

Organization Name: Coffee County Historical Society

Organization Contact Person: Tom Johnson

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Organization Mission: To collect, preserve and disseminate materials and information relating to Coffee County Georgia history. As a group, the Society has volunteered to organize and manage volunteer staff at Heritage Station Museum as well as to prepare programs and events at the museum along with programs for the Historical Society.

Internship Semester: Summer 2020

Project Title #1: Coffee County Memory Project

Keywords: Research, Community Engagement, Equity

SLS Priority Issue Areas: Equitable Development

Project Background: The Coffee County Memory project is an ongoing project that began in 2015. The Project is an audio/visual and performing arts program. Primary source material includes oral histories of over 100 individuals who experienced the period of federally mandated school integration in the late 1960s and early 1970s in Coffee County, Georgia. As we add historic photographs, newspaper articles, and other documentation, our goal is to gain a multidimensional view of a pivotal moment in the growth of a community which we can share through a number of artistic platforms in order to bring about a greater understanding of the past and, by doing so, create a beneficial foundation for the future. Dr. Janet Murray has worked on the project and Dr. Wayne Clough is an advisor. We found it best to have two interns working together on this project as they can help each other as challenges arise. The intern(s) will be responsible for developing new primary source material (interviewing participants, researching newspaper articles of the events of the time, researching and scanning relevant photographs), and potentially assisting with web development of an online presentation of the material. They may also work with the fine arts organization of the local high school to refine a one act play that is under development.

Project Timeline: The project will likely continue for some years. There is much research that remains, and much development of primary source material that must be done. Others will continue to work on the project after the intern(s) depart.

Desired skills and qualification: Writing, Coding and associated computer skills, Interpersonal Skills

Deliverables: Set of completed interviews, along with associated transcripts. Presentation to local stakeholders (Historical Society, and local clubs such as Rotary, Lions, etc.)