CONDUCT YOUR OWN ORAL HISTORY

Is there someone in your life you’ve been meaning to sit down with to ask them about their lives? Oral histories preserve the life and legacy of individuals by giving them the opportunity to share their stories in their own words. Conduct your own oral history using these questions as a starting point.

WHERE YOU’RE FROM

☐ What is your name, age, and where were you born?
☐ Where did you grow up?
☐ What was your family like?
☐ What did your parents do for a job?
☐ Did you have siblings? What did you like to do together?
☐ Tell me about your childhood. What was it like?
☐ What is your favorite childhood memory?
☐ How would you describe your hometown?
☐ Describe the home you grew up in?
☐ What were some family traditions you enjoyed?
☐ Can you tell me about your parents?
☐ Do you remember a time you experienced racial discrimination?

JOURNEY TO A NEW LAND

☐ Did you ever have to move?
☐ How old were you?
☐ Why did you move?
☐ How did you feel about moving?
☐ Did you want to move?
☐ Where did you move to?
☐ How did you get there?
☐ What did you bring with you?
☐ What did you leave behind?

FIRST MOMENTS IN A NEW PLACE

☐ What were your first impressions of your new city?
☐ How long did it take for you to feel settled?
☐ How were things different in your new city? How were they similar?
☐ What was your new neighborhood like?

THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

☐ Where do you currently live?
☐ What do you think about recent current events?
☐ What is your hope for the future?