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FROM: New Haven Free Public Library /
StoryCorps



CONTACTS:

New Haven Free Public Library
Ashley Sklar | 203-946-8835
asklar@nhfpl.org

StoryCorps
Sarah Whitney | 646-723-7020 ext. 12,
swhitney@storycorps.org

**NEW HAVEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY WELCOMES STORYCORPS,
THE GROUNDBREAKING ORAL HISTORY ORGANIZATION**

NHFPL to host three recording days to collect stories of the New Haven community

Friday, January 3 – From March 3rd to 5th, StoryCorps will be at the New Haven Free Public Library (NHFPL) to record and preserve a selection of personal stories from across New Haven, and contribute to the preservation of both museum and community heritage. StoryCorps is an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve and share humanity's stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world.

The StoryCorps interviews are a gift from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) as part of the 2019 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, which honors museums and libraries for outstanding community service. In the words of U.S. Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut, "This award is a true testament to the innovative work of NHFPL... I nominated them for this award because of their unmatched commitment and service to Connecticut residents, and for going above and beyond to offer 21st century programming to fit the diverse needs of the New Haven community."

Over the course of three days, StoryCorps will record 15 interviews, which are 40-minute conversations between two people who know each other well. A trained StoryCorps Facilitator will help guide them through the recording process, but the two participants will be talking to each other directly, to ask the questions they want to ask, and share memories of the experiences and people that are meaningful to them. Each pair may decide together to structure their session with one participant interviewing the other, or as more casual conversation, where they can freely ask each other questions back and forth.

After the recording session, participants receive a digital download of their interview, which with their permission, will also be archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. A very small percentage of all StoryCorps interviews are produced for national broadcast on NPR's *Morning Edition*.

"StoryCorps tells the true American story—that we are a people defined by small acts of courage, kindness and heroism. Each interview reminds people that their lives matter and will not be forgotten," said StoryCorps Founder Dave Isay. "By strengthening connections between people and building an archive that reflects the rich diversity of American voices, we hope to build StoryCorps into an enduring institution that will touch the lives of every American family."

“We are thrilled to welcome StoryCorps to the New Haven Free Public Library to capture and preserve a selection of conversations that illuminate the myriad voices from our city,” said City Librarian and Director John Jessen. “As an ever more central hub of culture and community, a place where people naturally gather to be part of something bigger, the library is an ideal site to gather and record the live stories from New Haven residents.”

Since its founding in 2003, StoryCorps has given over 100,000 people in all 50 states the chance to record interviews about their lives, leaving a legacy for future generations. The StoryCorps archive is the largest collection of human voices ever gathered.

If you would like to share your experiences with StoryCorps and the New Haven Free Public Library, visit nhfpl.org between January 6 – 24 to submit your story for consideration. For more information about the IMLS National Medal award, visit the New Haven Free Public Library website at nhfpl.org/2019nationalmedal.

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About StoryCorps

StoryCorps is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve and share humanity’s stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world. Since 2003, StoryCorps has collected and archived more than 70,000 interviews with over 100,000 participants. Each conversation is preserved at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. StoryCorps is one of the largest oral history projects of its kind, and millions listen to our weekly broadcasts on NPR’s *Morning Edition* and on [its website](#).

In addition to a traveling MobileBooth, StoryCorps currently operates stationary recording booths in Atlanta and Chicago.

To ensure the diversity of participants, StoryCorps has launched several major initiatives. Among these initiatives, **Historias** collects the stories of Latinos throughout the United States and Puerto Rico; **Griot** preserves the voices and experiences of African Americans; the **Memory Loss Initiative** reaches out to people affected by various forms of memory loss; the **September 11 Initiative** honors and remembers the stories of those most personally affected by the events of September 11, 2001; and the **Military Voices Initiative** shares the stories of veterans, service members, and military families.

About StoryCorps and IMLS

Each year, the Institute of Museum and Library Services awards the National Medal for Museum and Library Service to museums and libraries with outstanding records of community service. In 2010, the National Medal recipients began receiving a three-day visit from StoryCorps to capture personal stories of each institution’s community members.

The StoryCorps interviews are an opportunity for the institutions to celebrate the people who make their community great and recognize their impact in the area. The interview collection provides unique and valuable content for the institutions to use in public programming, marketing materials, or a local community archive.

About New Haven Free Public Library

The New Haven Free Public Library welcomes nearly 900,000 visitors annually through our front doors and digital portals, realizing its mission of fostering lifelong learning, inspiring curiosity,

and building community through shared access to resources, experiences, and opportunities for all. The library system includes the Ives Memorial Library on the historic New Haven Green, 24/7 online services, the Readmobile bringing books to early childhood learning centers, and four neighborhood libraries: Fair Haven, Mitchell, Stetson and Wilson. Now and tomorrow, the New Haven Free Public Library will transform lives and contribute to creating a strong, resilient, and informed community where everyone can thrive.

The New Haven Free Public Library is a 2019 winner of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries for distinctive service to their communities. For more information, visit nhfpl.org.