

# 2024 MHLS Outreach Mini-Grants

Library	Grant Description
<b>Town of Ulster Public Library</b>	Our library has identified a hole in our collection with a lack of books/materials for and about the LGBTQIA+ community. We would like to round out our children, junior, young adult, and adult collections with this grant money.
<b>Philmont Public Library</b>	I plan to weed and update our adult, juvenile & YA non-fiction, especially history, which is outdated and replace it with books that are inclusive and promote a deeper appreciation and understanding of history and culture that is not euro centric. I would love to include BIPOC biographies and poetry as well.
<b>Olive Free Library Assoc.</b>	We are currently weeding and auditing books throughout our children's, YA and adult fiction books. We would very much like to use the funds from this grant to purchase books that will provide our patrons with more authentic voices and diverse thinking.
<b>East Fishkill Community Library</b>	A three-pronged project to support, welcome, and nurture the neurodivergent youth of our community is proposed. First, purchases to diversify and enrich our book collection; Second, development of "I Can" kits for our Library of Things; Third, additions of supports/calming items/manipulatives for our Children's Area and Program Room.
<b>Highland Public Library</b>	Increase our community's understanding of other cultures and values by offering programs from various cultures.
<b>Roeliff Jansen Community Library</b>	We will purchase a 72 MHz Listen Technologies Assistive Listening Digital Signal Processing system to make our programs more accessible to patrons with hearing loss. Our library serves a large number of patrons who are hard of hearing either due to age or disability. As a result, some of our programs are inaccessible to them. We hope to make more programs accessible to more people, especially to those with hearing loss.
<b>Woodstock Public Library District</b>	Building on our Braille collection for blind and low-vision children, I propose to purchase books and materials for deaf and hard of hearing children, such as Sign Language instruction books and flash cards, as well as other materials that could be of use. These items could also include sign language for babies and toddlers, which could address speech issues and improve communication between child and parent or caregiver. I would also like to find and schedule some in-person sign language classes to accompany any materials purchased, giving patrons a chance to put what they have learned into practice.

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**LaGrange Association Library** The LaGrange Association Library Community Pantry aims to provide dignified access to non-perishable food items and personal hygiene products for community members in need. By fostering community donations and partnerships, we will ensure the pantry remains well-stocked and sustainable. This initiative not only addresses immediate needs but also strengthens community bonds and promotes mutual support.

## **Claverack Free Library**

Present day demographics of the town of Claverack, NY show less than 1% of our community is Native American. As an institution that is committed to serving the public and providing resources and access to information for everyone, but in particular to marginalized and underrepresented groups, we feel very committed to presenting, preserving and providing materials of significant cultural and Indigenous history to our community, through collection development, programming and education.

## **Cairo Public Library**

The Cairo Public Library collection is sorely in need of meaningful diversification. If awarded the grant, the money would go toward getting books and materials that uplift and personify people of all races, genders and sexual orientations. The library is in the process of weeding our collection to remove books that have been written from a place of bias and is trying to replace these books with updated titles. The titles picked to replace older titles not only include diverse characters but diverse authors, producers, narrators and illustrators. This process is a lengthy and an expensive one, this grant money would be a huge jump from where we are to where we want to be.

## **Beekman Library**

We will contract with Redhawk Native American Arts Council to present a multigenerational program that will educate our residents about Native American heritage through song, dance, theater and other cultural expressions. Some of the funds will be used to purchase additional materials that focus on the Native American experience and those written by Native American authors.

## **Millbrook Library**

The Millbrook Library seeks funding to enhance and diversify its children's non-fiction collection to ensure it is inclusive and representative of our diverse community. We aim to acquire a range of non-fiction materials that reflect various cultural and social backgrounds, as well as addressing different abilities and perspectives. A diversity audit of the children's non-fiction collection revealed a lack of diverse authors and subjects and this initiative will address three specific parts of the non-fiction collection - the 200s, 900s, and Biography section.

## **Catskill Public Library**

Catskill Public Library would like to expand our language collections, including books and graphic novels for older children, and add more books and e-books to facilitate learning English for speakers of other languages.

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## **Kinderhook Memorial Library**

We would be developing a Banned Books Club at the library, with the target audience being adults (though teens would be welcome). Funding would primarily go toward providing a copy of each book for attendees to keep, as well as developing our library's collection by filling in gaps that we may have.

## **Hudson Area Association Library**

For this project, we will diversify our library's collection with Spanish language and bilingual English-Spanish books, enhancing cultural literacy and language skills among our diverse community. By providing access to quality literature in Spanish, we aim to promote inclusivity, support bilingualism, and enrich the overall reading experience for library users of all ages.

## **Starr Library**

We would like to expand our Spanish language collection for children and promote the collection with partner organizations and program/s in order to bring an underserved and sizable number of the Rhinebeck community into the library in a new way.

