

HISTORY EVALUATION

Here is how you might think about the response to the Issue/Evaluation questions for a CFGV application if you are a history organization or museum.

First, clearly and specifically answer the question, What are you trying to change? This doesn't mean "We will do an exhibit about the Utes who used to live here" or "We will hire an internationally-known exhibit designer to do an interactive exhibit." It's referring to the big picture situation you want to remedy or improve as a result of the exhibits.

Second, get clear about why it matters. Why should visitors know something about the place they are visiting? Why does an interactive exhibit matter? Why should residents know anything about their community's history? These two items – what you want to change/remedy/improve – coupled with why it matters will be your response to the "issue" question.

Third, design the program you want to do, that you believe is the best way to address your issue.

Fourth, think about ways to tell if the program is making a difference, in terms of the reason you're doing the program in the first place:

- How can you find out if visitors have learned more about the Utes?
- How can you find out if an interactive exhibit taught a visitor something that a more passive exhibit would not?

Fifth, tell CFGV what you have learned and how you're including what you've learned in your future planning.