

## Sample Quick Grant Application

**Project Title:** Virtual Conversation with Vietnamese American Graphic Novelist Thi Bui

**Organization:** Eastern Connecticut State University Foundation

**Project Summary:**

*Please describe your project and its major components in 2-3 sentences. Please include key information about your project like exhibition and public program dates.*

*Note: This description will be used both internally to reference the project for which you are seeking funding support, and, if funded, externally by CTH to describe your grant to the public on our website and in press releases.*

Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at 3pm Bui will speak about her beautifully illustrated and emotional graphic memoir, *The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir*. The novel documents her family's daring escape after the fall of South Vietnam and the difficulties they faced building new lives for themselves. Bui's virtual keynote will highlight Eastern Connecticut State University's NEA Big Read. The presentation is open to the public will include a Q&A session.  
<https://www.easternct.edu/big-read/>

**Project Description and Details:**

*Please tell us in more detail about the project for which you are requesting funding.*

*This is the heart of your grant application and your opportunity to tell us about your project's background, structure, components, and why it should be funded.*

*If your program has multiple sessions (i.e., a 4-part lecture series), please include a 2-3 sentence description for each program session.*

*If your project has multiple components (i.e., an exhibition and lecture series), please describe both the project as a whole as well as the individual components.*

Eastern is seeking support for a virtual conversation, keynote, with graphic novelist Thi Bui. The virtual conversation will be the highpoint of Eastern's NEA Big Read for Thi Bui's, *The Best We Could Do*. Thi Bui is based in San Francisco and it is not feasible to schedule a personal visit. Thi Bui's virtual keynote, planned for November 10, 2021, will consist of an hour-long presentation and Q & A and will be accessible both in real-time and an archived recording. While we do hope that current conditions will allow us to schedule group viewings, aka watch parties, we are also prepared to host up to 1,000 individual viewers for a completely virtual presentation. The draw of such a prominent author in an emerging literary genre will increase our presence and participation in the community and allow us to engage with a wider audience for our Big Read. The Big Read, including additional events described below, will take place from October 5 through November 25, 2021.

This is Eastern's third Big Read award, including last year's successful Big Read for *Into The Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea. The NEA Big Read annually provides support to selected organizations around the country to host dynamic community-wide reading programs, each designed around a single NEA Big Read selection. (<https://www.arts.gov/initiatives/nea-big-read>).

This year, Eastern received the maximum award of \$20,000. Eastern is one of seven cultural institutions nationwide and the only Connecticut grantee to select this book. We believe that Thi Bui's book will generate important conversations about intergenerational conflict, identity, and belonging, as well as immigration, the literary genre of graphic novels, and Vietnamese culture and history. With the selection of a graphic novel, we plan to extend our audience to include those for whom English is a second language, reluctant readers, young adult readers, as well as a step toward universal design, appealing to visual learners with a visual language.

Thi Bui's virtual conversation will personalize and humanize the historical struggles and themes woven throughout her novel. Thi Bui was born in Vietnam and came to the United States in 1978 as part of the wave of refugees fleeing Southeast Asia at the end of the Vietnam War. Her debut graphic novel is a beautifully illustrated and evocative memoir that documents her family's daring escape. With haunting, poetic writing and breathtaking art, she examines the strength of family, the importance of identity, and the meaning of home. The novel was selected for an American Book Award, a Common Book for UCLA and other colleges and universities, an all-city read by Seattle and San Francisco public libraries, a National Book Critics Circle finalist in autobiography, and this year was one of five selections for the NEA Big Read. In 2018, she published graphic nonfiction about targeting Southeast Asian immigrants in detention and deportation, and more recently, in reflection on COVID effects on the low-income populations. (<https://www.thibui.com/>) We are excited to support Bui's powerful artistic voice, as she addresses our society's most pressing concerns. Thi Bui is known to be a very engaging speaker and her personal appearance will add a unique richness to the accompanying discussions and activities. Bui exemplifies the critical role of writers and artists to document our history and inspire the community. We expect this event to be the highlight of our Big Read.

