2016 CVNHP Local Heritage Grant
Vermont Music Heritage Accessibility Project

Project Summary

Big Heavy World received a $5,000 2016 CVNHP Local Heritage Grant to transfer its vast collection catalogue to migrate to a web-administered platform to expanded public access and improved interaction with collection materials. The organization’s experienced staff worked with eight young people to develop a data scheme for the archive catalogue. The team also developed a custom audio player. The data, image, and audio content of 25 recordings was entered into the system to pilot and demonstrate the improved archive catalogue system. The Vermont music archive may now be searched from other library systems and can contribute to statewide efforts to aggregate information about archive holdings.

In addition to creating the web-administered platform, the team accomplished the following tasks through this grant:

- Began scanning, processing audio, and entering data from hundreds of other Vermont recordings;
- The platform is also now sharing the 115 images of our ‘Sound Proof’ photography exhibit of musician portraits from the 1990s, with audio interpretation for most of them;
- The archive has become a formal repository for artifacts from the 30+ year history of 242 Main, a Vermont music venue of national historic significance;
- Engaged Code for BTV, the official Code for America Brigade of volunteer civic technologists, to begin converting the custom audio player code into an Omeka plugin that will be shared with the open source community;
- Produced a short video overview of the project and its grant-funded work.

Eight Volunteers gave 266 hours to the project, which established a new platform for sharing Vermont music digitally.

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