Michigan State University (MSU) is seeking $349,999 for a three-year project starting in May 2014 to reformat, preserve, and provide online public access to the audio-visual collection of materials used in making the award-winning documentary film *Amandla! A Revolution in Four-Part Harmony* (Lion’s Gate Films, 2002). Directed by Lee Hirsch and produced by Sherry Simpson Dean, *Amandla!* tells the story of South African freedom music and the central role it played in the larger struggle against apartheid.

*South African Freedom Sounds: The Amandla Film Archive* contains hundreds of hours of digital video and audio recordings of original musical performances and oral history interviews with South African artists and activists. Much of this material ended up on the cutting room floor and has never been seen or heard before in public. It represents an astonishing diversity of musical styles and chronicles individual experiences of surviving and challenging one of the most racially discriminatory governments of the post-1945 world. A distinguishing feature of the collection is that every participant in *Amandla!* signed releases granting the filmmakers unrestricted use of all recorded original performances and interviews. These materials constitute a significant body of primary sources for historical investigations of anti-apartheid activism in South Africa and globally; the audio-visual sources also encourage critical analysis of the creative process of documentary filmmaking.

Through a partnership between the Department of History, MSU Libraries, and the MATRIX digital humanities center at MSU, and the South African History Archive in Johannesburg, this invaluable material will be organized, described, and contextualized in an open access web-based repository. The *Amandla! Film Archive* website will have well-designed, user-tested faceted and advanced search and browse features for the benefit of academics, students, and the general public. Selected materials from the *Amandla!* collection will be integrated into established educational resources such as *South Africa: Overcoming Apartheid, Building Democracy*, an NEH-funded web curriculum created at MSU, and “SAHA in the Classroom: Teaching the Crisis of the 1980s,” a workshop that uses SAHA’s archival materials to develop pedagogical resources for South African classrooms. For digital repatriation purposes, a master copy of *Amandla!* materials and metadata will be housed at SAHA’s offices, located at the site of the Constitutional Court and the Old Fort Prison Complex heritage site, where members of the public will easily access them.

This proposed project will respond to NEH’s *Bridging Cultures* initiative by creating multimedia resources that demonstrate how local and global influences have long interacted with and shaped the artistic culture of South Africa, a process rich in political implications for civil rights and human rights. The project upholds a long history of shared musical engagement among Americans and South Africans. By seeking to preserve and give access to sound recordings and moving images, as well as to establish physical control of such materials, the *Amandla Film Archive* contributes to the long-term preservation of vulnerable archival collections through a transfer of both the resources and their associated metadata to a stable, standards-based digital platform. It holds tremendous value for several communities of users in the humanities, including historians of South Africa and human rights, cultural heritage professionals, and scholars of performance and film studies. This extraordinary collection humanizes the struggle against apartheid by bringing into stark relief how musicians, singers, dancers, poets, and activists creatively fueled South Africans’ broader quest for freedom and democracy.