Intro slide
1. About K
2. About the grants
3. Four tips

About K
Founded 1833
Liberal arts
Undergraduate only
About 1372 students
Library renovated in 2006

K College Archives
History of the College
No local history collection – college history only
One part time Archivist
Two student assistants
Housed in the Library
Workroom, storage area, off site storage

Preservation Grants – NEH
“Help small and mid-sized institutions…preserve and care for their significant humanities collections.”
Can ask for an expert to assess collection or address a problem, or
If collection already assessed, can ask for assistance to purchase furniture or storage supplies, or
Education and training

Grant Application
Samples on NEH website

Narrative questions

Grant #1
Grant supported travel costs, hotel, meals, and time for visit and writing report
Grant #2
Purchase preservation supplies to fulfill recommendations made in 2010 Assessment Report
Scrapbooks:
  over 150 scrapbooks created by Kalamazoo College alumni between 1874 and 1983
    • stored in brown paper
    • Rehoused in custom boxes

Blueprints
  About 2,380 blueprints, plans and architectural drawings of the campus and college buildings
    • stored rolled in brown paper
    • Flattened, rehoused flat in ph neutral folders in new flat drawers

Why these?
  • Easy
  • Not high priority – may never have gotten done
  • Doable on this budget

Submitted May 2010, funded January 2011, completed September 2012

Grant #3
Focus on A/V materials (films, slides, photos, negatives, cassettes, CDs)
  More of a priority – used more
Submitted May 2012
REJECTED! Asked for comments
  • Generally positive – said we were trying to do too much
  • Had more applications than in years past (funded 36% as opposed to 41% the last 5 years)

Grant #4
Focus on images
Submitted May 2013

Tip #1 – National Significance
  College founded pre-statehood – have letters from pioneers settling Michigan
  Daily life in a growing Midwest town
  Experience of small liberal arts college life
  Local history: can see trends if taken together!
Tip #2 – Tell a Story

Be specific

Give examples

Tip #3 – Answer “so what?”

NO: “These improvements are important”

YES:
We know how to handle materials for future digitization
Proper storage and handling = longevity
Preserve the historical record

Tip #4 – Don’t reinvent the wheel