## **Saugerties Library**

One aspect of equity, diversity and inclusion pertains to interacting and communicating with people in a respectful and understanding manner. Acts of macroaggression, based on race, ability, gender, religion or ideology, are sometimes performed out of ignorance and / or poor social skills. Cultural competence and nonviolent communication techniques can be learned, and our proposed project will offer two library programs for the public to meet with and learn from experts on race, cultural diversity and interpersonal communication skills. Participants will experience how to listen with empathy and express themselves in a respectful manner, especially when discussing complex topics.

## **Town of Esopus Library**

To invest in collection development and events benefiting the teen and tween populations of the Town of Esopus Library, particularly strengthening representation in our collection of LGBTQ+ titles.

## **Phoenicia Library**

Stories and Voices of Diversity: Improved Electronic Collection by Diverse Voices. Purchase and publicize both eBooks and e-audiobooks by and for communities hit hardest by censorship, with a particular focus on firsthand accounts, history and memoirs.

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The primary goal of the Germantown Library is to provide the community with the highest quality library and information services in support of learning and recreation. We are excited to request the MHLS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Mini-Grant to support the creation of a new and diverse book collection named the Heritage Collection. This initiative aims to celebrate and amplify voices that have historically been marginalized by featuring literature written by or about people of color, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and women writers.

The Heritage Collection will consist of two distinct segments: one for children and one for adults. The collection will be curated to highlight voices and experiences across various communities, in alignment with the American Library Association Heritage Months, including:

Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month, September 15-October 15

Native American Heritage Month, November

Black History Month, February

Women's History Month, March

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, May

LGBTQ+ Pride Month, June

Disability Pride Month, July

A key component of this project will be the inclusion of bilingual books in Spanish/English and Portuguese/English. This effort will not only provide diverse literature but also ensure accessibility for our Spanish and Portuguese-speaking community members.

To complement the Heritage Collection, we will offer a range of engaging programming and events. For example, during Latinx Heritage Month, we plan to host four Bilingual Story Hours for children, featuring two sessions in Spanish and English and two in Portuguese and English.

Additionally, the adult segment of the Heritage Collection will be integrated with our existing Heritage Book Group, which has been a part of our library's offerings since September 2023. We intend to use the grant funds to purchase physical copies of the books that will be read by the group and to support author events. For instance, in September, we plan to read a book by Argentine author, Silvina Lopez Medin, residing in the Hudson Valley. We will use the funds to acquire both English and Spanish editions of her work and to invite her for a talk and reading session.

## Germantown Library

Reading and discussion group on depictions of race in children's literature and ways to have civil discourse around race in order to promote greater understanding and tolerance of differences.

## Rosendale Library

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## **Desmond-Fish Public Library and Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library**

Our proposed project is a strengthening of an initiative that began on our Town of Philipstown in 2021. In response to a racism incident, the Desmond-Fish Public Library, Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library, Garrison Union Free School District, and the Haldane Central School District formed a committee to join our voices to a call for greater equity, diversity, and inclusion in our town. The Philipstown DEI Committee receives no funding from any of the institutions and has proceeded on the basis of volunteer efforts. Our project request is for financial support to help achieve a greater impact for our DEI goals. It reflects the "looking outward" focus of the ALA.

We are asking for funding to help us:

1. Continue the publishing of a Philipstown DEI Newsletter, started in May 2024.
2. Establish a Website for the Philipstown DEI Committee
3. Hold a fall workshop for all community members of DEI committees, including a speaker on the importance of DEI.

## **Elting Memorial Library**

Building upon last year's first extensive workshop series for adults (18+yrs.) on Black History & American History, Race and Race Relations which was dubbed: "a discussion series where it's ok to be a beginner," this new iteration "Coming Together: Black History is American History" will build upon the resounding success of the debut of this program concept at Elting Memorial Library (which included Black and white participants; the former at a high ratio) while adding new components; some in response to feedback.

- Free and open to all community members interested in learning about history as well as identifying and understanding today's issues and imagining our future together, participants will register for a free 6-part series of 90-minute workshops at the Elting Memorial Library with Albert Cook, Social Studies Dept., New Paltz High School. The series will take place monthly from October 2024 - April 2025 and include a Culmination Event in April 2025 moderated by Mr. Cook, joined by both a selection of New Paltz High School students and workshop participants.

- This year, the series will bring in additional workshop leaders, highly-qualified educators from the Black community, curated by Albert Cook to bring an interdisciplinary approach to this iteration.

- Finally, in Spring 2025, a one-time discussion session for MHLS Library Directors and staff will be offered where Albert Cook, a native of Ulster county and teacher in the New Paltz school district, will discuss models for creating meaningful, responsive community programming in MHLS communities in an effort to nurture regional interest in the subject

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through an open and informative Q&A.