

**Project Abstract (100 words or less)**

The purpose of this project is to collect and share 10 Anishinaabe oral histories about 20<sup>th</sup> century Indigenous Michigan: three from Ojibwe communities in the Upper Peninsula, three from Odawa communities in the northern Lower Peninsula, three from the Bodéwadmi in Western Michigan, and one from the Waawiiyaataanong (Detroit). Aiishinaabe communities will collaborate with the Wayne State Department of History, the Wayne State Humanities Clinic, staff from the Detroit Historical Society, and The Walter P. Reuther Library, which will archive recordings of the oral histories. Wayne State University Libraries will help create a public, online exhibition featuring the oral histories.

## **Project Narrative\* (10,000 characters max)**

**Think of this section as the Who, What, When, Why, Where, and How of the Project:**

**What is the project?**

**When and Where will this project take place?**

**Who is involved with the project and How will it be executed?**

**Why is the project important?**

**You can present this information in any order and most of these concepts will be explored in greater detail in other sections of the application. Repetition is expected.**

The purpose of this project is to collect and share 10 Anishinaabe oral histories about 20<sup>th</sup> century Indigenous Michigan: three from Ojibwe communities in the Upper Peninsula, three from Odawa communities in the northern Lower Peninsula, three from the Bodéwadmi in Western Michigan, and one from the Waawiiyaataanong (Detroit). The proposed project timeline is from June 2023-May 2024. Aiishinaabe communities will collaborate with the Wayne State Department of History, the Wayne State Humanities Clinic, staff from the Detroit Historical Society, and The Walter P. Reuther Library, which will archive recordings of the oral histories. Wayne State University Libraries will assist with the creation of a public, online exhibition about 20<sup>th</sup> century Indigenous Michigan based on the oral histories. This online exhibition will be unveiled at a virtual event hosted by the Wayne State University Humanities Clinic in Spring 2024.

Historians and postcolonial theorists have long recognized the ways in which silences in the histories of colonized peoples serve to replicate colonial harm. In the field of Indigenous history, an enduring silence persists in the history of 20<sup>th</sup> century Indigenous life. By sharing stories of 20<sup>th</sup> century Indigenous Michigan, this project argues that Indigenous communities not only persisted into the 20<sup>th</sup> century but grew and flourished into the present-day. As a direct result of the activism of Indigenous communities throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Michigan became home to 12 federally recognized tribes and even more state recognized tribes. Indigenous communities maintained sovereignty through tribal government and took agency of their own future as they organized, protested, and fought numerous legal battles to protect the rights of the Indigenous community; established businesses throughout the state; advocated for the land and water of Michigan; protected Indigenous hunting and fishing rights; built schools and colleges for Indigenous students; made efforts to the revitalize the Anishinaabemowin language; and established museums and cultural centers.

Projects that truly value Indigenous life must be conducted with Indigenous traditional lifeways in mind. This project honors Indigenous oral tradition by: establishing consent to record and share oral histories, compensating oral history participants for their time and knowledge; giving gifts to Native community members participating in the project; inviting participants to choose their interviewer; making space for oral history participants to share according to oral traditions of song and dance; traveling to meet oral history participants rather than making participants come to the institution; making space for smudging and other necessary practices before sharing oral histories; and giving oral history participants the opportunity to review and make changes to their shared knowledge.

This project will focus on the ways in which Indigenous people lived and moved through Michigan in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The interviews will focus on five interconnected themes in Indigenous life: Sovereignty,

Activism, Land, Lifeways, and Culture. Each theme will be represented by two oral histories. The first theme of Sovereignty will include the topics of tribal government, inter-tribal coalition, tribal law, Indigenous health and family services, and Indigenous economic development. The second theme of Activism will include the topics of legal advocacy, political advocacy, protest, student activism, intersectionality, and coalition. The third theme of Land will cover the topics of land stewardship, water, life, and environmental advocacy. The fourth theme of Lifeways will cover the topics of Indigenous life on reservations, in cities, in rural areas, and Indigenous work and recreation. The fifth theme of Culture will cover food, language, art, storytelling, and cultural institutions.

