

II. Project Description (Questions 10-12)

“Telling Our Own Stories” is a collaborative photography and oral history project that documents the history of the Lumbee from our own perspective. Lumbee schoolteachers, artists, preachers, retirees, students, elected officials and others will participate in training sessions that will teach them to do their own preservation work and simultaneously contribute to an archive that remains in the Indian community for students and scholars to use. A photography exhibit and symposium series will also be held in venues throughout Robeson County. With collaboration from Lumbee people with different viewpoints, historical preservation builds community and inspires us to discuss how the past can teach us about our present and future.

The Lumbee recently showed interest in celebrating our past at a book-signing for *Nowhere Else on Earth*, a historical novel about the Lumbee. After hundreds of Lumbees lined up to speak with the author, there was a widespread realization that Lumbees from all walks of life valued their own story and that they would be interested in this kind of work. “Telling Our Own Story” harnesses the energy and skills that the Lumbee community already possesses to document a version of our past that is faithful to its diverse experiences and yet honors the fundamental relationships to family and place that we all share. Public meetings, training sessions, photography exhibits and symposia will bring people together and teach them how to preserve their own photographs and family memories. Copies of the photos and oral histories that Lumbees collect will also help build an archive that will stay in Pembroke and be available for students, community scholars and professional scholars to use.

This kind of collaboration and skills training will also help overcome two fundamental divides that have affected the presentation and preservation of Lumbee history—the divide between scholars and the communities they study, and the multiple divisions within the Lumbee community itself. Each one of us feels differently about our identity and history, but we share an understanding that those points of view should be nurtured and preserved. Providing a place for Lumbee families from all walks of life to tell history as they remember it legitimizes different ways of describing history--there is not one story, but many stories. Acknowledging these different versions of history not only heals old wounds but helps prevent future ones from occurring.

The divide between scholars and the communities they study is familiar. We now have an opportunity for the real experts--the Lumbee--to build an archive that, with further funding, will draw professional scholars to Robeson County to learn from the Lumbee community and encourage an exchange of ideas about current issues. The study of history and culture, therefore, becomes something that everybody participates in, and the exchange process itself is seen as educational. This project allows Indians to physically and spiritually own the archive and, by extension, our history. The humanities, then, becomes a way of acting, not just a way of thinking.

A second divide that this project can bridge is the factions within the Lumbee community. The Lumbee River Fund, the organization that will plan and execute the project, has an advisory committee that includes individuals from different (and occasionally opposing) sectors of the Lumbee community, as well as a group of supportive non-Lumbee scholars. In addition to the Project Directors, these individuals have molded our work thus far into a true collaboration: Bruce Barton (Indian Education Resource Center), Gretchen Bataille (Office of the President, University of North Carolina- General Administration), Cherry Beasley (Associate Professor, UNC-Pembroke), Josephine Humphreys (Author), Stanley Knick (Native American Resource Center, UNC-Pembroke), Louise Maynor (Department of English, North Carolina Central University), Waltz Maynor (School of Education, North Carolina Central University), Jesse Oxendine (Community Expert), Linda Oxendine (American Indian Studies, UNC-Pembroke), and Charlie Thompson (Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University). With other members of the Lumbee River Fund advisory committee, who will also actively participate in planning and executing “Telling Our Own Stories,” we have spent the past six months discussing and implementing ideas that explore the common ground that we as diverse individuals share.

One such idea currently in production is a photo exhibit that documents the long-standing connections between the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and the Lumbee people. The exhibit will be open to the public from February 4-10, 2001, on UNC-Pembroke’s campus. It is organized roughly according to the University’s name changes, a theme that the exhibit committee felt represented its transformation from an Indian institution to a regional institution and that recognized the community’s profound impact on the University’s development. It has been exhilarating to see the quality and significance of these photographs and to reflect on the uniqueness of UNC-Pembroke and to assess its meaning for the Lumbee. The photos reflect the growth and sense of hope that has

characterized the Lumbee people. We have learned that working together to present a shared history results both in a story that is more truthfully told and a reminder of what we share today. Another one of the most pleasing results of our work on the UNC-Pembroke exhibit is the response we are getting from elderly people in the community. When we take some of our photos to them to identify images, they bring out their own photos and offer them as evidence of a rich Lumbee heritage. This enthusiasm gives us a responsibility to continue to tell their stories. “Telling Our Own Stories” is a chance to re-write history and take what we have learned to the wider Lumbee community.

