduate students’ contributions, which often rise to meet high scholarly standards. Together, the combined move *toward* providing a platform for scholars to share their work and move *away* from a prohibitive social hierarchy marks a moment when a podcast can place the work of graduate students, adjunct faculty, and public history professionals into conversation with one another and with general audiences. Faculty, staff, and students from American University and the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media will use requested funding to devise an effective format and structure for the podcast, identify target demographics for such content, speak with educators, history professionals to gage subjects and themes most useful to them, and to record, edit, and distribute a pilot series of three podcast episodes for release.

**Budget**

**Outright Request:** $25,000 **Cost Sharing: Total Budget:** $25,000

**Matching Request Total NEH:**

**Grant Administrators**

Julia Hoffer, Grants Administrator, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media

Julia Murray, College of Arts and Sciences Pre-Award Grants and Contracts Coordinator, American

University

**List of Participants (TENTATIVE)**

Brenner, Rebecca; PhD Candidate; Department of History; American University

Brett, Megan; Digital History Associate; Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media

Estess, Jonah; PhD Student; Department of History; American University

Nguyen, Kim; Web Designer; Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media

Otis, Jessica; Director of Public Projects; Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media

Kerr, Dan; Associate Professor of History; American University

Sleeter, Nate; Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Teaching and Learning; Roy Rosenzweig Center for History

and New Media

**Abstract**

Podcasts have opened opportunities for scholars to share innovative work with listeners just as the digital humanities continues to carve new pathways for learning and exploration and extends those pathways to broad audiences. Combined with existing interest around particular topics and historical themes, podcasts are, most importantly, accessible to anyone with an internet connection. Eventually, this podcast will extend the boundaries of existing history-related educational podcasts to fill gaps for collaboration and conversation within academic communities and between those communities and the public. This initial project, however, aims to plan and construct the necessary intellectual, technical, and communicative framework in order to fulfill this main objective. Staff at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media and students and faculty at American University will collaborate to produce that framework and to produce a preliminary set of three podcast episodes. Finally, it is abundantly evident that scholarship written using narrative voice have some of the most transformative influence over how the public interprets key periods and themes in history. As such, the project participants will aim to devise a framework that allows podcast hosts and guests to construct a thought-provoking narrative based in sources.

**Statement of Humanities Significance**

History podcasts, though substantive in their own right, have yet to realize the full potential of this medium to bridge perceived gaps between academe and communities beyond it. A podcast the expands the base of contributors, discussants, and audiences will serve to extent the possibility for intellectual curiosity to individuals and communities for whom scholarship and even places of higher education is cost and/or time prohibitive.