



**Native American/Native Hawaiian
Museum Services
Sample Application MN-00-13-0021-13
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation**

Amount awarded by IMLS:	\$47,393
Amount of cost share:	\$41,047

Attached are the following components excerpted from the original application.

- Abstract
- Narrative
- Schedule of Completion

Digging Deep & Moving Forward: Reinterpreting our Colonial and Post-Colonial Landscape
Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center

ABSTRACT

In celebration and remembrance of the 375th anniversary of the Pequot War and recent groundbreaking research on Native-European colonial society in the northeast, the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center (MPMRC) celebrates its 15th anniversary with a proposal of a programmatic series, publications and internal strategic exhibition planning titled *Digging Deep & Moving Forward: Reinterpreting our Colonial and Post-Colonial Landscape*. Recent historical research from the *Battlefields of the Pequot War (BPW)* project has demonstrated dire need for the MPMRC to address perspectives of historical events of the 17th century and in particular, the Pequot War; and internal need of updated MPMRC exhibits, educational programs, and staff training, and the external need for community outreach. This series will address contemporary perspectives of historical events by: providing opportunities for academic discourse, dialogue facilitation outside the museum walls but within local communities, and the recording, production and publication of easily accessible educational materials internally and externally including recent updated research of the *BPW* project. Over the course of one year beginning October 1, 2013, the MPMRC *Digging Deep & Moving Forward: Reinterpreting our Colonial and Post-Colonial Landscape* will carry out a series of academic and public programs including: an academic three-day conference titled *Seventeenth Century Warfare, Diplomacy, & Society in the American Northeast*, public and hands-on family programming to include a 17th century military encampment, local “Community Conversations,” and a K-12 Teacher Workshop. Available public resources will be an academic conference publication and an online curriculum-based resource with lessons and activities for K-12 educators. Published resources will be available online and will be placed in community and school libraries. Internally, Colonial Period research presented by the MPMRC and participating academics at the *Seventeenth Century Warfare, Diplomacy, & Society in the American Northeast* Conference will contribute to an updated 17th century-Pequot War exhibition gallery script and provide training for MPMRC education staff.

Digging Deep & Moving Forward: Reinterpreting our Colonial and Post-Colonial Landscape requires the time of MPMRC staff: director of research, public programming director, graphic designer, and museum educators. Consultants to be hired: academic scholars, curriculum writer, and project liaison/editor. Promotional materials needed for the success of this project include: brochures, e-news, website management and targeting mailings. Educational resources, including an Academic Conference publication, K-12 lessons and activities (will be posted online and 50 hard copies will be made available to local schools and libraries), and signage constructed in-house. The intended tangible results of this project is the facilitation of six “Community Conversations,” one three-day academic conference, one academic conference publication, development of and dissemination of lessons and activities, two interpretive signage at key areas located to Pequot War locations, and one Teacher Workshop serving at least 15 educators.

Contemporary misconceptions of the 17th century-Pequot War events are largely due to the absence of a Native perspective, therefore the introduction of new research is to share knowledge and encourage local community discourse. The intangible public results of this series are community-orientated and geared towards awareness and knowledge of historical events. The intended beneficiaries of *Digging Deep & Moving Forward: Reinterpreting our Colonial and Post-Colonial Landscape* are academics, educators, the local community, and the greater public. MPMRC staff will benefit from this program with internal staff and museum teacher training, and will build strategically as a base for an updated 17th century-Pequot War gallery exhibit script. The local community (i.e. Mystic, Preston, Ledyard, Connecticut) has demonstrated a need for historical discourse opportunities. Previous experience shows that attendance levels are higher at local community or other historical organizational meetings then when held at the MPMRC. The challenge of *Digging Deep & Moving Forward: Reinterpreting our Colonial and Post-Colonial Landscape* is effectively engaging the greater public. Public success for this program is based on dialogue, discourse and public participation, therefore marketing will be a top priority.