“Telling Our Own Stories” includes some new elements as well. A main emphasis of our work will be to exhibit the material we gather in unconventional venues. History must go beyond the University setting to maintain its position as a foundational element of civic responsibility and critical thought. The Lumbee community is unique in its size, its economic and professional diversity, and its close-knit nature. Such qualities mean that it is possible to have portions of our exhibit all over Robeson County—in Linda’s Restaurant, Prospect United Methodist Church, Pembroke Town Hall, the Lumbee Bank, the Tribal Council offices, Union Chapel Elementary, Cyna’s Jewelers, First Health Clinic, and others. Another important focus of this project will be its service component. By participating in the project or simply making their pictures available to participants, Lumbee families can obtain new copies of their valued photographs and a record of a grandmother’s or great-uncle’s stories and wisdom to pass onto younger generations.

While the public venues of this project give its potential audience a wide scope, there are several smaller audiences we would like to target even more specifically. Often these groups have few formal interactions, and this project will be an opportunity for them to communicate about issues beyond the preservation of Lumbee history. One such group is Robeson County’s public school teachers and another is the humanities professors at UNC-Pembroke and Robeson Community College. This project will generate dialogue between these groups that will illuminate both groups’ awareness of contemporary scholarship and humanities teaching methods. Furthermore, the project will develop resource handouts that will facilitate their use of historical documents, photography and oral history in their classes. Public school teachers will be reached through publicity efforts with the Indian Education Resource Center of Robeson County Public Schools, and professors will be contacted through the Lumbee River Fund’s association with UNC-Pembroke and Robeson Community College.

Another target audience for this project will be Lumbee religious and political leaders. Both groups have a great deal in common but, unless these individuals wear two hats, they rarely carry on a public dialogue. The recently elected Tribal Council, which emerged out of a successful conflict-resolution process, and the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs both have cultural concerns on their agendas, and it is critical that these officials explore the issues involved in historical preservation and research. In addition, this project will enable these officials to hear from their constituents what specific parts of Lumbee culture they should protect. Few of these members of the Lumbee community are “professional” politicians or government workers; most have other occupations and responsibilities. They will carry their experiences with our project into these other arenas of their daily lives. These groups will be reached through members of the Lumbee River Fund’s advisory committee.

The photos one sees and the voices one hears in this project will remind these target audiences, as well as the Lumbee community in general, of the enormous difference that a few people can make within a community. Lumbee survival has been characterized by persistence in the face of profound obstacles, a willingness to do whatever needs to be done to maintain our autonomy, pride and integrity as a people. UNC-Pembroke is but one piece of evidence of that spirit, and we have expressed much of that relationship in our upcoming photo exhibit. That spirit should be understood from our perspective, and the Lumbee need some mechanism that will enable us to sustain a dialogue within our community about our history’s impact in the past and potential for the future. “Telling Our Own Stories,” a collaborative photography and oral history project, has powerful potential to stimulate this dialogue.

III. Program Details (Questions 13-15)

Project Structure

The Lumbee River Fund will be the body primarily responsible for implementing the project. The Fund is partnered with UNC-Pembroke and was begun to collect, preserve and study Lumbee history and culture. Project Director Malinda Maynor (Lumbee) is the Coordinator of the Lumbee River Fund. The Lumbee River Fund’s advisory committee will serve as the project’s planning committee (for a complete list of its members, see below). Ad-hoc committees made up of members of the Lumbee River Fund advisory committee and other community volunteers will be formed to direct specific stages

of the project. Co-Project Director Glen Burnette (Lumbee) represents UNC-Pembroke as the project's Sponsoring Organization; his role is to co-sign the project's fiscal transactions and direct us to UNC-Pembroke's facilities and resources as needed. The Lumbee River Fund's advisory committee has worked on a completely volunteer basis, and will continue to do so for the "Telling Our Own Stories" project. The project's field workers and some of the community meeting presenters will volunteer their time and expertise as well. The Center for Documentary Studies at Duke, UNC-Pembroke, the Indian Education Resource Center, and several individuals have already provided in-kind facilities, equipment and administrative support, and will continue to do so for this project (see the budget narrative for details on these items). The Lumbee River Fund and its projects rely on these resources, especially volunteers' time. The rather extended timeline for this project, as well as the heavy emphasis on group work, is a reflection of the respect we have for our volunteers' time and the stretched resources with which we are working. All of these people, Lumbee and non-Lumbee, have committed to this project because of the potential they see in its collaborative model. What we lack in financial resources we make up for in enthusiasm and commitment.

Project Timeline

The project will include the following stages, completed from June 2001 through July 2002.