Our Big Read program will reach a diverse audience of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the greater Windham community – including schools, libraries, and non-profit organizations – as well as select organizations in Northeastern and Central Connecticut. The highlight of our program is an extensive partnership with criminal and social justice organizations in CT that serves recently released and incarcerated individuals. Our program will incorporate both on and off-campus readings, discussions, and co-curricular activities, including film screenings, musical and hands-on art activities, art exhibitions, and explorations of Vietnamese culinary arts. Our partners include 23 libraries, two high schools, one K-12 school system, four additional institutions of higher education, numerous correctional facilities, and other community programs to host common reads and book discussions. On-campus, ten faculty members have committed to using the book in their courses including ART 335 Graphic Design III; CRM 360 Justice Alternatives and The Arts, ART 250 History of Photography, FRE 331 Women Issues in Literature, HIS 362 Indochina at War, and MUS 318 Music & Narrative. In addition, over 700 First-Year Program (FYP) students will read *Callings: The Purpose and Passion of Work* by Dave Issay as a companion book. *Callings* presents unforgettable stories from people doing when they love. Focusing on the overlapping theme of how our past shapes our future,

specifically as it relates to selecting a career path, FYP faculty will be able to incorporate the co-curricular Big Read activities including attending Bui's conversation into their syllabi.

Other events will include a workshop with Marcelino Truong, Paris-based artist, graphic designer, and illustrator, whose book *Such a Lovely Little War* is an internationally- celebrated study of the Vietnam War; a conversation with Clarissa Wong, *The Best We Could Do* editor, in partnership with Broward County Public Library, February 1st, 2022 in celebration of Vietnamese New Year; a conversation with Jeffrey Greene, coordinator of Prison Arts, Community Partners in Action, Hartford; a conversation between Annie Buckley, Director of Prison Arts Collective, San Diego State University and Michele Burgess, teaching artist at PAC; a conversation with Rowan Renee about her participate in the groundbreaking exhibition: *Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration*, MoMA PS1, 2021, a staged productions of *Kriss* an adaptation of the myth of Orestes and Electra reenacted in California in the context of PTSD post-Vietnam war, co-written by Eastern professor Michele Bacholle, and an exhibition at Eastern Art Gallery provisionally titled *A life in Pieces* that will explore the power of the graphic novel to communicate otherness experienced within communities of immigrants, refugees, and incarcerated peoples. It will feature leading contemporary artists from NYC, Hartford, and the Boston areas. The exhibition will be available for viewing in the Gallery, and online. Thi Bui's video recording will be housed at the Eastern Big Read page: <https://www.easternct.edu/big-read/index.html> and shared with our on-campus and community collaborators. Since we anticipate a large number of attendees, we will take the necessary steps to ensure its smooth flow by asking RSVP, setting passwords and a waiting room, restricting screen sharing, and taking other precautions for safety.

### **Humanities Goals, Learning Objectives, and Evaluation:**

*What do you want participants to better understand after having participated in your project?*

*Please articulate your project's humanities goals and learning objectives--the aspects of human history, culture, values, and beliefs that your project will explore and what people will learn about them.*

*Please also describe the evaluation techniques you will use to determine if your project has achieved its humanities goals & learning objectives.*

The overall goal of the study of humanities is to provide a basis in the questions and concepts that have influenced people throughout recorded history and have helped to shape the conditions of our lives today; humanities promote critical thinking, analysis, and creativity. In this light, our Big Read programming is designed to promote investigation, not only into the themes within Thi Bui's novel as they relate to humanity but to the historical context and current implications including the parallels to people's own stories of immigration, personal struggle, and to the Covid-19 pandemic and the implications of our post-COVID-19 life. Our goal for the virtual conversation is for Bui to address our audience and explore the themes of intergenerational conflict, identity, and belonging within the context of her novel, immigration, history, and the current social and political climate, and for our participants to not only learn about her personal immigration story as it relates to our history and the post-Vietnam era but to gain an appreciation for the literary genre of graphic novels, as well as exposure to Vietnamese culture and history.

Additionally, our hope is that not only will participants engage and learn from her presentation, but will also be inspired to investigate and apply her messages to other historical contexts, today's current immigration climate, as well as draw personal inspiration from her story. We understand that a presentation from such a prominent author will not only engage our constituencies, but will inspire them to engage with other humanities opportunities within the Eastern campus.

Evaluations will be held through follow-up discussions with students during which faculty will solicit their feedback on the presentation. Faculty will be asked to document and share their responses as part of the evaluation. This data will provide an evaluation of the success of this project within our student population. We also plan to have interns working with us on the Big Read. Our interns will be asked to develop a survey and method of delivery to solicit feedback from all participants. Survey questions will address participants' understanding of post-Vietnam immigration, immigration in general, and parallels to other immigration stories; relatability and appreciation for immigration and personal stories; as well as their awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of graphic novels pre and post-participation. Participants' general feedback will also be solicited.