Evaluation of this program series will be based on numerical tallies, front-end and formative evaluation of public and academic programs using surveys, and statistical tracking of project using website (www.pequotwar.org) visitation and visitor time on site (where educational resources have been posted online).

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PROPOSAL

In celebration and remembrance of the 375th anniversary of the Pequot War and recent groundbreaking research on Native-European colonial interactions in the northeast, the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center (MPMRC) celebrates its 15th anniversary with a proposal of a programmatic series, publications and internal strategic exhibition planning titled *Digging Deep & Moving Forward: Reinterpreting our Colonial and Post-Colonial Landscape*. Recent historical research from a long-term *Battlefields of the Pequot War (BPW)* project (supported by the National Park Service) has demonstrated dire need for the MPMRC to address contemporary perspectives of historical events of the 17th century and in particular, the Pequot War (1636-1637). This need is internal within MPMRC exhibits, educational programs, and training of staff, as well as externally present in local communities. This program and publication series will address contemporary perspectives of historical events by providing opportunities for academic discourse, facilitation of dialogue within local communities outside the museum walls, and the recording, production and publication of easily accessible educational materials, which will include recent research completed by the *BPW* project for both the MPMRC and outside audiences.

Over the course of one year beginning October 1, 2013, the MPMRC *Digging Deep & Moving Forward: Reinterpreting our Colonial and Post-Colonial Landscape* will carry out a series of academic and public programs culminating in published resources. These tangible activities will serve an academic audience, the wider public, and the public school system. Programs include an academic three-day conference titled *Seventeenth Century Warfare, Diplomacy, & Society in the American Northeast*, public and hands-on family programming updated with recent research which will include a 17th century military encampment, local “Community Conversations,” and a K-12 Teacher Workshop. Available public resources will be an academic conference publication and an online curriculum-based resource filled with activities for K-12 and homeschool educators. Specifically, published resources will be available online, and to the public at local community and school libraries. Internally, 17th century and Colonial period research presented by both the MPMRC and participating academics in the conference of *Seventeenth Century Warfare, Diplomacy, & Society in the American Northeast* will contribute to an updated 17th century-Pequot War exhibition gallery script.

Topically, this series will provide opportunities for learning and discourse about the contemporary perspectives of the complex colonial cultural landscape within the American Northeast, focusing on Connecticut where most of the Pequot War took place. The proposed program series builds from the *BPW* project by the MPMRC. *BPW* is a long-term collaborative project to research, document and preserve the battlefields of the Pequot War and in the process, inform and educate the public of its history, legacy and significance in Connecticut and America’s history. Sites from the *BPW* project were the first 17th century battlefields to be listed and regionally recognized on the National Historic Register. The project has been supported with funding from the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program (NPS ABPP), the University of Connecticut and the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe. The NPS ABPP, most widely known for their research and preservation of Civil War battlefields such as Gettysburg, aims to protect battlefields and sites associated with armed conflicts that influenced the course of our history, encourage and assist all Americans in planning for the preservation, management, and interpretation of these sites, and raise awareness of the importance of preserving battlefields for future generations. The research completed by the MPMRC when made public, will greatly enhance the understanding of Connecticut and national American History for generations of audiences to come. *BPW* research has also added an important Native dimension and perspective to events that have only been traditionally, historically and contemporarily told from a European perspective.

Digging Deep & Moving Forward will share this unique research to the public by bridging the academic disciplines of American studies, Native American studies, anthropology, archaeology, history, ethnohistory, geography, legal studies, sociology and literature. Participating academic and historical organizations include the University of Connecticut, Connecticut State Library and Archives (Hartford, CT), Connecticut Historical Society (West Hartford, CT), Old Saybrook Historical Society, Connecticut River Museum (Essex, CT),

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Fairfield Museum and History Center (Fairfield, CT), and local schools in Groton and Mystic, Connecticut, as well as local libraries in Preston, Groton, Ledyard, and other participating communities. Many of these organizations, including several others, are part of an already-existing Pequot War Consortium, developed by the *BPW* project. The development and facilitation of the following programs include:

