

# Request for Letters of Interest: American World War II Heritage Cities Criterion Essays

**Project Title:** American World War II Heritage Cities Criterion Essays

**Project Budget:** \$2,500 per essay for each of ten essays; authors will be paid per-essay upon completion of the essay and should specify in their letter of interest how many essays they want to take on.

**Deadline for Letter of Interest to NCPH:** August 15, 2021

**Expected Date to Award Project:** September 15, 2021

**Projected Start Date:** October 1, 2021

**Timeline for Completion:** October 1, 2022

## Project Purpose

The goal of this project is to research the Congressionally-established criteria for the [American World War II Heritage City program](#) and develop historic context for these criteria that can be used to aid the National Park Service in the evaluation of Heritage City nominations. Please visit the linked website to learn more about the World War II Heritage City program before submitting your letter of interest.

We are looking for subject matter experts in the history of the World War II home front or mid-twentieth century American history to research and write essays for each of the eight criteria; a ninth essay on trends in memorialization and historic preservation of the home front; and a tenth and final essay to be mutually decided upon between the author, NPS, and NCPH, though some possibilities are explored in the statement of work below. Each of the ten essays will be about 2,500 words in length. We are ideally seeking several authors who will each take on 3-4 essays, in order to comfortably meet the deadline; we will, however, consider letters of interest from authors who would be interested in writing the whole run of ten essays (or supervising a team to handle the full run), provided the letter of interest includes a suggested timeline for completion. We will also consider letters of interest for authors who want to write fewer than three essays. Essay authors should have at least an MA in history or a closely related field; authors with their MA in progress may be considered if they are part of a project team supervised by a PhD.

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## How to Submit Your Letter of Interest

Please read the full narrative below for the description of the project's scope of work and timeline. Send letters of interest to the National Council on Public History via [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu) by August 15, 2021. If selected we will ask you to become a member of NCPH for the duration of the project, but membership is not required to submit a letter of interest.

Your letter of interest should come in the form of a single PDF, and should include the following: a short narrative (no longer than two pages) letting us know which essays you'd like

to take on, your suggested approach for those essays, and your timeline for completion that fits within the end date of the project; and a resume or C/V for each proposed author highlighting subject matter expertise relevant to the essay(s) you'd like to write. If you'd like to write the tenth essay, on a topic yet to be determined, please give us a sense of what you'd like to write about and why it merits inclusion in the project.

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### **Project Statement of Work**

In collaboration with NCPH and the NPS, essay authors will develop a series of essays that expand upon and provide a historic context for the criterion set forth by Congress when it established the American World War II Heritage Cities program. Eight essays will cover the criteria designed to evaluate a community's activities during the war. One essay will discuss the context for memorialization and historic preservation of the home front. The final essay will be on a subject mutually decided upon between the principal investigator, NPS, and NCPH.

Each essay will provide a general historic context for the established criteria. The goal is to provide NPS with enough information to adequately understand the national context for a subject and to assist in the evaluation of nominations by individual jurisdictions. Each essay should also make an argument for history relevance by making a connection between the WWII era and a current issue or issues of concern: e.g. climate change, civil or human rights, or federal defense spending. Upon completion of the draft essays, the National Park Service will work with authors to edit the final product for internal NPS use.

*A general description of the criteria, and brief guidance on essays based on these criteria, are as follows. While the criteria have been set by Congress, the contents of the "Essay topics" column are meant to be a starting point for authors and are not intended to limit the direction or content of the essay to only what is provided:*

| # | Criteria  | Essay topics   |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | defense manufacturing, such as ships, aircraft, uniforms, and equipment           | How was American industry, education, transportation, and agriculture different after the war?   |
| 2 | production of foodstuffs and consumer items for Armed Forces and home consumption | Describe the origins and impact of Victory Gardens and changes to nutrition. How did the consumption of consumer items change? How did the GI Bill |

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|   |  | effect housing?  |
| 3 | war bond drives  | How did war bonds campaigns operate? Were they successful?   |
| 4 | adaptations to wartime survival  | Scrap drives and shortages? How did individuals and communities adapt to wartime conditions?   |
| 5 | volunteer participation  | USO and Stage Door Canteens: How did civilians participate in the war effort?  |
| 6 | civil defense preparedness   | How did the system of civil defense operate?   |
| 7 | personnel serving in the Armed Forces, their achievements, and facilities for their rest and recreation  | How did military training change? Where did facilities for R&R develop? How did treatment of the wounded change?   |
| 8 | the presence of Armed Forces camps, bases, airfields, harbors, repair facilities, and other installations within or in its environs                            | How were military facilities distributed? How did these installations affect local communities? How did they change after the war?   |
| 9 | Achievements by a city and its environs to preserve the heritage and legacy of the city's contributions to the war effort and to preserve World War II history | Outline how communities have identified, preserved, restored and interpreted World War II-related structures, facilities and sites; How have they established museums, parks, and markers; placed memorials to local persons who lost their lives in service; organized groups of veterans and home-front workers; presented cultural events such as dances, plays, and lectures; provided outreach through the print and electronic media, and books; and hosted recognition and ceremonies remembering wartime event anniversaries |

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| 10 | TBD: the subject of the 10 <sup>th</sup> essay will be agreed upon between the author, NPS and NCPH. Potential authors wishing to take on this essay should identify a possible area of focus in their letter of interest. | Possible subjects include: employment of disabled individuals & the rise of workforce safety, aka OSHA; intersectionality of the home front experiences of BIPOC groups; the LGBTQ+ experience of the home front; recycling and accelerated use of fossil fuels as a way to talk about climate change, etc. |
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### Timeline and Compensation

Essay authors will work with NCPH and NPS to finalize a reasonable schedule for the completion of essays. Authors will be paid \$2,500 per essay by NCPH upon NCPH's receipt of the essay and a quick period of review by NPS for suitability. NPS will have a sixty-day review period to return more comprehensive feedback to authors, which will assist in the writing of future essays if the author is undertaking multiple essays.

A possible sample schedule is as follows, but will ultimately depend on the number of essays an author takes on:

| Deliverable  | Deadline  | Payment for PI              |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Kickoff meeting including all authors, NCPH, and NPS | Within 1 month of start date (held before October 31, 2021) |                             |
| Author's first essay                                 | 3 months after start date (by January 1, 2022)              | \$2,500 by February 1, 2022 |
| Author's second essay                                | 6 months after start date (by April 1, 2022)                | \$2,500 by May 1, 2022      |
| Author's third essay                                 | 8 months after start date (by June 1, 2022)                 | \$2,500 by July 1, 2022     |
| Author's fourth essay (if applicable)                | 11 months after start date (by September 1, 2022)           | \$2,500 by October 1, 2022  |

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