Sample questions: How would you feel if you were Thi? What historical events are tied to your own family history? How and when did you learn about them?  
How did certain features of geographic location affect people's experience of war? When you hear the word "refugee," what do you think of? What is the difference between leaving a country voluntarily and being forced to leave your homeland? What are some positive and negative effects of a dislocation?

#### **Relationship to Project's Subjects and Participants:**

*Describe your project team's relationship to your project's subjects and participants. If telling the story of a community or culture, please explain your access to this community and how you will address their needs and interests in your humanities project. What role(s) did the participants or community play in the planning and development of your project? What role(s) will they play in the implementation, production, and/or marketing/distribution stages?*

Thi Bui's presentation will appeal to many constituents including the Asian American community and recent immigrants. The themes of intergenerational conflict, identity, and belonging will make her presentation universally relatable. Additionally, the literary genre and historical nature of her memoir make her presentation appealing to an even more diverse audience.

Our Big Read project, of which this presentation will be the highpoint, has been collaborative from the beginning. Many, many people were involved in the planning of our program. We specifically reached out to our Asian American colleagues and communities, networking to be as inclusive as possible; which led us to some unique opportunities, as well as a reduced appearance fee. Our selection of Bui's graphic memoir reflects our desire to impact as wide an audience as possible. By taking a multifaceted approach to our examination of Bui's memoir it has allowed us to reach a larger collective audience while at the same time embracing the uniqueness of Bui's story and those like hers. Our ability to relate and reach those constituents is evidenced in our diverse Big Read partners

and programming. (See attached additional information document for details or partners and programming.)

It is our belief that Thi Bui's search for American identity will resonate with many of our participants. For example, one constituency would be Eastern's diverse student body with 204 DACA students; 30% students of color; as well as 34% first-generation students, and our immediate, off-campus community: the Windham Public Schools are 71% Spanish speaking, 28% of whom are English language learners; and 41% of Windham Public School children live in homes where Spanish is the primary language. While they may not share the same story, they are inclined to find Bui's story and presentation very relatable.

Highlights of our outreach include Jason O. Chang, Associate Director of the Asian/Asian American Studies Institute at UConn will participate in the Big Read program. Chang is a founder of The Asian American Literary Review, which is a literary arts organization, that publishes a biannual literary journal, including, periodically, community-curated book arts projects for all those who consider the designation "Asian American" a fruitful starting point for artistic vision and community. Its creative book production will be featured at Eastern Art Gallery. Our closest Vietnamese community is in Hartford, along New Britain Avenue. It was profoundly described by Ocean Vuong in his celebrated book *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*. Vuong is one of the authors we are hoping to invite as a speaker. Eastern's alumni book club recently read his book and has expressed much interest in his appearance. We have sent an invitation through his booking agent. We also expect to inspire participation within the substantial Asian American population through working with Hamden Public Library.

#### **Audience, Marketing, and Relevance:**

*Who is your target audience for this project?*

*Please identify the groups you hope will attend your programs and the methods you will use to promote your project to them (e.g., print, broadcast, social media, specific groups).*

*Why is this project important to your intended audience? Does it fill a community need? How do you know and why?*

Our target audience for the Virtual Conversation with Vietnamese American Writer and Graphic artist Thi Bui will include a diverse group of students, faculty, staff, and alumni of Eastern, members of the greater Windham, Hartford, and Tolland communities – including other institutions of higher learning, high schools, libraries, and non-profit organizations – as well as select organizations in Northeastern Connecticut and our special partnership with the criminal and social justice organizations who are participating in our Big Read. Our ability to relate and reach those constituents is evidenced in our diverse Big Read partners and programming. (See attached additional information document for details or partnerships and programming.)

