**Abstract**

The applicant making this grant is The San Francisco Freedom Museum (Freedom Museum from here onwards). This grant application is for an exhibition titled *Black Rights Activism in America* which will be organized by the Freedom Museum from May to October, 2019. The need for this exhibition was expressed to the Museum’s founders by community action groups and some of the Museum’s partners including Black Lives Matter (in San Francisco), African American Speaker Bureau (AASB), African American Community Service Agency (AACSA), the San Francisco Freedom Archives (Freedom Archives from here onwards), the Museum of Tolerance, and the Museum of African Diaspora. The expressed need is to institutionally extend support and show solidarity with the black rights activism towards social justice, because institutions have historically excluded the experiences and voices of people of color. Through this exhibition the Freedom Museum will validate the social justice movements of black communities, simultaneously raising awareness about their experiences, histories, marginalizations, and resistance.

Informational displays in *Black Rights Activism in America* are derived from the collections of the Freedom Archives. This material spans black activism in the civil rights movement, and in subsequent labor movements, feminist movements, and LGBTQIA movements. Archival material includes audio and video information, pamphlets, news stories, and a few artifacts. The exhibition also showcases the work of artists Kehinde Wiley and Kara Walker. In addition to the gallery displays, the exhibition also includes public tours, a lecture series, a series of film screenings, public programs, and ‘memory walks’. The exhibit open on May 3rd, 2019 and the first week of the exhibition will host two lectures including an artist lecture by Kehinde Wiley. Other lectures will be organized at various times in the six months of the exhibition. Public tours will be offered twice a month for the six months of the exhibition. The series of film screenings will be organized in July and August, 2019 and will be screened once a week. The ‘memory walks’ are created by the Freedom Museum but will be implemented by a partnering organization, and so the museum will reserve time once a week for visitors to come to the Museum and discuss their ‘memory walk’ experience. Public programs will be scheduled twice in the duration of the exhibition, and programs for specific groups can be requested through the Museum’s Programs and Education Coordinator.

This exhibition will broadly benefit black communities, community action groups and organizations in California including but not limited to those mentioned above. We at the Freedom Museum believe social justice work, even when done with a specific population benefits marginalized people and social justice struggles, in general, across discrimination rooted in race, class, gender and sexuality. The intended outcomes for this exhibition include raised awareness regarding the value of social justice activism, the creation of tangible support and solidarity networks for people of color, and community organized public forums for discussing issues of discrimination and debating possible solutions. Success in achieving these outcomes will be measured through evaluation activities undertaken by the Museum as part of the exhibition. Progress towards meeting intended outcomes will also be measures through visitor counts and other data tracking, media attention, tracking visitor experiences recounted in the ‘response book’, the number of public forums organized, and tracking the kind of community support networks created.