

**Bread and Roses Fellowship
Women's Museum of California - Final Report**

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December 23, 2016

a. A description of the project undertaken (e.g. the purpose and major goals of the project, and the actions taken to implement the project).

1) Description of project:

- Assist the Women's Museum of California in inventorying, identifying, and cataloging existing military items in their current collection
- Assist the Women's Museum of California in acquiring new donations of U.S. Army uniforms and memorabilia for their collection
- Assist the Women's Museum of California in establishing a relationships with three prominent military museums: 1) the Women in Military Service for America Museum, located in Arlington, Virginia; 2) the Army Women's Museum located at Fort Lee, Virginia; and, 3) the Women's Air Force Service Personnel (WASP) Museum in Sweetwater, Texas.

2) Bread & Roses Fellowship – Project Deliverable:

These activities would culminate in the development of a timeline recognizing Women's participation, impact and contributions to the U.S. Military from the Revolutionary War through present. This timeline will support development of an exhibit on Women in the Military at the Women's Museum of California in the summer of 2017.

c. Project Timeline:

June – August 2016

- ☐ Assist the Women's Museum of California in inventorying, identifying, and cataloging existing military items in their current collection (*not completed due to Museum stating after change of Director that this would be done on an as needed, when needed basis*)
- ☐ Assist the Women's Museum of California in acquiring new donations of U.S. Army uniforms and memorabilia for their collection (*not completed due to Museum stating after change of Director that this would be done on an as needed, when needed basis*)
- ✓ Met with the new director of the WMC, Diane Peabody Straw, who redefined the scope of the project
- ✓ Visited the Women in Military Service for America Museum, also known as the Women's Museum located in Arlington, Virginia
- ✓ Visited the Army Women's Museum located at Fort Lee, Virginia

September – November 2016

- ✓ Assisted the Women's Museum of California in establishing a relationship with the Women in Military Service for America Museum, also known as the Women's Museum located in Arlington, Virginia

- ✓ Assisted the Women's Museum of California in establishing a relationship with the Army Women's Museum located at Fort Lee, Virginia
- ✓ Assisted the Women's Museum of California in establishing a relationship with the WASP Museum in Sweetwater, Texas
- ✓ Developed timeline documenting women's roles in the military from the Revolutionary War to present, and submitted it to the WMC

December 2016

- ✓ Submitted final report to Bread and Roses Fellowship Committee

b. The outcomes of the project to date (e.g. the results obtained, any reports and/or papers you may have drafted, any presentations you may have given, and one or two main achievements of the project):

The project was completed and submitted to the Women's museum of California on November 30, 2016. Please see attached MS Word document containing the sixteen page Timeline. The timeline documents over 100 contributions, achievements and impacts of women participation in the military from the Revolutionary War to Present. In addition, the WMC of California now has contacts with three other museums that focus on women's contributions to history. Prior to this project, the WMC was unaware these other museums existed. This will facilitate future collaborations regarding women's exhibits beyond the scope of this project.

c. The value of the project to the collaborating organization: The Women's Museum of California had a change of leadership over the summer of 2016. What was originally agreed upon by Ashley Gardner morphed after the change in director to Diane Peabody Straw. Originally Ashley envisioned a permanent exhibit and timeline that was to be installed on the stairway to the between the first and second floor. However, Diane decided that she wanted to do a full exhibit in the summer of 2017, and stated coordination for the full display would begin in September. As of writing this final report, Diane has yet to coordinate any meetings with a development committee, I have contacted her several times to offer my assistance, but to no avail. So, as previously agreed upon, I submitted the requested timeline documenting women's contributions, roles and participation in the military from the Revolutionary War to present. The sixteen page document was also submitted to the Bread and Roses committee on November 30, 2016. Please see attached email receipt from Diane Peabody Straw, acknowledging receipt of the completed project

deliverable timeline. I believe this timeline will be very useful in developing the story boards and displays associated with women's participation in our military.

d. *The impact on you.* I learned that conducting research takes much more time than I realized. Also, when visiting an archive one needs to plan to spend several days to conduct research. This fellowship further enabled me to begin refining the scope of my research on the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP). It also helped me locate valuable points of contact at three museums related to my research on the WASPs. Although I will admit, this project took a considerable amount of time, (approximately 100-hours) much more than initially planned or anticipated. The only point of frustration was working with the WMC, coordination was considerably more challenging after the change in leadership. But overall, I am glad to have invested the time working with the staffs at each of the museums. More importantly, researching women's contributions to our military history was incredibly rewarding and empowering.