The presentation will be promoted and publicized through Eastern's Media Relations office using Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter as well as a dedicated Big Read webpage. The Big Read will be featured on Eastern's Radio Station NPR-WECS FM 90.1, and through an interview on the Wayne

Norman Show on Willi 1400 AM. Radio coverage will be sought through other local stations. Live news coverage will be sought through the local Connecticut news channels Good Morning Connecticut WTNH, WFSB-Channel 3, and other local TV stations. We will contact Hartford's NPR radio station with our program calendar. We will also ask The Department of Economic & Community Development State of Connecticut to assist in publicity. Newspaper coverage will include local papers such as The Courant, The Chronicle, The Norwich Bulletin, and The New London Day, online campus newspaper, The Lantern. Eastern intends to have an intern dedicated to maintaining the Big Read webpage and related materials. Our current social media footprint includes Facebook 18,333 followers, Instagram 4,921 followers, and Twitter 3,689 followers. As well as our email database of current students, alumni, faculty, and other interested parties.

Eastern Big Read will also participate in the CT Literary Festival, October 2021 at Real Arts Ways. We will have a table displaying Big Read promotional materials and giving books away. Additionally, Hartford Public Library has agreed to co-promote our Big Read events.

In addition to the more obvious relevant topics such as immigration and historical context, we believe that Thi Bui's struggle to adjust to a radically changed environment will be invaluable for those readers navigating their own dramatically altered circumstances. Our current systemic fractures of racial and economic inequities and the uncertainties surrounding the pandemic and subsequent lockdown have left many of us feeling disoriented and fearful. Bui's memoir, along with her presentation, will help our participants to see each other, immigration, and our history in a new light and will generate a feeling of commonality amongst participants who might not otherwise feel connected.

**Total # of Audience Members Anticipated for Entire Project (Total Project Attendance):**

500

**Admissions and Other Fees:**

free

**Program Location and Audience Capacity:**

zoom platform up to 1000 participants

**Dates and Times of Programs OR Open and Close Date of Exhibition:**

The Virtual Conversation with Thi Bui will take place on November 10, 2021, at 3 PM.

Our Big Read program will run from October 5, 2021, through November 25, 2021.

**Tours (if applicable):**

**Please include your tour's itinerary, including a brief statement of significance for each site/stop:**

It is our plan to make the accompanying exhibit, which will include works from participants in the Prison Arts program, a traveling exhibit. Along with the exhibit will be materials (catalog) that will include our Big Read webpage that will allow access to the recorded Virtual Conversation with Thi Bui.

**Exhibits (if applicable):**

**Exhibition Venue Location and Hours of Operation:**

Eastern Art Gallery, Monday through Friday 10-5 PM, Saturday 10-2 PM, October 15 - February 1, 2022

**Brief Listing of Key Objects, Images, and Other Media to be Included:**

Artists: Rowan Renee transformed their father's criminal case records into works of art that signal new ways for thinking about justice.  
Maria Gaspar, Radiactive Stories from Beyond the Wall, video,  
Paul Rucker, Proliferation, video  
Beth Tielen, American Dream, Accordion fold. Materials: Black Arches Cover paper; Charbonnel Aqua Wash etching inks; PVA glue; Canapetta binding cloth; acid free binders' board.  
A.B.O COMIX A.B.O. is a collective of creators and activists who work to amplify the voices of LGBTQ prisoners through art. By working closely with prison abolitionist and queer advocacy organizations, we aim to keep queer prisoners connected to outside community and help them in the fight toward liberation. <https://www.abocomix.com/>  
Mansoor Adayfi and Kane Lynch, Caged Lives, comic book. <https://thenib.com/caged-lives/>  
  
Zoe Boekbinder, music from prisons <http://www.zoeboekbinder.com/prison-music-project>  
The Incurrigibles project continues history of Hudson Girls' Training School in the 1970s  
<https://incurrigibles.org/about-incurrigibles-project/>  
Reading for Justice <https://www.gaspingforjustice.org/>

**Additional Attachments:**

*See end of document*

**Presenters, Consultants, and Project Team:**

*Please list ALL presenters, consultants, scholars, and other key individuals working on the project, indicate if they will be paid with CTH grant funding, and list their major project responsibilities AND qualifications. Be sure to highlight humanities scholarship and expertise that they add to the project and, for presenters, indicate on which programs they are participating/presenting.*

Professor Lora Lee (Boya Li) is the Big Read Project Director. Li is a digital and traditional media artist. She is an expert in editorial and commercial illustration, concept art, surface design, graphic design, 2D & 3D game assets, 2D & 3D animation, video editing and photography. Li earned her MFA in Illustration from the University of Hartford.