1) *Community meetings with teachers, religious and political leaders to determine initial themes and areas of focus (June 2001).*

These meetings will be open to the general public as well. We will invite both a Lumbee educator and an outside scholar to lead a discussion about the issues involved in preserving and presenting Lumbee history. Examples of similar projects will be presented, focusing on the tasks of photographic preservation and oral history. The outcome of these meetings should be a clear, prioritized direction about the themes and topics that our volunteers will focus on. Potential topics include: Religion, Segregation, Civil Rights, Veterans, Tobacco Farming, Family, and Education.

2) *Selection of volunteers to carry out the photographic reproductions and oral history work (June 2001).*

Volunteers will emerge from the community meetings and be selected and supervised by the Lumbee River Fund advisory committee, who will provide guidance, contacts and critiques.

3) *Training workshops for volunteers (July-August 2001).*

The Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, the North Carolina Language and Life Project at N.C. State University, and UNC-Chapel Hill's Southern Oral History Project have expressed an interest in training volunteers in the various skills needed for documentation work. Two of our volunteers for the Lumbee River Fund photography exhibit have attended a workshop on photo preservation at the Center for Documentary Studies. They remain in close contact with experts at the center as they prepare for the exhibit. Topics to be covered in the workshops may include: archiving and interviewing techniques, equipment use, still photography basics, project planning, research ethics, ethnographic observation, genealogy basics, and relevant computer applications. Two members of the planning committee for our UNC-Pembroke photo exhibit (see page 3 for more information on this exhibit) have already attended a photo preservation workshop at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke.

4) *Assembling, labeling and cataloguing the photographs and interview tapes (September-December 2001).*

Several months are required for volunteers to take their skills back home and gather their own family photos and oral histories, as well as those of their neighbors and friends. Their "home base" for this portion of the project will be the Indian Education Resource Center, where members of the Lumbee River Fund advisory committee will be available periodically to handle the logistics of equipment use and maintenance. Malinda Maynor will be responsible for initially storing and cataloguing the photos and tapes. Students at UNC-Pembroke, Robeson Community College, and Research-Triangle area universities will be recruited to transcribe and index tapes and catalog the photographs for long-term storage, under guidance from the planning committee.

5) *Formation of a steering committee and planning the exhibit and symposia (January 2002-May 2002).*

A steering committee will be organized from several project volunteers and other individuals that have expertise in planning exhibits and public programs. Emphasis will be placed on hanging the exhibit in unconventional venues in the Robeson County area.

6) *Public exhibition and discussion of the photographs and oral histories gathered (June-July 2002).*

The culmination of this project is the exhibit and symposia that give the Lumbee public an opportunity to appreciate, examine and give feedback about the material we have gathered. The

exhibit will be up simultaneously in several different venues throughout the Lumbee community, and a program and brochure will be provided at each venue to provide viewers with information about our work and direct them to the other exhibit venues. Viewers will also have the opportunity to write down their comments on the exhibit and suggestions for future work. During the public exhibition, two symposia will be held where local scholars (professional and non-professional, Lumbee and non-Lumbee) will give presentations, lead discussions about the events and themes depicted in the exhibit, and discuss the process of preserving Lumbee history. These sessions will serve as evaluations of our work; they also provide another level of outreach to the Lumbee community about the necessity of historical preservation.

At the conclusion of these phases of the project, we will launch another phase in which we more comprehensively catalog, index and store our collection in Pembroke. That phase will require the consulting services of a research librarian and the purchase or donation of storage cabinets, as well as the donation of space for the collection. The project planning committee will pursue these options in the coming months.

Project Planning Committee (organizational affiliation is for identification purposes only)

Professional Humanities Scholars

Bruce Barton (Lumbee), Indian Education Resource Center
PO Box 847, Pembroke, NC 28372

Gretchen M. Bataille, Office of the President, University of North Carolina
PO Box 2688, Chapel Hill, NC 27515

Stanley Knick, Native American Resource Center, UNC-Pembroke
Old Main, Pembroke, NC 28372

Louise Maynor (Lumbee), English Department, NC Central University
1626 University Drive, Durham, NC 27707

Waltz Maynor (Lumbee), School of Education, NC Central University
1626 University Drive, Durham, NC 27707

Linda Oxendine (Lumbee), American Indian Studies, UNC-Pembroke
Old Main, Pembroke, NC 28372

Theda Perdue, History Department, UNC-Chapel Hill
Hamilton Hall, Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Glenn Ellen Starr Stilling, Belk Library, Appalachian State University
PO Box 32026, Boone, NC 28606

Charles D. Thompson, Education Director, Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University

1317 W. Pettigrew Street, Durham, NC 27705
Harry L. Watson, Center for the Study of the American South, UNC-Chapel Hill
Manning Hall, Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Walt Wolfram, North Carolina Language and Life Project, N.C. State University
English Department, Raleigh, NC 27695

