

B U D G E T F O R
P L A N N I N G A N D D E V E L O P M E N T
O F T H E
I N S T I T U T E O F T H E B L A C K W O R L D

THE SECOND ELEMENT OF THE
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL CENTER

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I. INTRODUCTION

Funds are being sought to plan, develop and implement the program of the Institute of the Black World as described in the attached draft proposal.

Budgetary requirements for the first two years of operation of the Institute totals \$1,884,275.

II. SUMMARY OF THE PURPOSE AND OPERATIONS OF THE INSTITUTE

The following is a summary of the attached 35 page draft proposal:

A. Purpose

The purpose of the Institute is to gather in one place those scholars, activists, artists and resources which would make possible an examination, analysis and celebration of the Afro-American experience on a level unparalleled anywhere in the world. The existence of such an institute in close proximity to one of the major centers of black higher education in the nation will make possible many stimulating relationships, as well as the granting of advanced degrees in Afro-American Studies to those who must help shape the intellectual and social goals of the future. At every point it will seek to push beyond the conventional boundaries and limitations of American educational institutions to create a setting in keeping with the creative ferment now permeating the black community.

B. Operational Approaches

1. Academic Research and Teaching - The Institute will engage in a great variety of programs of research on the life and culture of the peoples of African descent, wherever they are found. It will offer course work in all of the social sciences, humanities and fine arts, but it will not continue to see those categories as barricades. Persons might enroll for certificates from the Institute or receive degrees from Atlanta University Center institutions. Research fellowships of many kinds, in every field of Afro-American life and history, will be available. The development of new curriculum approaches for teaching Afro-American Studies will be a significant element of the work of such an institute.

2. Artists in Residence - The Center will make available many opportunities for both recognized and lesser known artists of the black community to spend time in residence as teachers, performers and research fellows. Not only theatre groups, dance companies and individual graphic and musical artists, but gospel singers, jazz musicians and blues performers will also be welcome to this creative oasis. The interaction between such artists and the local university and city-wide communities will surely be most exciting.

3. Community Encounter - One of the most significant aspects of such a Center will be its movement into the community. (Indeed it could not be a part of a Martin Luther King Center without such a thrust.) It will sponsor a variety of experiments in the development of its surrounding urban community, addressing issues of health, welfare, education, housing, etc. It will provide a "think tank" operation where activists, radicals and scholars can come together under one roof and offer significant help to one another. It will make available its resources to all public servants who have duties in the black community, introducing such persons to the wealth of history and culture which is part of the Afro-American heritage. One highly significant group to be served by such an institute will be the thousands of teachers--at every level--who need to know the meaning of Afro-American Experience.

4. Library and Archival Sources - With the Martin Luther King Library, the Atlanta University's Slaughter Collection and the Georgia State Archives as a common base, the Institute will seek to develop library and archival sources at a number of levels: (a) The institution of a major program in Oral History; (b) the identifying and cataloging of the significant library collections on Afro-American Studies in this country and abroad; (c) the ultimate development of some electronic relationship among major related library sources in this country; (d) the collecting of much still scattered material on the black experience.

5. Publications - No institute of this kind will be complete without a significant publishing program. The publications will include not only the results of normal institute activities (seminars, lectures, special research, books, etc.), but also a journal of the Institute. Besides, the time has come for the long-discussed Encyclopedia of Afro-American life and culture to begin to take shape. There will be no better place for it to be developed than in such a setting.

III. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

An institute of the significant dimensions envisioned above cannot be created without systematic research and planning. Consequently, these goals will be approached in three successive stages.

A. Stage I: Planning (June 1, 1969 to December 31, 1969)

Activities in the initial 7 month period of operation will consist primarily of program planning, design of future research, consultations on Black Studies and staff preparation.

The following are specific types of activities which will be carried out during this stage:

1. Rewriting draft proposal of the Institute to final form including detailed supporting appendices e.g., on the historical development of Afro-American studies in the Atlanta University Center
2. Analysis of previous or on-going programs related to the study of African people in the United States and throughout the world.
3. Consultation with an international group of experts.
4. Inventory of current research programs concerned with Black people.
5. Development of a detailed manpower analysis of all potential participants in the Institute and other Black studies programs over the next five years.
6. Architectural design and plans for permanent housing of the Institute.
7. Development and initiation of cooperative relationships with Black studies programs at universities throughout the United States.
8. Creating and initiating a program in policy studies addressed to crucial problems confronting the black community viz., housing, education, politics, health, etc.
9. Recruitment and staffing of Institute personnel; artists, scholars, student interns, etc.
10. Preparation, training, orientation of permanent staff.