Yulia Tikhonova is the coordinator for the Art Gallery and Museum Services at ECSU. She believes that the gallery is an essential space where the local and academic communities can share ideas about contemporary art and culture. During her tenure as the gallery director at St. John's University was awarded \$15,000 for Claudia Rankine's book *Citizen: An American Lyric*. Ms. Tikhonova also collaborated with Professor of Art History Keri Watson, School of Arts and Design, University of Central Florida, to incorporate an art exhibition as part of their Big Read program. In 2012, Eastern was awarded a NEA Big Read grant for *Sun, Stone and Shadows* - managed by J. Eugene Smith's Head of the Curriculum Center and tenured Academic Librarian Hope Marie Cook. Tikhonova is a graduate of the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College. Tikhonova will coordinate and curate art exhibition *A Life in Pieces* that will serve as a dynamic visual stage for our Big Read Program.

Thi Bui was born in Vietnam and came to the United States in 1978 as part of the "boat people" wave of refugees fleeing Southeast Asia at the end of the Vietnam War. Her debut graphic memoir, *The Best We Could Do* (Abrams ComicArts, 2017) has been selected for an American Book Award, a Common Book for UCLA and other colleges and universities, an all-city read by Seattle and San Francisco public libraries, a National Book Critics Circle finalist in autobiography, and an Eisner Award finalist in reality-based comics. It made over thirty best of 2017 book lists, including Bill Gates' top five picks. She illustrated the picture book, *A Different Pond*, written by the poet Bao Phi (Capstone, 2017), for which she won a Caldecott Honor. With her son, Hien, she co-illustrated the children's book, *Chicken of the Sea* (McSweeney's, 2019), written by Pulitzer winner Viet Thanh Nguyen and his son, Ellison. Her short comics can be found online at *The Nib*, *PEN America*, and *BOOM California*. She is currently researching and drawing a work of graphic nonfiction about immigrant detention and deportation, to be published by *One World*, Random House. CT Humanities funds are being used to pay Bui's appearance fee.

Jason Oliver Chang, born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is an Assistant Professor of History and Asian American Studies. He earned his Ph.D. from the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of California at Berkeley in 2010. While there he received research support from the Center for Race and Gender, the Historical Society of Southern California, the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation, and several UC offices. Before coming to UConn, Dr. Chang was a Lecturer for the Center for Asian American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Chang also holds a Masters of Public Policy and Administration from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where he focused on the enforcement of immigration law at the U.S.-Mexico border.

**Budget:** *See end of document*

**Budget Notes and Justification:**

While these many of these items have been explained in other locations we offer this summary of our request as well as some additional information regarding the financial commitment of Eastern



and our partners. As previously mentioned, Eastern is the recipient of a \$20,000 Big Read grant for Thi Bui's graphic novel, *The Best We Can Do: An Illustrated Memoir*. We are requesting \$4,999 from CT Humanities to support a virtual conversation with Thi Bui. Bui has agreed to a reduced fee of \$7,000, her usual fee is \$13,000. Big Read funds will be used to pay the remainder of her fee. As noted in the budget, the remainder of Bui's fee, the fees of other presenters, the cost of books being distributed free to the community being paid from Big Read funds, and 20% of 15/wk salary & fringe for Boya Li, Eastern faculty member serving as director of the Big Read project and Julia Wintner the project director are being used as match for this application. Big Read funds are also being used to support the Art in Prisons, other partners, and the exhibition at Eastern Art Gallery. (We are not including those expenses as match for this grant.) Of course, Eastern is using our technology resources to support the virtual presentation and the marketing of the presentation, as well as other direct and indirect costs. UCONN has verbally agreed to provide \$2,000 funds toward speakers/presenters associated with our Big Read. Our other partners are also contributing time and resources to their portions of the Big Read that will help to connect us to our intended audience. Faculty member's classroom time and supported co-curricular activities within the university, such as the staged performance and screening of Vietnamese films further demonstrate our commitment to the Big Read.

## PARTNERSHIPS – NEA Big Read: Eastern – 2021-2022

Our Big Read program will run from October 5, 2021 through November 25, 2021.

Our kick-off event will take place in Eastern's state of the art Fine Arts Instructional Center Proscenium Theatre with elected officials Senator Christopher Murphy and Congresswoman Jahana Hayes, Superintendent DOC USD #1 Veron Beaulieu, opening remarks from the Mayor of Willimantic Tom DeVivo and Eastern President Elsa Nunez. Our kick-off event will be followed by a reception at our Gallery featuring an exhibit curated by art gallery director Julia Wintner that will explore the power of the graphic novel to communicate otherness experienced within communities of immigrants, refugees, and incarcerated peoples. It will feature leading contemporary artists from NYC, Hartford, and the Boston areas. The exhibition will be available for viewing in the Gallery, and on-line.

