**Background**

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (www.jamestowntribe.org) is a small Native American Tribe on the isolated, rural Olympic Peninsula of Washington State. The Tribe's service area reaches from the city limits of Port Angeles in Clallam County on the west, into Jefferson County on the east, and down through the Hood Canal. The area is separated geographically from Seattle and the rest of the Puget Sound region by 70 miles and two bodies of water.

In 1988, the Tribe established its Tribal Library, beginning with a call to Tribal citizens to donate books, photographs and important documents. Tribal citizens, their descendants and the local community responded with donations of a wide variety of historical items found in attics, basements and garages. These were catalogued, and became the beginnings of the Tribal Library. Today the successful Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Library houses over 5,300 volumes, and is part of a larger network of Tribal libraries throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond, and recognized by the Washington State Library, local school districts and the North Olympic (Public) Library System for the unique nature of its collections. Our Library serves both Tribal citizens and their families, other Native Americans and the general public. We have 949 registered library members and we receive many local visitors and tourists throughout the year who are not registered with the library. As a public library, we also serve the non-Native community, extending access to our culture, programs, and collections to local residents, college students, tourists, researchers, and our partner organizations. The Tribal Library supports the cultural, educational, and self-sufficiency needs of our Tribal community and the greater communities of Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

Of our 560 enrolled Tribal citizens, thirty percent (30%) reside locally within the Tribe's service area, the others are scattered across the region and the nation. Our Tribal reservation does not include housing, as our Tribal citizens have always resided within the broader geographic and social community. This presents unique challenges compared to reservation-based Tribes that have a distinct and accessible population. Assimilation and dispersal has resulted in some disconnect from cultural opportunities and social relationships that usually bond those who live in a close-knit community. In addition, the parents and grandparents of many of our Tribal elders were subject to cultural suppression. These survivor families face generational trauma and loss of culture.

In 2001, with funding from the Historic Preservation program of the National Park Service, Tribal staff interviewed twelve Tribal Elders, recording 30-minute oral histories on cassette tapes which were then used to create the publication, "Sharing Our Memories: Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Elders".

In 2009 the Tribal Library was awarded an IMLS Enhancement Grant to preserve and document the Tribe's collections; enable online access to searchable images and information; and to increase knowledge and cultural connections among and between Tribal citizens and the broader community. Ten years later, nine of the original twelve of those beloved Elders from the 2001 recordings had passed away. Funding from the IMLS grant for the House of Seven Generations project allowed for the conversion of those original cassette recordings to digital format which are now preserved in our archives. The recordings are available on the House of

Seven Generations website (www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org), where we can still listen to the words and laughter of those Elders, all of whom are now departed. This "virtual museum" allows Tribal Citizens, as well as other Native and non-Native communities to learn about and appreciate the cultural and historical lifeways that came before the present time. This project has been well-received within our community and beyond, offers of additional collections continue to come in from our people, and we have many objects and documents stored in Tribal facilities that we continue to discover. In 2014, we were awarded the Guardians of Culture Library Institutional Excellence Award for "bringing our library services into the 21st century, offering opportunities for digital access to treasured tribal collections from anywhere in the world, and providing a state-of-the art library serving an active and integral role in community activities".

## Project Justification

The library currently has over 30 hours of oral histories that were originally recorded to cassette tape. These tapes have been transferred to uncompressed WAV lossless audio files and stored on a server that is devoted to the archives. The full audio recordings are currently inaccessible to the public and need to be edited and indexed. Many of the recordings tell stories about the photos, artifacts, documents and exhibits stored on the House of Seven Generations website. Through editing and indexing the existing oral history audio files and combining the refined audio with pictures, video, text and photographs, we will be able to connect Tribal stories to the tangible items the stories speak of. As we transcribe and index the recordings, we will identify themes, e.g. fishing, hunting, food traditions, gathering, etc., that will become a story focused around a traditional theme, using the words and photographs of many people to tell those stories. This will complement and strengthen the Tribe's existing collection and make the library's digital products more widely accessible to the public. Sharing the Tribe's stories is not only a critical step in preserving Tribal history for future generations, but it also serves to honor past and present generations.

Tribal Elders, Tribal citizens and descendants, as well as other Native and non-Native communities will all benefit from improved access to the Tribe's oral histories. Tribal Citizens are key stakeholders for every project the Tribe is involved in, this project is no different. To identify the specific needs and solutions for our dispersed population, we use results of the Tribe's Demographic Data Survey, Community Needs Assessment, and Library Needs Assessments. We then consult with Tribal committees (Elders, Culture, etc.), our Library Advisory Committee, and departmental program staff, who are in many cases Tribal citizens, to craft strategies for implementing viable programs to meet the identified needs. In 2016, the Library conducted a Library Needs Assessment that surveyed Tribal citizens, descendants and the general public. Of the 216 respondents, over 90% identified cultural research and storytelling as important or very important. The survey also identified that while most of the survey respondents reside in the service area, a majority of them would like more online content to assist with cultural research, family genealogy, local history and traditional knowledge preservation. Digital archives help reduce geographic constraints and physical

barriers associated with access to the Tribe's collection. They have also proven to be quite popular, as reported in the survey feedback:

 *"Jamestown is a close community even with some families living all across the US, by means of this website we are able to learn about our extended families wherever they are living. All families have a story to tell and this is a great avenue for learning these stories." (Survey respondent)*

*"Accessing information via the internet is the ultimate convenience. I am very interested in looking at collections by other Tribal families. I am very interested in seeing and learning about any artifacts." (Survey respondent)*

*"We have always planned for the next seven generations; by storing information digitally we can preserve our thoughts and products, tangible or not, for the next seven generations. The exhibits from these collections give present and future generations a sense of pride, stories to learn from, and a chance to bring knowledge from the past into the future." (Survey respondent)*

This project has community support and will clearly benefit Tribal Elders, Tribal citizens, descendants, as well as other Native and non-Native communities. Much of the ground work has already been accomplished and the scope of the project is well-defined and attainable. Our Library is a living memory that continuously engages our local communities (both Tribal and non-tribal) in the collection, documentation, direction and preservation of local history, experiences, and identities of this area. An oral tradition is the very fabric of the S'Klallam people, where history and culture are told through stories.

The State of Washington recently implemented new requirements regarding Native American curriculum in public schools. This grant will help the Tribe create videos containing historical and educational content for sharing with local school districts. The videos will help bridge the divide that continues to exist between the Tribal community, and the public at large. Educating local youth is a vital step towards improving awareness of local history and culture.

With this grant, we will not only continue our oral tradition, but also build upon the work we have already accomplished. We have audio recordings of Elders, video recordings, and hundreds of photographs. We now would like to compile these resources into cohesive digital stories. It is important to have the original recordings, but extraneous words and sentences make many of the recordings inaccessible or too time-consuming for many who would like to listen to them. The proposed project will create meaningful videos by picking out important parts of the audio recordings and pairing them with video, text,  and photographs when possible, to give a richer telling of our Elders' lives and histories. The library's current staff of one full time librarian, one full time assistant, and one part time assistant is adequate for performing most daily library tasks, but does not have enough time or resources to edit the videos, oral histories, photographs and transcripts for an online collection.

## Project Work Plan

The primary goal of this grant is to create a series of cohesive digital stories using photos, videos, audio, and text currently stored in the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's digital archives. Some of these stories will be family stories told through photos, videos, narration, and subtitles. Some will be stories around a theme, such as culturally significant practices or traditional foods. Specific activities to be carried out include:

1. **Prioritize oral histories and topical stories to turn into videos**: Of the current 30+ hours of oral histories, the Project Team will choose the order of digital editing of both oral histories and topical stories.

2. **Edit and index oral history transcriptions**: Many Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Elders and others have provided key historic recollections through recorded interviews. We have 30+ hours of oral histories that have been transcribed. To make this information more accessible, we need to edit the raw transcriptions of the audio files. We will exercise quality control and further edit the transcriptions so that they are useful for this project. We will then pair the edited transcriptions with the audio files and post them on the House of Seven Generations website. As the transcriptions are edited, we will also index them. This will aid the process of identifying themes such as fishing or gathering, which we can use to create a more cohesive digital story.

3. **Create a story line**: Library staff, Archival Technician with media editing skills and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer will work together to choose the audio and transcription, the video and the photographs that help tell the story. These inputs will be used to sketch out the storyline and serve as a foundation for the digital story.

4. **Compile and edit storyline components into a digital story**: the Archival Technician with media editing skills will put together the audio, video, text, and photographs to produce a cohesive video story.

5. **Tribal community video screenings**: We will host four events, two per year for each year of the grant. The Project Team will host events specifically designed to showcase the digital stories that have been created and will also ask for feedback from Tribal Citizens.

6. **Communicate project results and products to the Tribal community, as well as other educational and academic institutions**: Produce a reference guide for the *Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Library Digital Story Collection*. Distribute to our target audiences (all Tribal households, other Tribal libraries in Washington State, Peninsula College, University of Washington, other academic institutions, local school districts, libraries, and the Washington State Library). Place a copy of the reference guide on the Tribal website (www.jamestowntribe.org). Distribute press release about the project and the new collection to local and regional news media and publish an article in the Tribal newsletter to be sent to all Tribal households.

7. **Evaluate project activities, outputs and outcomes**: Collect baseline data, record of number of pages converted, size of files; file names and locations; survey user groups (local and distant) for overall satisfaction, familiarity, usefulness; record baseline data # of requests; record number of logons; document mailings and press coverage. relative to project goals and objectives and report results to IMLS.