Community Experts & Scholars in Other Disciplines

Cherry Beasley (Lumbee), Associate Professor, UNC-Pembroke
Pembroke, NC 28372
Danny Bell (Lumbee/Coharie), American Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill
Greenlaw Hall, Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Dexter Brooks (Lumbee), Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, Robeson County
PO Box 730, Pembroke, NC 28372
Donna Chavis (Lumbee), Native Americans in Philanthropy
PO Drawer 1429, Lumberton, NC 28359
Jeff Currie (Lumbee), North Carolina State Museum of History
4650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-0200
Daystar Dial (Lumbee), Artist/Writer
1490 Cope Road, Red Springs, NC 28377
Josephine Humphreys, Author
2663 Bayonne Street, Sullivan's Island, SC 29482
Joel Garth Locklear (Lumbee), Indian Honor Association
PO Box 2169, Pembroke, NC 28372
Allen Meadors, Chancellor, UNC-Pembroke
Lumbee Hall, Pembroke, NC 28372

Program Participants

Robeson County public school teachers
Indian elected officials
Lumbee Tribal Council members
NC Indian Commission Affairs Board members
UNC-Pembroke professors
Robeson Community College professors
College and high school students
Retirees
Artists & Writers

Possible Presenters

This is just a sample of the many Lumbee and non-Lumbee scholars whose work dovetails with this project. Most (though not all) are familiar with our work thus far. Members of the Lumbee River Fund advisory committee will also potentially be presenters in our public programs.

Professional Humanities Scholars

Barbara Braveboy-Locklear (Lumbee), Author
Agnes Chavis (Lumbee), Educator and Activist
Jerry Cotton, North Carolina Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill
David K. Eliades, American Indian Studies, UNC-Pembroke
William McKee Evans, Department of History, Pomona College
Jacquelyn Hall, Southern Oral History Project, UNC-Chapel Hill
Iris Tillman Hill, Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University
Glenn Hinson, Curriculum in Folklore, UNC-Chapel Hill
Elisha Locklear (Lumbee), Independent Scholar
Helen Maynor Schierbeck (Lumbee), National Museum of the American Indian
Tom Rankin, Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University
Alicia Rouveral, Independent Scholar
Julia Russell (Lumbee), Educator and Writer
Vernon Ray Thompson (Lumbee), retired public school administrator
David Wilkins (Lumbee), American Indian Studies, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
Ruth Dial Woods (Lumbee), Board of Governors, University of North Carolina

Community Experts & Scholars in Other Disciplines

Michael Cummings (Lumbee), Burnt Swamp Baptist Association
Cynthia Hunt (Lumbee), Lumbee River Legal Services
Jim Lowry (Lumbee), Lumbee Self-Determination Commission
Jesse Oxendine (Lumbee), Independent Scholar
Ruth Revels (Lumbee), Community Activist
Bill Wilkerson, Photographer

Publicity Plan

Within the Lumbee community, word of mouth is by far the most powerful publicity technique. To maximize this technique's effectiveness, we will hire a part-time public relations coordinator who will make the contacts via phone and email that are necessary to assure this project's success. The coordinator will also have contacts in local media outlets, such as the Carolina Indian Voice, the Robesonian, and local radio stations. Another important publicity channel is organizational newsletters. Churches, health care organizations, day care programs and social service agencies can publicize our work through the publications they send to their membership and clientele lists. Persons who may assist us with publicity are:

Margaret Chavis (Lumbee), Indian Education Resource Center
Quae Cummings (Coharie), Burnt Swamp Baptist Association
Cherry Beasley (Lumbee), Assistant Professor, UNC-Pembroke
Milton Hunt (Lumbee), Lumbee Tribal Council

Jim Lowry (Lumbee), Lumbee Self-Determination Commission

Our public relations coordinator would begin his or her work in May of 2001, with publicizing the initial community meetings and inviting our target audiences. He or she would resume working in September, 2001. At that time, the coordinator would prepare flyers for public distribution and a brochure mailing to pre-identified individuals who may have photographs or be available for oral history interviews, as well as make follow-up phone calls. In January 2002, he or she would work closely with the exhibit steering committee to plan publicity for the June-July, 2002 events and represent the steering committee to potential exhibit venues.

Evaluation

The success of our project will first be determined by the number of photos we preserve, the oral histories we collect, and our ability to catalog and store those photos in an accessible manner. Secondly, participants will have the opportunity to formally evaluate our work throughout the process. Each meeting, training session and event will include a feedback form where participants can rate their experience and offer suggestions. Similarly, exhibit and symposium visitors will be able to fill out evaluation sheets as well. There will be opportunities for additions to the Lumbee River Fund's mailing list. Waltz Maynor, a statistician, will assist in devising a questionnaire that we may use to formally assess the project's outcomes. Finally, the symposia themselves will be an opportunity for evaluation; presenters, planners and participants will discuss the project's failures and successes, and they will determine steps to be taken for future projects.

