

Jeanette and Jim Larson Mystery Grant Committee

Longtime TLA member Jeanette Larson and her architect husband, Jim, established this fund to help a public library or public library branch annually acquire materials in the mystery genre to delight their customers. Jeanette is a well-known library consultant, children's services specialist, and author with work experience at the Mesquite Public Library, Austin Public Library, and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Both Jeanette and Jim are voracious mystery readers and viewers, borrowing many books, videos, and audiobooks from their public library. The fund is their way of giving back to all the libraries they have used. The Committee seeks to understand how applicant libraries will expand their collections; entice new users to their libraries and how this grant will update or expand their collections.

Application Eligibility: Application is open to any public library in the state of Texas, including individual branch libraries of a larger library system. A public library is defined by the Texas Administrative Code:

A public library must be established to render general library services. The library must be established as:

- (1) a department of a city or county government by charter, resolution, or ordinance; or by contract as provided for in the Government Code, Chapter 791; or
- (2) a library district established under the provisions of Local Government Code, Chapter 326, Library Districts; or
- (3) a library district established under the provisions of Local Government Code, Chapter 336, Multi-Jurisdictional Library Districts; or
- (4) a nonprofit corporation chartered by the Office of the Secretary of State for the purposes of providing free public library services; these corporations must have a current contract with each funding source (a city, county, or school district) to provide free public library services for the city, county, or school district.

Number and Amount of Awards: The number and amount of awards will depend upon the net income produced by the established fund. At this time, one grant of \$500.00 is available.

Expenditures of Awards: According to the Grant Program, funds awarded may be used solely for the purchase of library material identified in the mystery genre of fiction. For the purposes of this document, the mystery genre is defined as follows:

This popular genre is made up of a variety of different types of books, including "cozies" or traditional, police procedurals, hard-boiled detectives, women sleuths, legal thrillers, and psychological thrillers. A mystery features a detective (either professional or amateur) who solves a crime, featuring a puzzle, which is equally mysterious at the outset to both the detective and the reader. Legal stories, suspense novels, gothics, and novels of espionage or international intrigue are not included in this definition.

Any material falling within these general parameters may be included; format is not at issue. It may be a book, any audio visual material (DVD; Blu-Ray; Book on CD or MP3), or e-content. Foreign language material would be acceptable. Material for any age is also suitable. No reading sets will be purchased with the grant funds.

Please prepare a narrative, not to exceed three pages, not including the bibliography. Please use 12-point font, either Arial or Times New Roman, include the following information, in ONE document. This will be requested from every applicant and serves only as points of data, not a determination of eligibility. Please delineate your grant utilizing the sections described below so the Committee will have an easier time understanding how you are addressing each point.

1. Description of Library

Provide a brief description of the public library and its service area, including staff and hours open. Tell us about your library patrons so the Committee may have a sense of the community being served. Narrow your focus on the application to one particular segment of the population. (10 points)

2. Community Engagement

Discuss any cooperative arrangements that your library has within your community, such as with other public libraries, school libraries, or organizations such as Rotary. The Committee is interested in learning how these partnerships help foster literacy and the love of reading in your community. We are not interested in outreach, specifically; partnerships within the community is our focus. (10 points)

3. Community Impact

Provide a detailed statement outlining the community impact of this grant. This may include-filling gaps in the collection, adding new authors to your collection, expanding your collections to new users groups, or adding new formats to your collections. What evidence can you provide, such as borrowing or interlibrary loan statistics, that the grant money is needed for the mystery genre in your library? What selection criteria did you use to compile your suggested bibliography of titles to be purchased with the grant money. Who will benefit from the inclusion of these titles in your collection? How will this grant support your library's mission? Why is this money important to your library? (50 points)

4. Marketing and Promotion

How will this grant be marketed to your community? Displays? Press Releases? Book discussion groups? Other? (10 points)

5. Bibliography

Include a suggested bibliography of materials being considered for purchase, to include titles AND prices of books, DVDs, audio material, e-content, all meeting the definition of mystery outlined above. How will the monies be allocated? The Committee recommends the funds be allocated so the monies can have a targeted impact on your collection. (20 points) Failure to include a bibliography will result in an award of zero of 20 possible points in the scoring of your grant.

6. Staff/Consultant

Provide the name and qualifications of the library staff person who would be responsible for selection or the name and qualifications of a consultant outside the library who would be willing to advise the library on its purchases.

7. In order to facilitate our scoring, please use the following rubric for your subject line:
“XXXX (library name) _ Larson Grant Application.”

Submittal of Application: Submit applications to Greg Hardin, Chair, Jeanette and Jim Larson Mystery Grant Committee at greg.hardin@unt.edu

Please include a cover sheet with the following information:

1. Contact Person
2. City
3. Name of Library
4. County
5. Address and telephone number
6. Email address for contact person

Applications for the 2017 Award must be received by January 18, 2017. Applications received after that date will not be considered. The Grant will be finalized by March 1 and announced and publicized before the Annual Conference of the Texas Library Association. All unsuccessful candidates will be notified by April 1.