

THE DAVID AND BARBARA PRYOR CENTER FOR ARKANSAS ORAL AND VISUAL HISTORY

Randy Dixon, Director

ENABLING LAWS

Act 210 of 2016

INSTITUTION HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

The David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History is an oral history program with the mission to record audio and video interviews statewide about Arkansas history and culture, collect other organizations' recordings, organize these recordings into an archive and provide public access to the archive, primarily through the Center's web site. The Pryor Center is the state's only oral and visual history program with a statewide, 75-county mission to collect, preserve and share audio and moving image recordings of Arkansas history.

The Pryor Center archive has the largest audio and moving-image archive of Arkansas history in the state, and one of the largest state collections in the country. The archive currently consists of more than 900 audio and/or video interviews with Arkansans about Arkansas history; 20 historical events pertaining to Arkansans and Arkansas history; and 24,000 hours of videotape covering 6 decades of Arkansas history donated by ABC affiliate KATV, Channel 7, Little Rock. The collection grows annually by about 200 hours of new interview recordings.

The institutional goals of the Center include:

- Record interviews with Arkansans with a diverse population from all 75 counties.
- Train individuals and organizations to record their community's history for inclusion in the center's archive
- Collect historical audio and video recordings from other organizations that need archival assistance.
- Digitize and further process all materials to be placed in the center's digital archive.
- Provide all Arkansas students and teachers with primary resource materials from the center's archive.
- Provide public access to the entire digital archive electronically, primarily through the center's Web site.

Strategies for meeting the above goals include:

- Provide audio/video interview facilities to the public.
- Provide training sessions, guidelines, and forms in person and via the Web site.
- Collect, digitize and archive recordings donated by others, and provide digital copies to the donors.
- Digitize all analog recordings, add appropriate metadata, and place them in the center's digital archive.

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GENERAL REVENUE REQUEST

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board has recommended \$173,087 in general revenue funds for the Pryor Center. These funds will be used to assist in the digitization and preservation of archives and to further grow outreach to the State.

PERSONNEL REQUEST

No additional positions over authorized have been requested.