### **Common Reads and Book Discussions:**

**K-12 collaborators:** At this time of this application, the following **K-12 collaborators** have committed to participate in Eastern's Big Read project: *Windham Public Schools* in collaboration with Eastern's Center for Community Engagement and Education Department will use *The Best We Could Do*, as well as children's literature companion books in their work with students both during and after school; *Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) Magnet School*, faculty of English and Creative Writing, Stacy Vocasek, will pair *The Best We Could Do* with *Persepolis*, which is ACT's Freshman Real. Vocasek will also incorporate the graphic novel into either her memoir, inspired writing class, or a world literature class as well as produce a staged reading during Willimantic Third Thursdays in October; and *EO Smith High School (Region 19 – Mansfield, Ashford, Willington, Columbia, as well as Agricultural students from Windham and Coventry)* teachers Tammy Glaeser, Visual Arts, and Denise Abercrombie, Art Department Chair will use the book in their Creative Writing & Performance classes. Total K-12 participation 100+ students. Books will be provided.

**Library Partners:** Our library partners will receive the Big Read materials, requested number of copies of *The Best We Could Do*, children's literature companion books as appropriate, invitations to Big Read activities, as well as access to the materials to host their own programs and book discussion groups. Student volunteers from our Center for Community Engagement will assist with distribution and coordination. Library partners include the following Connecticut Public Libraries: Andover, Colchester, New London, Bloomfield, Canton, E.C. Scranton Memorial Library, James Blackstone Library, Bradford, Andover, Canterbury, Janet Carlson Calvert Library, Franklin, Groton, Hamden, Mansfield, Fairfield Woods Branch Library

**Other Community Partners:** First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC, The Interfaith Working Group Willimantic, Willibrew Book Club, and Eastern Alumni Book Club will host group readings.

**Institutions of Higher Education:** *Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC), Manchester Community College, and Three-Rivers Community College* will participate through the libraries as well as faculty members teaching graphic arts and writing courses plan to use the book with their students. 100+ participants. Books will be provided.

Jason O. Chang, Associate Director of the *Asian/Asian American Studies Institute* at the *University of Connecticut* will participate in the Big Read program with his students of transnationalism, identity, and community formation. 30-40 students

## PARTNERSHIPS – NEA Big Read: Eastern – 2021-2022

**Eastern:** Numerous departments, programs, and faculty members within the Eastern community have committed to participate in this year's Big Read Project. As the word spreads of this year's book selection and application, more and more faculty and staff are expressing interest and ideas.

The following is a list of classes that will be using the book within their classrooms:

- ART 335 Graphic Design III will use it to provide inspiration and examples of sequential art, story-telling, and illustration for a collaborative project.
- CRM 360 Justice Alternatives and The Arts class will use it to investigate the application of the arts to populations affected by the criminal justice system. These students will also serve as interns for the criminal justice portion of the project, as well as engaging community reentry and service providers by facilitating book discussions groups in the community.
- ART 250 History of Photography class will discuss the controversial role of photography within the context of representations of the Vietnam War.
- FRE 331 Women Issues in Literature
- HIS 362 Indochina at War class will reflect on this book while investigating the social and cultural dimensions of the military conflict in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia during the 20th century.
- MUS 318 Music & Narrative class will use it to teach Vietnamese music.

First Year Program (FYP) is reading *Callings: The Purpose and Passion of Work* by Dave Issay as their common read and companion book to *The Best We Could Do* and has committed to having First Year Introduction (FYI 100) students attend the Big Read co-sponsored events/activities. FYI 100 is a required course for all incoming freshman - approximately **700 students**.

Hope Marie Cook and Angela Walker of Eastern's J. Eugene Smith Library will also support our students and faculty in selecting companion books, inclusive of our Education students and faculty's use of our Curriculum Center and extensive Children's Literature collection

### **Exhibitions, Performances, Speakers, and Other Co-curricular Activities:**

*(Open to our students, partners, and the general public.)*

**Film Screening:** Brian Day, Assistant Professor Theatre/Film Studies will conduct a **screening of Vietnamese films** moderated by Eastern's Film Club.