A central concern of this project is to reach often excluded Native communities, especially those in the Western Upper Peninsula, and to capture voices from Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodéwadmi communities throughout Michigan. The project team is committed to prioritizing the needs of Native oral history participants by giving interviewees the opportunity to choose their interviewer and ensuring public accessibility of the final product.

The project team is made up of Dr. Karen Marrero, Eric Hemenway, Dr. Lillian Wilson, and Lily Jiale Chen. Additional support for the project will come from two graduate student interns from the Wayne State University Humanities Clinic, and staff at the Walter P. Reuther Library, and the Wayne State University Libraries. Dr. Marrero will oversee the overall project and provide feedback on all project components, including the oral history collection process and online exhibit. Eric Hemenway will provide expertise in Indigenous history and facilitate connections between the project team and oral history participants. Dr. Wilson will provide oral history and project management expertise and oversee Humanities Clinic graduate student interns and collaboration with the Reuther and Wayne State University Libraries. Lily Jiale Chen will serve as the primary oral historian on the project, traveling to all collection sites and meeting oral history participants. The graduate interns will support the oral history collection process and project promotion, including travel and lodging logistics, participant compensation, recording, transcription, and the final virtual panel event.

Beginning in the fall of 2022, the project team met once per month to finalize project details, receive feedback from community members, and nominate oral history interviewees and topics. In June 2023, Eric Hemenway and Lily Jiale Chen will communicate directly with the 10 oral history participants to select their interviewer, answer any questions, and finalize time, date, and location for the oral histories. Dr. Lillian Wilson, with support from the two Humanities Clinic graduate student interns, will make all travel and lodging arrangements. From July 2023-September 2023, Lily Jiale Chen will travel to each interview location to collect oral histories. She will make one trip to the Western Upper Peninsula, to listen to interviews with Ojibwe community members from the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians and Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. She will make a second trip to Northern Michigan, to listen to interviews with Odawa community members from the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. She will make a third trip to Western Michigan, to listen to interviews with Bodéwadmi community members from the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi Indians, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, and the Nottawaseppi Huon Band of Potawatomi Indians. Finally, she will collect an oral history from the Detroit/Waawiyaataanong area. For each trip, she will be accompanied by a graduate student intern. Dr. Lillian Wilson will organize compensation for all interviewees and interviewers. The graduate student interns will work on transcribing interviews as they are completed.

From October 2023-December 2023, Lily Jiale Chen will communicate with oral history participants for final reviews and edits. She will edit and organize the oral history transcriptions for readability. From

January to April 2024, the Reuther Library will complete the archival process for the master recordings of the oral histories. The Wayne State University Libraries, led by Maria Nuccilli, will build the online exhibit to share the oral histories with the public. Maria Nuccilli will work directly with Lily Jiale Chen, with feedback from Dr. Karen Marrero, Eric Hemenway, and Dr. Lillian Wilson.

In May 2024, the project team will host a virtual panel event to honor the participants of the project and unveil the online exhibit. All project participants will be invited to attend, as well as all of the stakeholder communities listed above, including Michigan Humanities, the 12-federally recognized tribes, inter-tribal Native organizations, local Native communities, tribal colleges and universities, Native Studies departments, history museums, cultural centers, and historical societies across the state of Michigan. The panel event will be organized by the Wayne State University Humanities Clinic, supported by the two WSU Humanities Clinic Graduate Student Interns. The project team will give an overview of the project, with thanks to Michigan Humanities, and then the project team will introduce the ten interviewees and their chosen interviewers, giving each interviewee an opportunity to introduce their story as shared in their oral history. The Reuther Library will briefly present how the master recordings will be preserved, and the Wayne State University Libraries will unveil the online exhibit. The event will conclude with a question-and-answer session. This event will be open to the public and will be promoted via the Wayne State University Department of History and Humanities Clinic social media channels, with support from the graduate student interns. Following the event, the project will continue to be shared via these channels, and the online exhibit will remain publicly available in perpetuity. The project team is eager to see the project contribute to the fields of Michigan history and Indigenous studies and significantly benefit the wider Michigan community.