- *Academic Conference: Seventeenth Century Warfare, Diplomacy, & Society in the American Northeast*: A Call for Abstracts (see Supporting Documents) has already been released to the academic community. This three-day conference has already received several abstracts, much interest, and is designed to bridge academic disciplines by still focusing on Native history of the American Northeast.
- *Public Family Programming*: Current planning for family-friendly public programming includes a “living history” day of a 17th Century Military Encampment/reenactment. Additionally, the development of a “17th Century New England Monument Trail” and Bus Tour of Pequot War battlefields for the public to either access on their own with an online brochure, or for MPMRC to host, will explore the founding of many New England towns, which share both Native and European histories.
- *“Community Conversations”*: The need for the public to participate in active cultural and historic preservation “town meetings” is necessary for dialogue. The MPMRC’s experience with the *BPW project* has demonstrated that continuity, understanding, presentation, and opportunities for discourse can promote awareness, knowledge and build a preservation and conservation network. See below section titled NEED for a further description.
- *Teacher Workshop: Seventeenth Century Native and Colonial History*: Topics for discussion and presentation will be Native and Colonial history, including the Pequot War and King Philip’s War in local communities, and these conflicts effects on the development of and lifestyle of Colonial Connecticut towns. Fifteen Teachers attending this workshop will receive a stipend in order to create at least three interdisciplinary activities (STEM and literacy) to be posted online and distributed into local and school libraries.
- *Two interpretive panels adjacent/in view of battlefields of the Pequot War*: The need for preservation and knowledge in the communities local to Pequot War battlefields will be exhibited through interpretive panels made in-house at the MPMRC. Much of the content for these panels is already written.
- *Exhibition Script integrating new research for MPMRC’s 17th Century-Pequot War gallery*: New research compiled by the *BPW* project, research presented at the *Academic Conference: Seventeenth Century Warfare, Diplomacy, & Society in the American Northeast*, and an academic consultant panel will serve as an editing unit for an updated exhibition script disseminating new research. This script will strategically place MPMRC staff as renovation-ready for a future update to the Pequot War gallery, including new information, displays, artifacts and interpretive vehicles.
- Available published and online resources for the public following the *Digging Deep & Moving Forward: Reinterpreting our Colonial Landscape* will be one academic conference publication, titled *Seventeenth Century Warfare, Diplomacy, & Society in the American Northeast*, and an updated curriculum with resources including interdisciplinary activities for K-12 and homeschool educators focusing updated information regarding the Colonial period from a Native perspective.

NEED

In recent years, the MPMRC has taken steps to address issues in their 2nd-floor historical period galleries with their concept plan “Pathways through Pequot History” (2010) funded in part by five IMLS (2007-2012) grants from the Museums for America and Native American Museum Services programs. Evaluation completed by the MPMRC during these IMLS grants noted that visitors at the MPMRC do not spend enough time exploring the 2nd-floor galleries. These visitors, in fact, remain perplexed by the Mashantucket Pequot tribal community, who (a public belief encountered during *BPW* public meetings and archaeological fieldwork) was

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in most historical texts decimated by and, in fact, ceased to exist after the events of the Pequot War. Most recently, during an MPMRC exhibit installation depicting current research at the MPMRC, a museum visitor walked by, pointed and stated: "It's [the Pequot War] a farce. The whole thing is made up."⁴ The Pequot War was the genesis of this public belief and with the MPMRC's recently completed *BPW* research, this knowledge needs to be disseminated within both museum exhibits and public programming.

