

## Financial Narrative – The Forgottonia Project

The Forgottonia Project is a community-driven, youth-centered oral history and podcasting initiative that operates on a lean budget, supported largely by volunteer time, donated resources, and modest annual expenses. This financial narrative outlines the project's typical yearly costs, anticipated expenses for the “Unforgettable Forgottonians” contest, and in-kind contributions that help sustain the work.

### Annual Operating Costs

- **Website & Podcast Hosting:** Approximately \$150 per year for domain registration and hosting (via WordPress and podcast distribution platforms).
- **Promotional Materials:** Estimated \$100–\$150 annually for flyers and print materials to recruit participants and share stories.
- **Contest Prizes:** For 3–5 winners, \$100 per recipient, totaling \$300–\$500 depending on the number of entries and categories awarded.
- **Project Supplies:** Up to \$100 for printing, snacks at student workshops, or other small needs.

### Anticipated Grant-Funded Expenses

- **Student Honoraria:** \$500–\$800 total, based on the number of selected participants.
- **Equipment/Services:** \$150 for website hosting
- **Event Costs:** \$50–\$75 for refreshments or materials at the public showcase event.

### In-Kind Contributions

- **Technology Access:** Editing, publishing, and online communication are done using school computers, internet access, and software at no cost to the project.
- **Volunteer Expertise:** Local educators, museum staff, and journalists provide mentorship and event support without compensation. Estimated value: \$500–\$700 per year.
- **Venue Donation:** The Western Illinois Museum provides space for the public showcase free of charge (estimated rental value: \$200).

### Summary

The Forgottonia Project is a labor of love that thrives on community support, small-scale funding, and in-kind resources. The grant funding requested will directly support student stipends, cover modest operating costs, and ensure accessibility for all participants.