**Theater Production:** Professor Michele Bacholle, in collaboration with Eastern's Theater Department, DeRon Williams, will produce Bacholle's play *Kriss*, co-written with Linda Le, a Francophone Vietnamese writer. *Kriss* is an adaptation of the myth of Orestes and Electra reenacted in California in the context of PTSD post-Vietnam war.

**Traveling Exhibition:** curated by Julia Wintner will feature creative contributions from the recipients of Big Read Grant 2022 state-wide fashioned in a style of graphic novel.

## PARTNERSHIPS – NEA Big Read: Eastern – 2021-2022

**Culinary Arts:** \*CLiCK, a non-profit commercially licensed community kitchen, will support the Willimantic Library and other interested libraries/organizations by providing a Vietnamese cooking video and meal as part of their activities.

### **Speaking Engagements:**

- Conversation with Clarissa Wong, *The Best We Could Do* editor, in partnership with Broward County Public Library, February 1st 2022 in celebration of Vietnamese New Year.
- Conversation with Jeffrey Greene, coordinator of Prison Arts, Community Partners in Action, Hartford.
- Conversation between Annie Buckley, Director of Prison Arts Collective, San Diego State University and Michele Burgess, teaching artist at PAC.
- Conversation with Rowan Renee about her work in this exhibition, originally presented as part of *Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration*, MoMA PS1, 2021.

**Workshop:** Marcelino Truong, Paris-based artist, graphic designer and illustrator, whose book *Such a Lovely Little War* is an internationally- celebrated study of the Vietnam War, November TBA

### **Criminal Justice Participation**

**Prison Arts Program** – CPA's Prison Arts Program described in Partners and Personnel sections of this application will work within their existing programs in the prisons providing books and materials for creative responses. Group discussions will take place, as possible, within Prison Arts (and other) workshops, prison school classes (see below), and participant lead groups within prison blocks. **Prison Arts will solicit both written and visual responses, and work with ECSU to share responses via exhibition and publication.** One unique aspect of this project is that by providing copies of the book, along with accompanying materials inmates who typically are not able to participate in group projects (protective custody, isolation, maximum security, etc.), as well as those who typically do not engage in group activities will be able to collectively participate.

**Department of Correction Unified School District #1** provides educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals and will include *The Best We Can Do* in their curriculum at three prisons. Eastern students who previously worked in several facilities under the umbrella of the Center for Community Engagement, will assist, as possible, with the programs in the prison.

**Second Chance Pell Program** –QVCC's Second Chance Program with Brooklyn Correctional Facility, run by Professor Erin S Pagano, is part of a nationwide program where individuals are enrolled in college courses working toward an Associates Degree or Certificate.

**No Name Book Club's CT Chapter** is an online community dedicated to sending books to incarcerated individuals through their Prison Program. We will also distribute the books through their Prison Book CT Chapter.

**Justice Alternatives and The Arts** - Dr. Theresa Severance, Professor of Sociology and Criminology at Eastern, will use *The Best We Can Do* in her class, *Justice Alternatives and The Arts* that investigates the application of the arts to populations affected by the criminal justice system. Her students will serve as interns for the criminal justice portion of the project, as well as engaging community reentry and service providers by facilitating book groups in the community.

PARTNERSHIPS – NEA Big Read: Eastern – 2021-2022

\**Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC)* will participate through their **Second Chance Pell Program**, Criminal Justice program.



HONORARIA & CONSULTING

NOTE: The total of each item detail must match the total of each source of funds. X indicates a problem.

Item Detail					CTHF Funds Requested and Matching Funds (Source of Funds)				
	Name/Position	Rate	#	Total	CTHF Funds	External Cash Contributions	Applicant Cash Contributions	In-Kind Contributions	Total
1	Thi Bui - virtual presentation	\$7,000.00	1	\$7,000	\$4,999.00	\$2,001.00			\$7,000
2	community partner stipends @ TBD	\$3,999.00	1	\$3,999		\$3,999.00			\$3,999
3				\$0					\$0
4				\$0					\$0
5				\$0					\$0
6				\$0					\$0
7				\$0					\$0
8				\$0					\$0
9				\$0					\$0
10				\$0					\$0
11				\$0					\$0
12				\$0					\$0
13				\$0					\$0
14				\$0					\$0
15				\$0					\$0
			Total	\$10,999	\$4,999	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,999

TECHNICAL DESIGN SERVICES

NOTE: The total of each item detail must match the total of each source of funds. X indicates a problem.

