

REMEMBERING BENZIE:

An Oral History Project

2019 Grant Information



The \$50,000 grant will allow for the purchase of professional recording equipment and training from University of Michigan School of Information experts in the fields of interviewing and videography. Training sessions and access to technologies will first be directed to the Benzie Central High School student interns, but later in the course of the grant, these resources will be available to the community. The mission of this project is to collect, edit and archive high quality interviews of our community's older population, veterans, and anyone with a unique or interesting perspective of Benzie County and surrounding areas. The Benzie Area Historical Society will help archive and preserve these accounts and incorporate them in video exhibits in the museum. BAHS will also host theatrical screenings of the oral history videos.

Benzonia Public Library's mission statement is preserving yesterday, enriching today, inspiring tomorrow in our community. Director Amanda McLaren feels this project is an ideal way to meet that mission and support high schoolers in supporting their community. "Remembering Benzie is the ideal undertaking for BPL. We have a rich connection to both the history of our community and to the youth: our future. I am so excited to work with such great partners on this important program." McLaren continued, "We are grateful to IMLS for funding our vision and humbled by the idea that we can help give the citizens of Benzie County such a valuable gift in the form of preserved memories and shared histories."

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. They advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Their vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities.

"As centers of learning and catalysts of community change, libraries and museums connect people with programs, services, collections, information, and new ideas in the arts, sciences, and humanities. They serve as vital spaces where people can connect with each other," said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. "IMLS is proud to support their work through our grant making as they inform and inspire all in their communities."

Remembering Benzie: An Oral History Project kicks off this fall with the selecting of high school student interns and their training, and will run for two years. 11th & 12th grade students that are interested in learning more about this opportunity should email director McLaren at benzonialibrary@gmail.com. Throughout the cycles of the grant, the library will be facilitating several phases of the project. These will include video, sound and interviewing technique training open to the public, family interviewing workshops, and interviewing at the Maples.