

9-30-2005

## Judith Sloan lecture/performance

Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program

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The Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Committee  
Grant Application

Provide 10 (ten) copies, including the original.  
Please place copy of this cover sheet on top of each copy

- I. Applicant/Organization: WIC/WST Program
- II. a. Responsible Organization Officer:  
Ann Schonberger,  
Director, Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program  
101 Fernald Hall, 581-1229, 1stClass  
&  
Kristin Langellier  
Professor, Communication & Journalism  
Mark & Marcia Bailey Professor of Speech  
434 Dunn Hall, 581-1942, 1stClass
- III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date(s): Lecture/performance events with Judith Sloan to accompany the Hudson Museum's exhibit of Crossing the BLVD: strangers, neighbors, aliens in a new america, a multi-media exhibit created by Sloan with Walter Lehrer. Four events will be held November 6 - 8, both in Bangor and on campus.

Expand in fuller detail, a supporting statement with detailed, itemized budget. Funding for current application is contingent upon submission of detailed budget and attendance report for any previous years' grants.

- IV. a. Total funding required for program: \$1545
- b. Amount committed by applicant organization:  
Kristin's Mark and Marcia Bailey Professorship includes some programming funds which she can apply to these costs for the part of the honorarium not covered elsewhere (\$250). This fund can also cover the videotaping (\$120). The Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program will cover the lodging, meals, publicity, and reception, if we can't get funding elsewhere.
- c. Amount committed by School of Performing Arts:  
They will cover the costs of using the Minsky Auditorium in the evening.
- d. Amount requested from other funding sources:  
We will solicit modest amounts (\$50 -> \$100) from these sources: Multicultural Programs, International Affairs, International Programs, Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, and others.
- e. Amount requested of Cultural Affairs/DLS Committee:  
\$750 toward the honorarium.

Signature of responsible organization officer/date:

*Ann Schonberger*  
9/30/05

\$750

## **Background**

The Hudson Museum is currently hosting a multi-media exhibit on recent immigration to the U. S. created by Judith Sloan, actress, oral historian, and audio artist, together with Warren Lehrer, photographer, writer, and designer. The exhibit features the photographs, oral testimonies, and biographies of recent immigrants to the borough of Queens in New York, reported to be the most culturally and ethnically diverse municipality in the U. S. At a time when immigration patterns are re-shaping American culture, this exhibit shares the stories, sounds, and images that reveal the human toll of a cold- and post-cold-war world, as well as a pre- and post-9/11 world. The exhibit opened in July and will continue until late November. It has already been very well attended. Norton has also published a book by Sloan and Lehrer, based on the project with the same title as the exhibit, and an audio CD is available.

We are proposing to bring Judith Sloan to this area early in November for a series of lecture/performance events to highlight and further enhance the entire community's experience of the exhibit. The wide range of topics raised by the exhibit and by Sloan's presentations reflect a number of current critical issues in the U. S. today: war and peace, race, immigration, language, women's rights, links to countries of origin, terrorism, education and more. We think these lecture/performance events will draw more people, who might not have come otherwise, to the Hudson Museum to interact with the exhibit. (We are purposely not using the word "view" to describe the experience, as it is much more than that.)

## **Events Planned**

A series of events have been planned for Saturday, Nov. 5 through Tuesday, Nov. 8. All are open to the public and all but the first is free.

Saturday, Nov. 5: Judith Sloan and a colleague from Afghanistan will be the keynote speakers/performers at the annual Maine Women's Studies Conference, Women's Works, to be held at the conference center of the University College at Bangor of the University of Maine at Augusta. Anyone can register for the entire conference for \$25.00 which includes lunch. The UCB folks are funding the majority of the cost of the entire visit.

6:30 pm, Sunday, Nov. 6: "Immigration, Peace and Foreign Policy," a lecture/performance to be held in the vestry of Unitarian/Universalist Church of Bangor. Co-sponsored by the Peace and Justice Center.

12:10 pm, Monday, Nov. 7: a lecture/performance, "Crossing into Maine: Old and New Immigration Stories," for CMJ 366, Speech Play and Performance, a class of 16 students taught by Kristin Langellier. It will be held in the Bodwell area of the Maine Center for the Arts. This event is open to the public and the Hudson Museum (not usually open on

Mondays) will be open for a block of time surrounding the event, so the class and other attendees can experience the exhibit.

