



ON THE TABLE GRANT APPLICATION

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name: Sioux Finney

Mailing Address: 220 Roberts Rd.

City: Versailles State: KY Zip: 40383

Staff Contact Name: N/A

Phone Number: 859-321-3352 Email Address: phinpham@windstream.net

Organization EIN# N/A (if an organization applicant)

Type of Applicant (check the one that applies):

 Tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization

 School or unit of government

 X Individual

If Applicant is not a registered tax-exempt charitable organization, has it established a relationship with a fiscal sponsor? Yes: X No:

For Applicants applying with a **Fiscal Sponsor**:

Fiscal Sponsor Organization Name: Woodford County Historical Society

Fiscal Sponsor Mailing Address: 121 Rose Hill Avenue

City: Versailles State: KY Zip: 40383

Staff Contact Name: Wayne Basconi, President

Phone Number: 859-421-5404 Email Address: wayne.basconi@gmail.com

Organization EIN# 23-7083634

II. PROJECT DETAILS follow on pp. 2-4

Huntertown History Project

Preserving the past to celebrate the future

Executive Summary (500 words max)

The Huntertown History Project seeks to preserve the story of Huntertown, an African-American “freetown” that existed in Woodford County for over 130 years. We are requesting a grant of \$2300.00 to document Huntertown’s history and produce a traveling interpretive display to educate and engage the public in the Huntertown’s significance in our cultural heritage. Several former Huntertown residents are no longer alive, which makes collecting and preserving this history now an essential step in the broader vision of development of Huntertown Community Interpretive Park.

This project emerges from work completed during a 2012 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant proposal by Woodford County government to develop Huntertown’s 38 acres into an educational nature park. Initial historic research was completed as part of the grant proposal. Dr. Richard Schein (University of Kentucky) also conducted several oral history interviews with former residents. When grant funding did not come through, work on park development came to a halt. In 2016, faculty (including applicant Sioux Finney) and students from Woodford County High School undertook a research project on Huntertown, presenting their findings to Woodford County Fiscal Court and supporting the development of an interpretive passive community park on this land. Our research and visits to the site uncovered many “snapshots” of life in this former community, from a baseball team called the Huntertown Sluggers to the one-room Huntertown “Colored” School and the Riney-B Railroad, with a whistle stop at Huntertown on its route from Irvine to Frankfort. The potential for interpreting life in an African-American freetown in this place is indeed rich with possibilities.

The Huntertown History Project will be a collaborative effort with the Woodford County Historical Society and Woodford County High School faculty and students, including support from Dr. Richard Schein, Mr. Donald Morton and former members of the Huntertown Community. Preserving and archiving this history needs to happen now - before it is too late. By producing a traveling interpretive display, we will educate and engage support for the vision of a county park on the site – and most importantly, tell the story of Huntertown. WCHS librarian Mona Romine says it best, “the story of this place has touched my heart.”

Preserving Huntertown’s historic past is essential to the development of the Huntertown Community Interpretive Park. Please consider helping us in this crucial first step to preserve, educate and engage our citizens in celebrating our shared history on this land.

Grant Request: \$2300.00 (See attached budget)

Relevancy

- Development of a Huntertown Community Interpretive Park was identified as one of the top priorities in recent “On the Table” sessions conducted by the Woodford Community Foundation. Three “subcommittee” teams in these sessions listed the Huntertown Park project as a priority focus: Infrastructure Team, Land Use and Development Team and the Community Identity and Sense of Community Team.
- The Huntertown History Project serves as a foundational step in collecting, preserving and archiving the history of Huntertown Community.

Project Goals and Pathways to Achievement

1. **Preserve** the history of the Huntertown Community while former residents are still alive to share their stories.

➤ Pathways to achieve this goal:

- Conduct oral history interviews of former Huntertown residents, descendants, community members; interviews will be archived at the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky Library.

- Organize and promote “artifact events” to encourage anyone with documents, photographs, artifacts from the Huntertown Community to bring to a central location to be digitally archived.
- Preserve all digital archives in the collections of the Woodford County Historical Society.

2. **Educate** Woodford County citizens and visitors about the history of Huntertown and African-American freetowns.

➤ Pathways to achieve this goal:

- Collaborate with Woodford County High School staff and students to organize, photograph, record and digitize artifacts and research from the artifact events.
- Produce a professional movable display (retractable “trade show” banners or similar) to visually share the history of Huntertown and the vision of an interpretive park in this historic space.
- Explore and develop additional ways to communicate the Huntertown story through collaboration with Woodford County High School students (visual and media arts).

3. **Engage** Woodford County citizens to support the development of a passive park at Huntertown that will honor the rich story of the community that once stood in this beautiful, natural space.

➤ Pathways to achieve this goal:

- Schedule the Huntertown Story Display to appear at various events and spaces throughout Woodford County, beginning in the summer of 2019. Possible event spaces include Woodford County Fair, area festivals, churches, Woodford County Libraries, schools, etc.
- Staff volunteers at events with the traveling display to communicate the vision and solicit volunteers and support for development of the Huntertown Community Interpretive Park.