The NPS ABPP requires in their guidelines the garnering of public support in awareness, and since the majority of Pequot War battlefields lay on private property, project research requires the public's participation in order to complete archaeological and remote sensing surveys. In response to seeking the public's support, the *Battlefields of the Pequot War* project has generated a significant amount of local press and national coverage over the past five years. The following publicly written comments are an excellent example of both the public's point of view of the Pequot War, the Mashantucket Pequot, and the need for "Community Conversations" through the publication of and distribution of recent research:

So does this mean they want to return the statue of John Mason to Mystic since most battlefields honor the winners of the battle? And to [say] the Pequots prevailed is seriously engaging in fantasy. A stone-age culture that didn't have the wheel against the technology of Europe pandering and attempts at multi-cultural "equality." All culture[s] are not equal. Schools already waste too much time on this fanciful stuff [including] underpinnings of our Republic.⁵

Goes to show that money can rewrite history. Money can also find intelligent fools to accomplish this.⁶

It's OK for the native population to kill one another for greed and competition, but when their skin is white, it's murder. What hypocrites!...Also, these bellyachers do know that the colonists were assisted by other neighboring Native American during this war. I wonder what their beef was? Maybe they just couldn't get along! Today, what happened more than 372 years ago, is suppose to be the white mans (my) fault and we (I) owe them something. I (we) did not do anything to all of them!...None of us were there so we can only surmise [from] a few documents what was the intent. I can't wait to see the new revisionist history when they get done with this dig. Especially with the use of taxpayer money and the influence the Pequots (or I should say, the 1/16ths) will exert with their two cents. The dominating factor in this conversation is the fact that they, not the white man, came out on the losing side...I've become desensitized by the finger pointing blame our local natives (?) have been doing. I was once a supporter of their cause to get just treatment. It appears now that they will only settle for dominance. Now I'm sorry I ever was involved!⁷

It's amazing to see what \$\$ can do to history. Most who grew up in the area knew that the Pequots were destroyed almost to the man. Any left were Narragansett's after interbreeding. What I find always

⁴ This occurred at the MPMRC's visitor entrance on January 2, 2013.

⁵ Katie Warchut, "Pequot Battle Site Plan To Be Explained," *The New London Day*, August 18, 2008. Comments section printed and quoted. The "statue of John Mason" comment eludes to a controversial removal and movement to Windsor, Connecticut of the 19th century monument depicting Captain John Mason, commander of the Native and English forces who attacked and burned Mistick Fort on May 26, 1637. The statue was erected in 1889, and after an emotional and forced community and state-wide debate, the statue was removed in 1996[?]. Many longtime local residents living near the site of the monument's original location still respond angrily to the statue's removal, and in turn, respond negatively towards those who argued for its removal (members associated with local Native tribes).

⁶ Collette, Matt, "After 3 years of Pequot War research, it's time to dig," *The New London Day*, February 22, 2010. Comments section printed and quoted.

⁷ Collette, Matt, "After 3 years of Pequot War research, it's time to dig," *The New London Day*, February 22, 2010. Comments section printed and quoted.

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interested when I read of the “Tribe” is that they’ve never given the proof of ancestry that they were challenged to produce?⁸

History as we know it tells us that the Pequots were a warring people constantly fighting and conquering their neighboring tribes (greed). Times haven’t really changed much in 350 years.⁹

In April, the crew will begin searching for relics, using metal detectors to help locate bits of metal left over from ancient slot machines used to lure unsuspecting Colonists to their demise. Greed within the tribe actually led to the collapse of the tribe’s casino in the area.¹⁰

After 375 years, and its events defined as one of the *10 Days that Unexpectedly Changed America*, the Pequot War remains (as shown above and in academic written discourse) one of the most controversial, misunderstood yet significant events of Colonial and Native history of Connecticut and in America.¹⁴ It was the first declared war in European-colonized New England, and the majority of battles were contained within Connecticut’s borders. The war lasted for over two years with dozens of battles, actions and engagements, extending over thousands of square miles and involving thousands of combatants. Native people, including the Sasqua (Fairfield), Quinnipiac (New Haven), Western Niantic, Mohegan, Narragansett, Nipmuck, Wangunk, Podunk and Mohawk (New York) fought both with, and against the English and Pequot. The building tension and the aftermath of the war influenced the European settlement of Connecticut, and was the most significant and documented reason for why Connecticut Colony’s Charter of 1662 was granted from the British Crown, by right “thereof gained by Conquest.” Many men of Connecticut were directly instrumental in Connecticut public policies and were also combat veterans (or directly associated with military decisions) of the Pequot War, including John Winthrop, Jr., Thomas Stanton, John Mason, Robert Chapman, George Wyllys, Uncas (Mohegan), Ninegret (Eastern Niantic), Robin Cassacinamon (Pequot) and Miantinomo (Narragansett). The Pequot War was the first time both European and Native people fought each other in a major conflict and the first time Native people experienced the European style of “total war”; a European technique that indirectly influenced American policy towards Native tribes as America expanded westward in centuries following.