### **Project Activities & Timeline\* (5,000 characters max)**

**Please outline the specific activities that will occur as part of the project and when they will take place. Feel free to list out the activities.**

#### **June 2023: Project Preparation**

In June 2023, Eric Hemenway and Lily Jiale Chen will communicate directly with the 10 oral history participants to select their interviewer, answer any questions, and finalize time, date, and location for the oral histories. Dr. Lillian Wilson, with support from the two Humanities Clinic graduate student interns, will make all travel and lodging arrangements.

#### **July 2023-September 2023: Oral History Collection**

Lily Jiale Chen will travel to each interview location to collect oral histories. She will make one trip to the Western Upper Peninsula, to listen to interviews with Ojibwe community members from the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians and Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. She will make a second trip to Northern Michigan, to listen to interviews with Odawa community members from the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. She will make a third trip to Western Michigan, to listen to interviews with Bodéwadmi community members from the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi Indians, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, and the Nottawaseppi Huon Band of Potawatomi Indians. Finally, she will collect an oral history from the Detroit/Waawiyaataanong area. For each trip, she will be accompanied by a graduate student intern.

Dr. Lillian Wilson will organize compensation for all interviewees and interviewers. The graduate student interns will work on transcribing interviews as they are completed.

#### **October 2023-December 2023: Oral History Transcription Finalization**

All transcriptions will be completed by October 2023 and will be sent to oral history participants for final reviews and edits. During this time period, Lily Jiale Chen will edit and organize the oral histories for readability.

#### **January-April 2024: Archival Process and Creation of Online Exhibit**

From January to April 2024, the Reuther Library will complete the archival process for the master recordings of the oral histories. The Wayne State University Libraries, led by Maria Nuccilli, will build the online exhibit to share the oral histories with the public. Maria Nuccilli will work directly with Lily Jiale Chen, with feedback from Dr. Karen Marrero, Eric Hemenway, and Dr. Lillian Wilson.

#### **May 2024: Virtual Panel Event**

In May 2024, the project team will host a virtual panel event to honor the participants of the project and unveil the online exhibit. The panel event will be organized by the Wayne State University Humanities Clinic, supported by the two WSU Humanities Clinic Graduate Student Interns. The project team will give an overview of the project, with thanks to Michigan Humanities, and then the project team will introduce the ten interviewees and their chosen interviewers, giving each interviewee an opportunity to introduce their story as shared in their oral history. The Reuther Library will briefly present how the

master recordings will be preserved, and the Wayne State University Libraries will unveil the online exhibit.

### **Project Team and Partners\* (2,500 characters max)**

#### **Describe the roles and strengths of the project team including project staff, advisors, and collaborating organizations.**

The project team is made up of Dr. Karen Marrero, Eric Hemenway, Dr. Lillian Wilson, and Lily Jiale Chen. Additional support for the project will come from two graduate student interns from the Wayne State University Humanities Clinic, the Reuther Library, and the Wayne State University Libraries.

Dr. Karen Marrero researches, writes, and teaches early North American and Native American history. For this project, Dr. Marrero will oversee the overall project and provide feedback on all project components, including the oral history collection process and online exhibit.

Eric Hemenway is an Anishinaabe/Odawa from Cross Village, Michigan. He is the Director of Repatriation, Archives and Records for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. For this project, Eric Hemenway will provide expertise in Indigenous history and facilitate connections between the project team and oral history participants.

Dr. Lillian Wilson is the Humanities Career Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow at Wayne State and Managing Director of the Wayne State Humanities Clinic graduate internship program. For this project, Dr. Wilson will provide oral history and project management expertise and oversee Humanities Clinic graduate student interns and collaboration with the Reuther and Wayne State University Libraries.

Lily Jiale Chen is a scholar of Indigeneity and museum decolonization in the field of American Culture and assistant curator at the Detroit Historical Society. Lily Jiale Chen will serve as the primary oral historian on the project, traveling to all collection sites and meeting oral history participants.