Item Detail				CTHF Funds Requested and Matching Funds (Source of Funds)				
Name/Position	Rate	#	Total	CTHF Funds	External Cash Contributions	Applicant Cash Contributions	In-Kind Contributions	Total
1		1	\$0					\$0
2			\$0					\$0
3			\$0					\$0
4			\$0					\$0
5			\$0					\$0
6			\$0					\$0
7			\$0					\$0
8			\$0					\$0
9			\$0					\$0
10			\$0					\$0
			Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0



TRAVEL: CTH may cover mileage up to .545 per mile. Enter rate and number of miles below.  
 Total travel expenses may not exceed 20% of total grant request.

NOTE: The total of each item detail must match the total of each source of funds. X indicates a problem.

Item Detail				
Name/Position	Rate	#	Total	
1			\$0	
2			\$0	
3			\$0	
4			\$0	
5			\$0	
6			\$0	
7			\$0	
8			\$0	
9			\$0	
10			\$0	
11			\$0	
12			\$0	
13			\$0	
14			\$0	
15			\$0	
Total			\$0	

CTHF Funds Requested and Matching Funds (Source of Funds)				
CTHF Funds	External Cash Contributions	Applicant Cash Contributions	In-Kind Contributions	Total
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

PRINTING, COPYING & SUPPLIES: Total photocopying or printing expenses may not exceed 40% of total grant request

NOTE: The total of each item detail must match the total of each source of funds. X indicates a problem.

Item Detail				
Description	Rate	#	Total	
1			\$0	
2			\$0	
3			\$0	
4			\$0	
5			\$0	
6			\$0	
7			\$0	
8			\$0	
9			\$0	
10			\$0	
11			\$0	
12			\$0	
13			\$0	
14			\$0	
15			\$0	
16			\$0	
17			\$0	
18			\$0	
19			\$0	
20			\$0	
Total			\$0	

CTHF Funds Requested and Matching Funds (Source of Funds)				
CTHF Funds	External Cash Contributions	Applicant Cash Contributions	In-Kind Contributions	Total
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EQUIPMENT AND ROOM RENTAL OR PURCHASE: Total Equipment expenses may not exceed 40% of total grant request.

NOTE: The total of each item detail must match the total of each source of funds. X indicates a problem.

Item Detail				
	Description	Rate	#	Total
1	Book: The Best We Can Do	\$10.00	700	\$7,000
2				\$0
3				\$0
4				\$0
5				\$0
6				\$0
7				\$0
8				\$0
9				\$0
10				\$0
			Total	\$7,000

CTHF Funds Requested and Matching Funds (Source of Funds)				
CTHF Funds	External Cash Contributions	Applicant Cash Contributions	In-Kind Contributions	Total
	\$7,000.00			\$7,000
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
\$0	\$7,000	\$0	\$0	\$7,000

**PROMOTION**

NOTE: The total of each item detail must match the total of each source of funds. X indicates a problem.

Item Detail				CTHF Funds Requested and Matching Funds (Source of Funds)				
Description	Rate	#	Total	CTHF Funds	External Cash Contributions	Applicant Cash Contributions	In-Kind Contributions	Total
1			\$0					\$0
2			\$0					\$0
3			\$0					\$0
4			\$0					\$0
5			\$0					\$0
6			\$0					\$0
7			\$0					\$0
8			\$0					\$0
9			\$0					\$0
10			\$0					\$0
			Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**EVALUATION**

NOTE: The total of each item detail must match the total of each source of funds. X indicates a problem.

Item Detail					CTHF Funds Requested and Matching Funds (Source of Funds)				
	Description	Rate	#	Total	CTHF Funds	External Cash Contributions	Applicant Cash Contributions	In-Kind Contributions	Total
1				\$0					\$0
2				\$0					\$0
3				\$0					\$0
4				\$0					\$0
5				\$0					\$0
			Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

BUDGET SUMMARY: Values fill automatically from the detail pages.

Budget Summary	Source of Funds Summary					Total
	CTH Funds	External Cash Contributions	Applicant Cash Contributions	In-Kind Contributions		
Salaries & Wages	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,911.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,911
Honoraria	\$4,999.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,999
Technical Design Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
Printing, Copying and Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
Equipment and Room Rental or Purchase	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,000
Promotion	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
Evaluation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,999</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>	<b>\$9,911</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$27,910</b>