Although the volume of information recorded is vast, the war is rarely studied within the broader cultural, social and political context of American and Connecticut history, and while previous historians have studied the Pequot War, their findings lacked a broader context. Recent research not only employs the primary documentation to reexamine these broader contexts, it embraces archaeological results to better define actions and events of the war. The letters and narratives of English leaders and soldiers produced during the war (or directly following) provide detailed information on the locations of battlefields and sites, but also provide important details on early colonial English and Native politics, social organization, diplomacy, military strategy and the European settlement of Connecticut towns.

BENEFITS

The benefits to *Digging Deep & Moving Forward: Reinterpreting our Colonial and Post-Colonial Landscape* will bridge disciplines in the academic community: American studies, anthropology, archaeology, history, ethnohistory, geography, literature and Native American studies for local, state and regional communities. It

⁸ Collette, Matt, “After 3 years of Pequot War research, it’s time to dig,” *The New London Day*, February 22, 2010. Comments section printed and quoted.

⁹ Collette, Matt, “After 3 years of Pequot War research, it’s time to dig,” *The New London Day*, February 22, 2010. Comments section printed and quoted.

¹⁰ Collette, Matt, “After 3 years of Pequot War research, it’s time to dig,” *The New London Day*, February 22, 2010. Comments section printed and quoted.

¹⁴ History Channel, *10 Days That Unexpectedly Changed America*. 2006.

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will share sustainable knowledge for the education of the general public by going to the local community and inducing dialogue and discourse in an area of history that has only since been told from a European perspective. The public school community will benefit with the addition of activities, lessons, and resources for educators. The MPMRC will benefit from *Digging Deep & Moving Forward* by bringing together active scholars, strategically working together to share new knowledge of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, and building for future renovation with staff training and education.

RESULTS

The intended tangible results of this project is the facilitation of at least six “Community Conversations,” one three-day academic conference, one academic conference publication, development of and dissemination of educational resources, two interpretive signs at key areas located to historical Pequot War locations, and one teacher workshop. The intangible results of this program series are community-orientated geared to awareness and knowledge. Contemporary misconceptions of these historical events are largely due to the absence of a Native perspective, and the hope is to introduce new research compiled from recent work, share knowledge, and encourage discourse and dialogue among the local community.

STRENGTHEN MUSEUM SERVICES

The intended beneficiaries of *Digging Deep & Moving Forward: Reinterpreting our Post-Colonial Landscape* are academics, educators, the local community, and the greater public. The MPMRC staff and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation will benefit from this program with the development of educational resources for internal staff and museum educator training. The expansion of knowledge for the MPMRC will serve as a base for historical edits and updated storyboards for MPMRC exhibits highlighting the 17th century and impacts of the Pequot War on the Mashantucket Pequot tribe.

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	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Academic Conference: Seventeenth Century Warfare, Diplomacy, & Society in the American Northeast													
Assemble, edit and publish academic conference papers compiled from Seventeenth Century Warfare, Diplomacy, & Society in the American Northeast													
Public Family Programming (school vacation breaks & summer)													
“Community Conversations”: public meetings about historic preservation, memory and legacy of the 17th century.													
Install Interpretive Panels adjacent to Pequot War sites													
Write and complete 17th century-Pequot War gallery updated exhibition script													
Teacher Workshop													
Publish and post educational resources for K-12 Audience													