The Wayne State Humanities Clinic is an innovative internship program that enhances graduate teaching in the humanities. For this project, the Humanities Clinic will hire two graduate interns to support the oral history collection process and project promotion, including travel and lodging logistics, participant compensation, recording, transcription, and the final virtual panel event.

The Walter P. Reuther Library will preserve the master recordings in an archival collection. The Wayne State University Libraries, led by Maria Nuccilli, will build an online exhibit to share the oral histories with the public.

Interviewees and interviewers will include 20 individuals from the Ojibwe communities of the Upper Peninsula, the Odawa communities of Northern Michigan, the Bodéwadmi communities of Western Michigan, and the Detroit/Waawiyaataanong area.

**Project Audience\* (2,500 characters max)**

**Who is the intended audience for the project?**

**Will this project allow you to reach new audiences?**

**How will this project impact the community your organization serves?**

Too many projects with Native subjects do not prioritize Native audiences. The first priority of this project is to ensure the accessibility of these oral histories to ALL audiences across the state of Michigan, particularly the Anishinaabe communities who are represented in these oral histories. After the online exhibit is completed in the Spring of 2024, this project will be shared widely across the 12 federally-recognized tribes of Michigan: Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Tribe), Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Hannahville Indian Community, Bay Mills Indian Community, and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The project will also be shared with United Tribes of Michigan, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, and Anishinabek Caucus, as well as North American Indian Association of Detroit, South Eastern Michigan Indians, Detroit Indian People's Alliance, and American Indian Health and Family Services.

This project will be shared with educators at both K-12 and university level, including tribal colleges and universities and the Native Studies departments at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Northern Michigan University, Central Michigan University, and Wayne State University. The project will also be shared with history museums, cultural centers, and historical societies across the state of Michigan, including the Michigan History Center, the Historical Society of Michigan, the Ziibiwing Center for Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways, the Eyaawing Museum and Cultural Center, the Grand Rapids Public Museum, and the Detroit Historical Society.

As this project is intended to be shared with as many communities across Michigan as possible, the online exhibition will prioritize universal design and aim for an eighth-grade reading level. By directly addressing a major gap in Michigan historical record on Native life in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this project will serve as an important resource for Native communities, educators, public institutions, and the general public.

**Project Promotion\* (2,500 characters max)**

**What is the promotion strategy for the project?**

**How will you reach the audiences you discussed in the section above?**

In May 2024, the project team will host a virtual panel event to honor the participants of the project and unveil the online exhibit. All project participants will be invited to attend, as well as all of the stakeholder communities listed above, including Michigan Humanities, the 12-federally recognized tribes, inter-tribal Native organizations, local Native communities, tribal colleges and universities, Native Studies departments, history museums, cultural centers, and historical societies across the state of Michigan. The panel event will be organized by the Wayne State University Humanities Clinic, supported by the two WSU Humanities Clinic Graduate Student Interns. The project team will give an overview of the project, with thanks to Michigan Humanities, and then the project team will introduce the ten interviewees and their chosen interviewers, giving each interviewee an opportunity to introduce their story as shared in their oral history. The Reuther Library will briefly present how the master recordings will be preserved, and the Wayne State University Libraries will unveil the online exhibit. The event will conclude with a question and answer session and an invitation for all attendees to share the resource as widely as possible.

This event will be open to the public and will be promoted via the Wayne State University Department of History and Humanities Clinic social media channels, with support from the graduate student interns. Following the event, the project will continue to be shared via these channels, and the online exhibit will remain publicly available in perpetuity.

## **Project Advisors**

### **Advisor 1: Dr. Karen Marrero**

#### **Advisor 1 Area(s) of Expertise in the Humanities\***

Dr. Karen Marrero is an Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of History at Wayne State University. She researches, writes and teaches early North American and Native American history, with a concentration on settler-Indigenous interactions at Detroit and in the Great Lakes.