7:30 pm, Monday, Nov. 7: a readers theatre performance of some of the material from oral interviews of the immigrants published in the book. The performance has the same title as the book: "Crossing the BLVD: strangers, neighbors, aliens, in a new america." Sloan will open with an introduction and a short performance. This will be followed by student performances of the book's material, directed by Kristin Langellier. Kristin also plans to have some of our immigrant students tell their own stories, in particular some of the Somali students from Lewiston that she has worked with in the Somali Narratives Project. Sloan will introduce the audience to the interactive website which is part of the Crossing the BLVD project. This event will also be listed as a part of the readers theatre series of the School of Performing Art and will be held in the Minsky Auditorium of the Class of 1944 Building.

12:15 pm, Tuesday, Nov. 8: "Women, Girls, and Immigration: Crossing the Blvd." Bangor Room of the Memorial Union. (Women in the Curriculum weekly lunch series event) This will also be a lecture/performance event, and the audience will be encouraged to visit the exhibit afterwards.

### **The Performance Artist**

Judith Sloan has a long history of recording oral histories and performing them as well as publishing them. Kristin and Ann have seen a number of her performances when she comes to Maine in the summer and at the National Women's Studies Conference. Her project on elderly Jewish women in an elder home resulted in a memorably performed character, Sophie, which we have both seen. Her multi-character solo performances combining humor, pathos and a love of the absurd include "Denial of the Fittest," "Responding to Chaos," and "A Tattletale: eyewitness in Mississippi." She has received grants from the New York Foundation on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Her work has been produced throughout the U. S. in such venues as The Public Theatre, The Jewish Museum, The 92nd Street Y, and The Smithsonian Institution. Her plays, commentaries, and essays have been published by the Second Story Press, the Forward, and the New York Times. Sloan is also a member of the faculty at the Gallatin School at New York University where she teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in documentary art, oral history, theater and community projects. She is also the director of Cross-Cultural Dialogue Through the Arts, an arts mentorship and training program creating collaborations between disparate communities.

Together she and Warren Lehrer founded EarSay, a nonprofit arts organization documenting and portraying lives of the uncelebrated. Their multi-media project Crossing the BLVD began with storytelling workshops in libraries, community centers, and schools throughout Queens; its outcomes include the book and CD, exhibits like the one

at the Hudson Museum, a website, and public radio documentaries. The work was funded by the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Greenwall Foundation, and a number of state and local sources in New York.

## **Budget**

The Maine Women's Studies Conference budget and the money raised internally by the University College Bangor will pay for the largest share of the costs of this five-day visit. The conference committee negotiated that separately with Sloan, but their share includes the transportation costs and a separate honorarium.

Our share of the costs of the visit are an additional honorarium of \$1000, overnight accommodations, meals for Sloan Sunday through Tuesday, and publicity for the events on our campus. We will also videotape some of the events for future use in our communication and theatre classes. We realize that the Hudson Museum has already assembled the money for the costs of the exhibit, including some from this committee. What we need help covering are only the additional costs of Sloan's visit here and her lecture/performances. The publicity cost estimate is low because of all the publicity the Hudson Museum has already done or is doing about these events as well as the exhibit.

Total Funding Required for the Programs = \$1545

Honorarium	\$1000
Lodging	\$180
Meals	\$120
Publicity	\$50
Videotaping	\$120
Modest reception after the Monday evening performance	\$75

### **Amounts Committed by the Applicants:**

Kristin's Mark and Marcia Bailey Professorship includes some programming funds which she can apply to these costs for the part of the honorarium not covered elsewhere (\$250). This fund can also cover the videotaping (\$120).

The Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program will cover the lodging, meals, publicity, and reception, if we can't get funding elsewhere.

**Amount Committed by School of Performing Arts:**

They will cover the costs of using the Minsky Auditorium in the evening.

**Amounts Requested from Other Funding Sources:**

We will solicit modest amounts (\$50 to \$100) from these sources: Multicultural Programs, International Affairs, International Programs, Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity.

**Amount Requested of the Cultural Affairs/DLS Committee:**

\$750 toward the honorarium.

### **History of CA/DLS Funding**

Our most recent funding from CA/DLS was for Women's History Celebration last year. The money was used primarily for honoraria and travel expenses for three events:

1. "The Second Coming of Joan of Arc," a performance by the play's author, Carolyn Gage, performed in the Minsky Auditorium.

Estimated attendance = 150

2. "Pop Culture Princess," a performance critique of cultural representations of women, including an exploration/transformation of the meaning of Barbie, performed in the Minsky Auditorium, by performance artist Elizabeth Whitney.

Estimated attendance = 250

3. A lecture on Jane Addams by Victoria Bissell Brown, Prof. of History at Grinnell College.

Estimated attendance = 60