IV. Budget Narrative (Questions 17-19)

17. Much of our in-kind support for this project is already in place, and we have begun investigating other cash funding. Potential sources include several Lumbee individuals who have indicated a willingness to support our work in small but significant ways, such as buying film, publicity costs or contributing funds for food. We also plan to inquire about the National Endowment for the Humanities' Preservation Assistance Grant and about funds from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, the First Union Foundation, and Carolina Power and Light.

18. Budget worksheet--Please see attached.

19. Budget explanation—Attached is a spreadsheet that breaks down all expenses and in-kind contributions, along with calculations for each item. What follows here is an explanation of the relationship of specific items to the project’s purpose.

a. Salaries

All administrative positions for “Telling Our Own Stories” will be held by volunteers, except for the Public Relations Coordinator position. The person hired for this position will likely need to take a little time off from his or her job to do the thorough work that needs to be done to publicize this project to the Lumbee community. Therefore, we feel we should compensate that person at a rate of \$10 per hour for 5 hours of work per week, totaling \$200 per month. The Public Relations Coordinator will work for 10 of the project’s 13-month timeline; the NCHC’s contribution will pay for the first two and a half months of the Coordinator’s time.

b./c. Retirement/FICA

The Public Relations Coordinator will be hired as an independent contractor, so these expenses will not be necessary.

d. Speaker Stipends

The planning committee, project advisors and exhibit steering committee members we have contacted have all offered to volunteer their time, as have the potential presenters at the initial community meetings. Their generosity enables us to use NCHC’s funds to bring scholars and technical experts that normally do not work in the Lumbee community to Pembroke for the training sessions and symposia. These visitors will be compensated in the following manner:

Training Sessions:

2 leaders per two-day session x \$400 each=\$800 per session

Symposia Speakers:

3 speakers per one-day event x \$200 each=\$600 per session

e. Supplies and Equipment Rental

The use of our most important equipment will be donated by individuals in the community and borrowed from institutions such as the Indian Education Resource Center, the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke, N.C. State’s North Carolina Language and Life Project, and the Southern Oral History Project at UNC-Chapel Hill. Such equipment includes a photographic copy stand, a camera and lens, computers and computer software, and tape recorders and microphones. Transcribing and indexing personnel will also be volunteers.

Office Supplies for meetings and training sessions: We estimate holding approximately 20 events over the course of the project, including planning committee meetings and public events.

Film: 20 rolls of 35mm film have already been donated to the project, and we will have enough cash to purchase another 20 rolls.

Archival Negative Sleeves & Folders for prints: We will purchase high-quality archiving materials and catalog and index each photo carefully, so that the collection we build has longevity and is easily accessible.

Enlarged Prints, Photo Frames and Text Mounting: These are all expenses associated with publicly exhibiting the photographs and oral histories we collect. 30 frames have already been obtained by the Lumbee River Fund.

f. Travel, Meals and Lodging

The project directors, planning committee and community meeting presenters have all volunteered their vehicle costs and Lumbee individuals have offered to feed and house those that come overnight or travel long distances. Therefore, we are able to reimburse vehicle costs for those coming from out of town for the training sessions and symposia.

Training Sessions

2 presenters' travel for 200 miles round-trip=400 miles

2 presenters' meals & lodging for 2 days=4 fees at \$75/fee (in-kind)

Symposia Speakers

3 presenters' travel for 200 miles round-trip=600 miles

3 presenters' meals & lodging for 2 days each=6 fees at \$75/fee (in-kind)

g. Rental of Facilities

We have obtained in-kind donations of meeting facilities from the Native American Resource Center and James B. Chavis Student Center at UNC-Pembroke, and from the Indian Education Resource Center of Robeson County. Given the amount of interest expressed in this project so far, we anticipate in-kind donations of exhibit space as well.

h. Printing & Publicity

We will raise external funds to pay for the production of flyers to publicize the community meetings and events, as well as brochures and invitations. The exhibit program and newspaper ads will be obtained with the help of individuals at UNC-Pembroke and the Indian Education Resource Center. Producing the curriculum materials will sustain the project's impact in schools throughout Robeson County.

i. Other

Individuals and UNC-Pembroke have agreed to absorb the costs for postage and telephone associated with this project. We will raise additional funds to provide food for participants and also solicit community donations.