#### **Advisor 1 Scholarship and Professional Experience\***

Dr. Karen Marrero's book *Detroit's Hidden Channels: The Power of French-Indigenous Families in the Eighteenth Century* (Michigan State University Press & University of Manitoba Press, 2020) explores the means by which seventeenth and eighteenth-century Indigenous and French kin networks utilized Detroit's status as a diplomatic center to divert and revalue resources. Because it was located in Anishinaabewaki, the Anishinaabe homelands, and occupied by multiple Indigenous nations, Detroit was then and still is at the center of political, economic, and cultural power in the Great Lakes. Dr. Marrero has published articles and book chapters on French and Native American women in the eighteenth-century Great Lakes, and on French and Indigenous communities of the Detroit/Windsor borderland in the early nineteenth century and is currently finalizing an edited book on the history of early Detroit.

#### **Advisor 1 Role in the Project\***

Dr. Marrero will oversee the overall project and provide feedback on all project components, including the oral history collection process and online exhibit.

### **Advisor 2: Eric Hemenway**

#### **Advisor 2 Area(s) of Expertise in the Humanities\***

Eric Hemenway is an Anishnaabe/Odawa from Cross Village, Michigan. Eric is the Director of Repatriation, Archives and Records for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

#### **Advisor 2 Scholarship and Professional Experience\***

Eric oversees the management, collecting and preservation of historic documents and materials for the tribe. These materials are used to support LTBB government functions, its citizens and educational initiatives, such as; museum exhibits, media, curriculum, publications, historical interpretation, signage, web content and presentations. Collaborations on exhibits have included the National Park Service, state of Michigan, Mackinac State Historic Parks, Emmet County, Welt Museum Wien Vienna, Austria and the Harbor Springs History Museum, as well as other museums.

#### **Advisor 2 Role in the Project\***

Eric Hemenway will provide expertise in Indigenous history and facilitate connections between the project team and oral history participants. He will accompany Lily Jiale Chen to the oral histories collected at the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa.

### **Advisor 3: Dr. Lillian Wilson**

### Advisor 3 Area(s) of Expertise in the Humanities\*

Dr. Lillian Wilson is a historian of nineteenth- and twentieth-century United States, especially inclusivity and museums. She has 12 years of experience leading oral history, public humanities, and career diversity initiatives at museums and educational institutions. As the Humanities Career Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow at Wayne State, and Managing Director of the Wayne State Humanities Clinic graduate internship program, Dr. Wilson leads humanities graduate students and 20+ Detroit non-profits annually, as they collaborate on oral history, curriculum development, data collection, and archival projects. Through this work, Dr. Wilson demonstrates how the humanities are integral to solving complex problems, and how humanities students can apply their training to diverse careers. This work was preceded by Dr. Wilson's leadership of the acclaimed Detroit '67 Oral History Project at the Detroit Historical Museum, and work for public and education programs at the Smithsonian Institution and The Phillips Collection.

### Advisor 3 Scholarship and Professional Experience\*

Dr. Wilson's research on the history of inclusivity and museums has been presented at the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art, the Charles Lang Freer House, the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, and is the subject of a forthcoming essay for the Smithsonian's Charles Lang Freer Resource Gateway. Her public humanities and career diversity work has appeared in *Humanities for All*, *GradEdge*, and *Perspectives*, and has been presented at the National Humanities Alliance, the National Humanities Conference, the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, Central Michigan University, Humanities Without Walls, and the American Historical Association. She is currently an author-participant in the Smithsonian American Art Museum Toward Equity in Publishing initiative.

From 2007 until 2010, Dr. Wilson contributed to public and educational programs at the Smithsonian Institution and The Phillips Collection. Since 2010, Dr. Wilson has taught history and art history courses at Wayne State University, the College for Creative Studies, Oakland Community College, and Northern Virginia Community College. She has participated in two National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Workshops on American art and teaching practices. In 2015, she led the acclaimed Detroit '67 Oral History Project at the Detroit Historical Museum, for which she collected, transcribed, and archived 60+ oral histories.

### Advisor 3 Role in the Project\*

For this project, Dr. Wilson will provide oral history and project management expertise and oversee Humanities Clinic graduate student interns and collaboration with the Reuther and Wayne State University Libraries.