Title: **Digital Oral History Archivist Fellowships for High School and College Students**

The 1947 Partition Archive's seeks support for launching the Digital Oral History Archivist (hereafter "DOHA") student fellowships which will address Goal 1 and Objective 1.1 of the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian program by enhancing an existing digital archiving program that encourages high school and college student participation, especially from minority South Asian American Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Dalit backgrounds, among others, through paid part time student internships that include hands-on experience and lectures from experts in related fields.

Summary: The 1947 Partition Archive (hereafter "PA") is requesting $128,479 to pilot the DOHA student fellowships for high school and undergraduate students, expanding an existing 'community-based archivist' volunteer internships program. DOHA student fellowships will support paid internships that introduce aspiring students to the field of digital archiving through a series of lectures and hands-on experience in cloud-based cataloguing, handling and preservation of born-digital oral history collections to be described in Stanford University Libraries' public Digital Repository and PA's private cloud repository. PA's existing six-month long community-based archivist program, which DOHA fellowships will expand on, serves as an introduction to cloud-based archiving and digital collections care for aspiring young archivists and boasts 93 successful alumni from a variety of science and humanities college curriculum tracks, including library sciences. Owing to PA's large social media presence as a community archive with over 1 million followers, its archiving internships spur enthusiasm for the field in a contemporary digital environment and draw applicants from across America who greatly outnumber available positions each cycle.

DOHA fellowships will engage students in a part time capacity over a course of six months, alongside their regular school work, introducing them to cataloguing, handling and preservation techniques used to archive conflict-zone community-sourced digital artifacts. A series of planned lectures by domain experts from the fields of library sciences, digital oral history and digital humanities will introduce students to the concepts of community archives, democratic heritage documentation, geotagging across politically unstable regions, ethical considerations for sensitive collections, digital humanities and oral history. Program outcomes measured through fellowship recipient feedback and learning outcomes will guide future larger scale implementation of the DOHA fellowships.

Justification: Similar to other community archives, PA was launched in 2011 by South Asian American community members responding to the urgency of documenting narratives from the last remaining survivors of the monumental and world-changing 1947 Partition and re-organization of South Asian states into India and Pakistan (and in 1971, also Bangladesh). PA evolved organically from an unincorporated grassroots, crowd-sourced, community led and community funded effort into a rapidly growing non-profit organization and digital archive that is maturing into a sophisticated and important resource for scholars and researchers from numerous fields of study including history, anthropology, ethnic studies, linguistics, among many others. PA also serves the general public and South Asian Americans who wish to discover personal histories. PA's digital archiving methods were developed in collaboration with oral history professionals at the University of California in Berkeley and in response to the requirements of Stanford University Libraries' Digital Repository as well as the unique needs, sensitivities and characteristics of PA's community of contributors. PA presents a novel South Asian American digital archiving space and case study within the archives field.

PA's digital archiving methods have evolved since inception in response to the unique needs of the crowd-sourced community based archive which caters to multi-lingual, multi-ethnic, multi-caste and multi-religious communities from a diversity of South Asian backgrounds. DOHA student fellowships' predecessor volunteer-based archivist program emerged out of the need for training enthusiastic community members on digital archiving techniques for stewarding and cataloguing of the community sourced collections. In 2020, the pandemic shuttered PA's office in Berkeley, leading to the development of cloud-based archiving software which allows archivists to handle, describe and preserve PA's born-digital collections completely remotely. DOHA fellows will thus engage remotely throughout their fellowship from the comfort of their homes alongside pursuit of their studies.

Project work plan: PA's 9 year old community archivist internship program will form the template for executing the DOHA student fellowships as follows:

- <u>August - October 2022</u>: Round 1 program recruitment via announcements to select college departments across the United States and high schools in regions with pockets of South Asian American populations.
- <u>December 2022</u>: Finalists for Round 1 announced.
- <u>January - February 2023</u>: Orientation to be held the last weekend of January at The 1947 Partition Archive in Berkeley California, including a field trip to the Stanford University Libraries. Fellowship commences remotely from participants' home locations starting February 15, 2023.
- <u>February - March 2023</u>: Introductory sessions on digital archiving, oral history and digital humanities held by PA staff with guest speakers, including leading global academics and professions in the noted professions and areas of research.
- <u>March - August 2023</u>: Fellowship Round 1 continues with hands on archiving work including cataloguing, metadata tagging, GIS geo-tagging, file handling and description, copyediting of abstracts, online public platform specific curation techniques, ethical reviews, translations and transcriptions. Four senior professions will give three one hour guest sessions each throughout the internship, on the topics mentioned above. Fellowships wrap on August 15, 2023. Recruiting for Round 2 begins in March 2023. Finalists for Round 2 announced June 2023. Archived works by each fellow, including 35 to 40 entries each, will be accessible in the Stanford Digital Repository and participants will receive a certificate upon completion.
- <u>September 2023 - February 2024</u>: Round 2 of fellowships commences and follows the same month by month activity timeline of Round 1, with fellowships ending in February 2024.
- <u>March 2024</u> - PA and Stanford Libraries staff collaborate to compile program evaluations and prepare recommendations for full implementation of the DOHA student fellowships. Findings will be published in a white paper on PA's website.

Diversity plan: PA is one of only two major South Asian American community archives in the United States. PA brings diversity to the American archiving profession by providing a rare opportunity for students from all backgrounds and especially South Asian American backgrounds to engage in professional archiving work which also directly impacts their identities and serves as a means of feeling included in the larger American narrative of global histories. For the general American student, PA provides an opportunity to engage with an archive that must care for a collection that recognizes and is sensitive to the myriad South Asian identities, and unique crowd-sourced community-centric means of documentation. Ultimately, PA adds value by shedding light on previously unrecognized global events and forces which shaped immigration of our ancestors from South Asia into the United States.

Project results: Since inception, PA's community based digital archiving internships have attracted a large number of applicants, owning in part to PA's million-follower-strong social media presence that inspires enthusiasm for heritage preservation. As a result, PA has inspired a number of other documentation projects on South Asia and several internship program alum are now pursuing graduate level studies in the field of library and information sciences. The program has graduated 93 archivists who have collectively supported the archiving of 9000 oral history interviews, of which 50 have been described in Stanford's Digital Repository, with more to follow. DOHA student fellowships are similarly expected to create awareness and generate interest amongst youth on digital archiving techniques and train the most promising of applicants for a possible future profession in the field. DOHA fellowships will also inclusion inclusion of the South Asian American Community, a relatively more recent migrant community in the United States, in the larger heritage narrative of America. *We too have a history*.

All 35 to 40 interviews archived by each DOHA fellowship participant will immediately become accessible via the Stanford Digital Repository. Program evaluations will guide the design and implementation of a full "expanded" version of DOHA fellowships which supports up to 8 students per program cycle.

Budget Summary: The budget requested for this program grant covers (1) a $3,600 six month fellowship stipend per fellow working 10 hours per week, for a total of $28,800 for eight fellows, (2) $3000 in honorariums for 4 speakers at the rate of $750 per speaker, (3) $21,200 for two weekend orientations, that include hotel stay in Berkeley for the fellows, flight fare, meals and local transportation, (4) $25,200 for part time administrative consultants who will support recruitment and support logistics for the fellows throughout their tenure, (5) $46,500 at 0.5 FTE for the Archive Manager to devote half her time directing project, (6) $1529 for Archive Manager professional training, for a total request of $**128,479** for the pilot project.