

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

**INSTITUTIONAL GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES AS RELATED
TO THE 2019-21 APPROPRIATION REQUESTS**

The David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History is an oral history program with the mission to document the history of Arkansas through the collection of spoken memories and visual records, preserve the collection in perpetuity, and connect Arkansans and the world to the collection through the Internet, TV broadcasts, educational programs, and other means. The Pryor Center records audio and video interviews about Arkansas history and culture, collects other organizations' recordings, organizes these recordings into an archive, and provides public access to the archive, primarily through the website at <http://pryorcenter.uark.edu>. The Pryor Center is the state's only oral and visual history program with a statewide, seventy-five county mission to collect, preserve, and share audio and moving image recordings of Arkansas history.

The Pryor Center archives contain the largest audio and moving-image collection of Arkansas history in the state, and one of the largest state collections in the country. The archives currently consist of more than 1,000 audio and/or video interviews with Arkansans about Arkansas history; over 1,000 historical events pertaining to Arkansans and Arkansas history; and 24,000 hours of videotape covering six decades of Arkansas history donated by ABC affiliate KATV, Channel 7, Little Rock. The collection grows annually by approximately 200 hours of new interview recordings.

The institutional goals of the Pryor Center include

- Record interviews with a diverse population of Arkansans from all seventy-five counties and make their interview transcripts, audio and video recordings, and photographs available on the Pryor Center website.
- Provide on-site, on-camera interview facilities to the general public via the Arkansas Story Vault.
- Provide Arkansas students and teachers with primary resource materials from the archives.
- Train individuals and organizations to record their community's history for inclusion in the Pryor Center's archives.
- Collect historical audio and video recordings from other organizations needing archival assistance.
- Digitize and further process donated materials for placement in the Pryor Center's digital archives.
- Provide public access to the entire digital archives electronically, primarily through the Pryor Center website.

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

**INSTITUTIONAL GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES AS RELATED
TO THE 2019-21 APPROPRIATION REQUESTS**

Strategies for meeting the above goals include

- Travel throughout the state to record interviews with local Arkansans and make those recordings and transcripts available on the website in a timely fashion.
- Open the Arkansas Story Vault to the public.
- Provide oral history training workshops, guidelines, and materials in person and online.
- 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 Pryor Center's digital archives.

Appropriation Requests

In 2014 the Pryor Center moved to and renovated part of the first floor of the old First National Bank building on the Downtown Fayetteville Square, and the existing stainless steel bank vault was transformed into the Arkansas Story Vault. Currently the studio space is used for Pryor Center interview projects only. A major goal of the Pryor Center is to provide access for the general public to a video interview studio based on the model of *Story Corps* where an individual will be able to conduct an interview with a friend or loved one about their life and times here in the Natural State. After each interview, the Pryor Center will give the interviewer and interviewee copies of the video and place the original recording in the Arkansas Story Vault archive. The requested funding would add two full-time producer/editors to record, process, and archive the interviews conducted by the general public and assist in processing ongoing Pryor Center interview projects.