Existing library staff and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) are responsible for the planning, implementation, and management this project. The existing staff members have contributed to the success of the past IMLS grant funded library projects and are most qualified to lead the proposed project. An experienced Archival Technician with media editing skills will produce the digital stories with input from library staff, THPO and Tribal citizens. This project aims to produce approximately 40 videos that are 3-5 minutes in length. We anticipate it will take roughly 40 hours to produce each video due to the complexities of choosing and combining media formats across platforms. The Tribe's Communication Specialist will be responsible for designing, writing, producing and distributing the digital collection guide. The Tribe's Communication Specialist will also produce press releases and coordinate public relations to share the collection of digital stories with the Tribal community and greater public. In addition to personnel, this project requires several pieces of equipment including: One video editing computer, one two-year subscription of Adobe Premier Pro video editing software, two desktop monitors, one large viewing monitor, one set of headphones, one tape to digital converter and sufficient speakers/audio equipment.

Projects that involve human subjects face an inherent risk. One of the lessons learned from the 2009 project was that many in the community were hesitant to allow their personal stories to be displayed on the Internet. A legacy found in many Tribal communities is that of theft and betrayal by others. The Internet also has a reputation for loss of intellectual property and violations of privacy. Some concerns were addressed by offering the choice of privatizing individual archives and limiting the displayed images for downloading and copying. It was important to secure the trust of a few "early adopters" within the community by providing them with a tool-kit to address their concerns. Identifying and addressing barriers to participation early in the process was an important step. Providing information to the community that demonstrated a commitment to protecting privacy and intellectual property was also important. Such tools included clear copyright policies, a range of privacy options for contributors, and displaying low-resolution images with watermarks. The tools mentioned are still in place and the oral history audio and video content that we intend to use for this project already have the associated waivers. Any new oral histories will use the existing protocol. Progress for this project will be measured by the quantity and quality of videos produced.

## Project Outcomes

The proposed work combines Elder's oral histories, videos and photographs in a digital storytelling format. These digital stories provide Tribal citizens, family members and the general public with improved access to community memories and cultural knowledge that may otherwise be lost. By making these stories available on the Tribal Library website, they can be accessed from anywhere there is an Internet connection. For those who cannot hear the Elder's oral histories in person, especially Tribal youth, a digital version may be the only accessible option some have to such valuable cultural knowledge from their ancestors. This project will enable us to build on previous efforts to create cohesive stories for present and future generations to view.

Success will be defined in several ways, first by the number of videos produced during the duration of the grant (approximately 40 videos 3-5 minutes in length). Number of videos produced is the primary measure of success, as each video will tell a unique and important story that enhances community memory. In addition to the number of videos produced, we will also measure the number of views of the videos as a performance metric. Providing metrics on the number of views will help with the IMLS agency-level goal of increased public access. Success for this project is also defined by the positive experience of seeing pictures and video, while hearing the voice of an Elder describing what is being seen by the viewer. This experience enhances cultural contact and knowledge, allowing it to be passed on to the next generation, transforming the oral tradition in the digital age. Digitization improves access and creates lasting community memories. This is especially important for those who cannot travel or participate in Tribal events. In order to collect and report substantive data on project performance within the Tribal community, the library will hold special viewing events to showcase the videos and project accomplishments. At these events, the library will distribute surveys to evaluate the perceived quality of the videos. A short survey on the House of Seven Generations homepage will also ask for feedback after accessing the digital story page. This qualitative data will help guide the development of the digital story archives in the future. Sustaining the benefits of this project beyond the funding period is crucial. The digital stories will become part of the House of Seven Generations online digital museum and archive. There are permanent links to the House of Seven Generations site on the Tribe's main webpage (www.jamestowntribe.org) and the Tribal Library webpage, (www.library.jamestowntribe.org). Tribal IT staff will ensure that the Tribe's servers continue to securely store the digital stories and that the House of Seven Generations website continues to function properly. Furthermore, a library expansion project scheduled for 2020 will include exhibit space for a computer listening station, providing onsite access to the digital histories and a quiet space for recording future oral histories.

In the history of a people, cultural memory erodes with each generation if not appropriately preserved. What was once considered a state-of-the-art method of capturing history through person-to-person storytelling, is now on the verge of disappearing. Although we continue to foster "live" oral tradition, history will be well-kept for generations to come if we take this opportunity to preserve written, pictorial and audio recordings of our history in a digital story format. The proposed project preserves community memory through creating digital stories and improves public access to the history of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and its people.

**Schedule of Completion – Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe: Preserving Community Memory Through Digital Storytelling**

| Activities | 2019 Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | 2020 Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | 2021 Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Project Management (ongoing, October 2019-September 2021) | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| 2. Choose and priortize oral histories and topical stories to turn into videos. | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. Edit and Index Oral History Transcriptions | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | |
| 4. Create Storylines | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | |
| 5. Compile and edit storyline components into a digital story. | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | |
| 5. Tribal community video screenings | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | ■ | | ■ | | |
| Travel to IMLS-Designated Meetings | | | | | | | | Determined by IMLS scheduling | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Communicate to Communities | | | | | | | General Meeting | | | Elders Gathering | Tribal Picnic | | General Meeting | | | | | | General Meeting | | | | | |
| 7. Evaluation and Reporting | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Collect baseline data | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Collect use data | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | |
| Analyze data | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | |
| Summarize results | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | |
| Report to IMLS | | | | According to IMLS schedule | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ |