**UGGS Student Group Event Grant**

***\*\*\* Note: Responses to all questions should be about 1 paragraph long, but can be longer if necessary \*\*\****

Event Details:

1. Describe the nature of the performance/event.

At this year's conference, we expect to have twelve panels speaking on a variety of historically significant and currently relevant topics. Among the themes our presenters have proposed to discuss in the upcoming conference are: public history; the geopolitics of ethnicity; environment and power; borderlands, frontiers, and the American West; gender and violence; and pedagogical strategies.

The Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference (RMIHC) is a unique conference that the University of Colorado's history graduate students plan and organize and that graduate students from around the country and across a number of disciplines attend. This year's conference, which takes place September 20st-22nd, marks the twentieth annual event. The principle goal of the conference is to provide graduate students with the opportunity to present their original work among their peers in an atmosphere that is both professional and congenial. RMIHC mirrors the format and structure of a professional academic conference; each panel features a faculty moderator, a graduate student commentator, and a group discussion. In past years, RMIHC has offered ten to twelve conference panels of three presenters each. A hike at Chautauqua Park, a welcome banquet, a pedagogy workshop, a happy hour, and a keynote address, this year to be given by Dr. Laura Westhoff, Associate Professor of History and Education at the University of Missouri St. Louis, provide attendees with an opportunity to make professional connections, to discuss their scholarship, and to become acquainted with the resources that CU has to offer.

1. Give a brief biography of the performer(s) / lecturer(s) / etc.

Our conference will feature the research of approximately 25 graduate students. The speakers do not need to be students of history, but they must present on topics relevant to the field. The presenters whom we have invited submitted applications after receiving an open call for papers, which we distributed to professionals and educational institutions both within and outside of the United States.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Laura Westhoff, is an Associate Professor of History and Education at the University of Missouri St. Louis. She earned her PhD in U.S. History from Washington University in St. Louis, and specializes in the fields of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, American Democracy and social movements, the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning History, and the History of Education. Dr. Westhoff will also be running the pedagogy workshop, which occurs over lunch during the conference.

1. How will this event benefit CU graduate students, the CU community, and/or the City of Boulder community?

This event empowers graduate students to network and collaborate across departments and disciplinary boundaries. Our speakers represent a wide array of universities. Although many are students of history, we also welcome presenters who come from a variety of other disciplines and whose interdisciplinary research engages with and enhances historical scholarship. We believe scholarly inquiry is too often limited by the boundaries of academic disciplines. The Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary Historical Conference seeks to benefit CU by breaking down these boundaries and promoting research relevant not only to the discipline of history but to other fields as well.

1. Is the event open to the public? Restricted to CU students? Other admission restrictions? Please explain (NOTE: UGGS can only fund events that are open to all graduate students)

The conference will be open to all CU students as well as to the broader public. Most of the conference’s programing will be free of charge, but admission to the keynote dinner will cost $20.

1. Is there any additional information you wish to provide?

Four history graduate student co-chairs have organized this conference for twenty years. This ever-changing roster of committee members has managed to run RMIHC on a shoestring budget. Nonetheless, we consistently receive positive feedback from attendees. This conference has become prominent among national graduate conferences. Last year, a professor from a university in California encouraged her graduate students to apply because she had attended RMIHC fifteen years earlier and remembered it as a formative, excellent experience.

1. Provide an estimate of the total funding requested by UGGS. If the event will cost more than the amount awarded by UGGS (typically a max of $750), then note which aspects of the event UGGS funds will be applied towards.

The budget for this year’s conference is set at $2,441.42. Because UGGS can only fund events that are free for all CU students, we would ask UGGS to provide money for only the parts of the conference that are free of charge. UGGS funding will ideally be applied toward food. Meals and refreshments are an integral component of the Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary Historical Conference. We open the conference with a reception. This particular event is free of charge. The welcoming reception encourages attendees to meet one another and converse outside of and prior to the more structured setting of the conference’s regular programming. It provides an excellent opportunity for students and faculty to network and exchange ideas prior to the onset of panel discussions. RMIHC has struggled to attain funding through CSI for this aspect of the conference because funding boards are reluctant to allocate student fees toward food. It would, therefore, be tremendously beneficial to the conference if UGGS can assist with funding this integral component of the event. Catering for the welcoming reception will cost $389. Among other costs toward which we would like to apply funding from UGGS are: printing (posters, programs) and advertising ($110); the conference rooms ($91.50); the cost of rental tables and chairs for the panels ($190.34).