



CHELSEA DISTRICT LIBRARY
BEST SMALL LIBRARY IN AMERICA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December 10, 2015 | Chelsea, MI | Chelsea District Library (CDL) is pleased to announce the receipt of a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) in the amount of \$9,000 for a World War I Installation and Digitization project scheduled for July - November 2016.

“Strong Foundations/New Possibilities: The World War I Years, 1914-1918” will be a physical and digital project on display in downtown Chelsea honoring the centennial anniversary of WWI. WWI era photographs, letters, stories, and artifacts will be curated to expand the historical record archived on CDL’s Stories of Chelsea Webpage. A selection of these digitized photographs will be enlarged and printed on outdoor banners for display throughout the Chelsea Commercial Historic District starting in July.

CDL’s Head of Adult Services, Keegan Sulecki says, “This is a great opportunity for the Chelsea Community to come together to commemorate and remember this important part of our history.” CDL is seeking local residents with photographs, letters, and other artifacts from the WWI era who would be willing to loan their items for digitization or display and would be interested in sharing family stories for an audio record.

Chelsea River Gallery (CRG) was instrumental in conceptualizing this project and Director Patti Schwarz work closely with CDL to bring this project to life. “This project will reflect the life and values of Chelsea residents 100 years ago,” Says Schwarz. The project was presented to the Chelsea City Council and Chelsea Downtown Development Authority and has been met with support from local business owners, city officials and residents. Sulecki and Schwarz will continue to reach out to local organizations such as Chelsea American Legion Post 31, Chelsea VFW Post & Auxiliary, and Chelsea Historical Society to ensure this project is an authentic account of Chelsea’s history.

CDL is one of 21 Michigan organizations that were awarded grants by MHC in support of public humanities programming. These Humanities Grants support projects exploring history, poetry, reading, education, and community identity. Each agency is required to present matching cash or in-kind cost share for their project. The Michigan Humanities Council is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

If you have WWI artifacts, family photographs, or stories and are interested in being involved, please contact Keegan Sulecki, Head of Adult Services at 734.475.8732 x218 or at ksulecki@chelseadistrictlibrary.org.

About Us: Chelsea District Library is nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide equal access to quality resources that serve the lifelong cultural, educational and informational needs and interests of all people. The Library currently serves 14,000 residents in the Chelsea district – City of Chelsea plus Dexter, Lima, Lyndon and Sylvan townships and more than 20,000 individuals visit the Library each month. For more information visit chelsea.lib.mi.us

About MHC: The Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) is a private, nonprofit organization created to foster a better understanding of each other and our state through local cultural, historical and literary experiences connecting people and communities. MHC was founded in 1974 and is funded in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as private support from donors. More information at www.michiganhumanities.org

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