Community Partnerships

➤ **Sponsoring Fiscal Partner: Woodford County Historical Society**

The Historical Society provides fiscal oversight and will eventually house digital archives and other information collected in the Huntertown History Project.

➤ **Oral History Project:**

- **Dr. Richard H Schein, Associate Dean and Professor of Geography, University of Kentucky.** Dr. Schein is also a member of the Woodford County Planning and Zoning Board and was involved in the Huntertown project grant in 2012. We will continue his initial oral history work on Huntertown housed at the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History.
- **Mr. Donald Morton Huntertown Cemetery Board and Huntertown descendant.**
- **Mrs. Eveleen Morton, former resident of Huntertown.** Mr. and Mrs. Morton are instrumental in helping contact former residents and setting up oral history interviews.

➤ **Artifact Events and Research: Faculty and Students from Woodford County High School** will design, promote, and staff the Huntertown Artifact Event(s) and assist in documentation of artifacts. Students may choose to participate in gathering oral history, video documentation, and other media promotional design. Staff and classes involved: Mona Romine, Librarian; Dr. Amber Sergeant, Dual-Credit U.S. History classes; Hope Daniels-Brown, Advanced Civics classes (National History Day project); Andy Smith, Community Activism class

Outcomes

A successful project will produce measurable outcomes in communicating the Huntertown story:

- Record oral history interviews with former Huntertown residents, descendants and surrounding community members to be archived and preserved at UK’s Nunn Center for Oral History
- Develop a digital archive of visual images, photographs, documents, artifacts
- Compile an historical timeline of Huntertown data, events, and residents
- Engage students in authentic project-based-learning to design and implement artifact events, visual media displays and research projects about the Huntertown Community

- Produce and schedule a traveling display to educate the public about the Huntertown freetown story
- Schedule Huntertown Display to appear at events and locations throughout the county to engage support for the ongoing Huntertown Community Interpretive Park project

Evaluation

Evaluation of project success would include the following data:

- Expanded number of interviews archived in the Nunn Center Huntertown Project library
- Digital archive of artifacts documented and added to Historical Society collection
- Data on number of Woodford County students, classes, and faculty involved with projects
- Number of events and locations where portable display appeared
- Names/contacts of future volunteers supporting park project

Sustainability

This project is a foundational step in development of a future park at Huntertown, providing historical data for interpretation at the site. The traveling display will also prove useful for future grant proposals and presentations, as multiple grants will be sought to clean up and reclaim the land for future park space. With the current interest in African-American history during the Reconstruction period, development of an interpretive site at Huntertown has tourism potential, especially with the possibility of nearby Camp Nelson becoming a National Historic Site in the National Park Service. The citizens of Woodford County will benefit in multiple ways from park development – and the Huntertown History Project is a first step in bringing this interpretive park from dream to reality.

Huntertown Project Timeline

Activity	Date
Conduct Oral History interviews of former Huntertown residents/descendants/community; archive in UK Oral History Library	September 2018 - ongoing
Meet with Woodford County High School faculty and partner classes to discuss project scope and sequence; determine project-based-learning opportunities	October-November 2018
Continue scholarly research on Huntertown and African-American Hamlets in Kentucky through UK Library, Kentucky Historical Society, Kentucky State University and other sources	October 2018 - ongoing
Determine specific research projects with students and staff at Woodford County High School	January, 2019
Organize, promote and conduct “Huntertown History Artifact Days” with partner classes at Woodford County High School	February – April, 2019
Design interpretive banner panels to tell the “Huntertown Story,” utilizing photos, documents, oral history and other archival information from interviews and artifact events.	May, 2019
Report progress to Huntertown Interpretive Park Committee and Woodford County Historical Society; coordinate the “future park” story for interpretive panel display	November 2018 - ongoing
Develop traveling exhibit schedule for interpretive panels to engage and educate public in “The Huntertown Story” and interpretive park vision	June – August 2019

III. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS attached separately

ATTACHMENT: Huntertown History Project Budget

<u>Description:</u>	<u>Estimated Cost:</u>
Portable Flatbed Document Scanner	\$ 250.00
• Color Photo, Image, Film, Negative & Document Scanner	
External Hard drive for Huntertown digital archive backup	\$ 100.00
Advertising/Promotion	\$ 500.00
• advertising for artifact events, traveling displays, community programs	
Retractable Banner with Display Stands (4 -5 panels and stands)	\$1200.00
• banner design, production, display stands and shipping	
• lightweight, portable banners (33 x 80) for traveling displays	
Copies and Printing	\$ 250.00
• copies, printer paper, ink/toner for project documents	
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TOTAL REQUEST:	\$ 2300.00

In-Kind Donations:

- Loan of oral history recording equipment for interviews \$350.00 value
- Volunteer labor for oral history interviews, research, artifact event(s)