

LAUC GRANTS PROGRAM ANNUAL / END OF FUNDING REPORT FORM

NOTE: Information included in this report may be reprinted or posted on the LAUC website

Please save your file in the following format and email a copy to the LAUC R&PD Chair.

[Last Name]_[Campus]_[Type of Grant]_[Type of Report]_[Academic Year]

Example: Green_UCLA_Research_End_2021-2022

For annual reports, add the year of submission.

Example: Green_UCLA_Research_Annual2022_2021-2022

Primary Applicant

Selena Chau

Co-Applicant(s)

Campus of Primary Applicant

UC Santa Barbara

Type of Report (i.e. Annual or End of Funding)

End of Funding

E-Mail Address of Primary Applicant

selenachau@ucsb.edu

Date of Report

March 4, 2024

TITLE OF PROJECT

Tracing Culture through an Historic Building: Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, Oakland

Award Amount

600

Award Year (e.g. 2021-2022)

2023-2024

Original Abstract as Submitted

I will present on the Oakland Women's City Club building which has endured for nearly a century. Now called the Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, its new identity as an arts center persists owing to the advocacy of performing arts groups who used the building. Early building use was exclusive to white women's or men's groups, then became an inclusive space for Black and multiethnic arts. My research explores place attachment, memory, and preservation. By presenting the activity of less-known cultural groups, I amplify the diversity of this building's history and contribute to a richer scholarly record. In a process and resources section, I will share tips for historic building research and highlight UC collection items used such as a 1972 UC Berkeley dissertation on Black theatres in the San Francisco Bay Area and in the Los Angeles Area, and access to Ancestry Library Edition and historic newspaper databases. This is reflective of the UC Libraries' mission of offering support and education to find and use information resources. A focus on this topic shows the value and use of diverse UC Library collections as the Library works on a long range goal to strengthen and reflect diversity in library resources. I'm a former professional dancer who performed and rehearsed here. I've served on an NEH grant panel and the Theatre Library Association board, and presented at a dance conference. My archival research contributes to scholarship in history, culture, and the performing arts. Presenting at conferences allows me to grow professionally and to receive feedback from interdisciplinary scholars. This in turn helps me be a better librarian in service to my home campus, where participation in research gives me insights to support our campus.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND EVALUATION

Please respond to the following as appropriate:

- Describe what was achieved during the time period of the grant.
- What aspects were completed as proposed? If your study could not be completed as proposed, explain how your plans were altered.
- Did the project accomplish what it intended? Did it make a difference?
- Include any relevant quantitative data, if applicable (e.g. How many individuals have benefited from this project and in what way? You may include various output measures such as circulation/reference transactions, program attendance, survey responses, etc.).
- Include any anecdotes, if applicable.
- What would you do differently next time, if anything?

I attended and presented at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association conference for the first time and achieved what I proposed in the grant application. I was pleased to learn that this is an "unstuffy," supportive conference, and in sessions that I attended I observed that attendees engaged with the presentations to share and connect ideas, no matter if they had expertise in the topic or not. In my own presentation, a woman introduced herself to me afterwards, who had very similar interests as mine and we discussed how historic building preservation supports and connects with culture. Other attendees were intrigued at the unique history of this building that remains standing, especially the stark transition from beginnings to current uses.

My research process also contributed to access to scholarly resources. New archival records got digitized and are more accessible to other researchers. They include:

Oakland Metropolitan Ballet rehearses *The Nutcracker* (1970). <https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/sfbatv/bundles/239582>

Rhonda White-Warner's *Tidbits* magazine: <https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8pv6rhf/dsc/?query=tidbits#c02-1.3.12.4.4>

Architectural drawings from the Virginia Tech's Beverly Willis Archive: https://aspace.lib.vt.edu/repositories/2/digital_objects/123repositories/2/digital_objects/123

Is your project completed?

Yes

No

If No, what is needed to complete the project? More time, funds?

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Please explain how the funds received were spent. Attach your original budget and indicate how well your estimates matched with actual expenditures. Receipts are not necessary.

Estimate

\$446.57 Transportation: \$209 for flight, \$237.57 for car

\$195 conference registration

\$75 host gift in lieu of hotel

\$395 meals

\$1111.57

My costs were less than estimated, due to being able to stay with a friend and looking for the best price for airfare. It was still around \$900, so I greatly appreciate the LAUC funding support.

SHARING YOUR PRODUCT/RESULTS

What are your plans for disseminating the results of your work? If it will be a webpage or product, or published article or book, when will it be available to the public? Include citations/URLs if known. Remember that all final products must acknowledge receipt of funds from LAUC.

I have been blogging about my research in a work-in-progress style and I posted my presentation slides and script there (<https://selenachau.wordpress.com/2024/02/25/swpaca-2024/>) along with a post on LinkedIn. The slides include the LAUC logo and the suggested statement.