

## *Coming Home: Stories from Main Street* Application Package

*Coming Home: Stories from Main Street* is a project that engages youth in exploring their town's past and thinking about its future. This program is a remarkable experience for local participants. Rural youth often feel disconnected from local culture. They may feel that adults do not listen to them or that their town's history does not matter. This project helps to overcome those barriers.

Youth will work with cultural organizations in their community to make a digital storytelling project. Students should collect oral history interviews from community members, research their town's history through primary and secondary sources, and use technology to create a digital project to be shared with the community. Examples of digital projects include videos, podcasts, websites, exhibitions, Storymaps, walking tours, AR/VR experiences, and anything else youth can create.

Goals of this project include youth learning:

- research and interviewing skills
- how to create a nonfiction narrative and how to tell a great story
- local history and understanding its significance
- how to participate professionally in the community
- how to use new equipment and software to develop a digital story project

Timeline for 2022 – 2023 project:

- April 25, 2022 – Applications open
- May 9, 2022 – Letter of Intent Due
  - o Youth Programs Coordinator will set up calls to discuss the project further
- June 3, 2022 – Applications close
- Late June/ early July 2022 – Applicants hear back from MoMS and RCAP
- August 2022 – Projects start
- September 2023 – Projects end

If you have any questions about *Coming Home: Stories from Main Street*, please feel free to contact Sydney Thatcher, Youth Programs Coordinator, either by email at [thatchers@si.edu](mailto:thatchers@si.edu) or call her at 973-617-7485.

## *Coming Home: Stories from Main Street* Letter of Intent

If you are interested in bringing a Coming Home project to your community, please fill out the following sections and share this page with Sydney Thatcher, Youth Programs Coordinator, at [thatchers@si.edu](mailto:thatchers@si.edu). The Letter of Intent is merely to show your interest in the project, you do not need a completed plan. Letters of Intent are **due by May 9<sup>th</sup>**.

1) Organization Name:

Address:

2) Contact Person's Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

3) Please list the towns or counties that you typically work with:

4) Are you interested in bringing a *Coming Home: Stories from Main Street* project to your community?

Yes     No

5) Would you like to be considered for potential funding of up to \$2,000 from Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP)?

Yes     No

## *Coming Home: Stories from Main Street* Application

Please submit this application to Sydney Thatcher, Youth Programs Coordinator, at [thatchers@si.edu](mailto:thatchers@si.edu).

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Sydney Thatcher or call her at 973-617-7485.

Applications are due by **June 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

Organization Name:

Address:

Lead Contact Name:

Email:

Phone number:

Have you hosted a MoMS exhibition before?

If yes, please list them here:

- 1) Please tell us a bit about your community, and the history of your area.
- 2) What are your goals for working with local youth and how will you ensure their participation? Have you worked with youth on any previous projects?
- 3) What type of project would you like youth to create? What local history subjects or themes would you ask them to explore?
- 4) Describe the logistics of your program. How long will projects take and when will they finish?
- 5) Please tell us about the partners who will be involved in this project. If you do not have any established partnerships for this project, what kinds of organizations have you partnered with previously?
- 6) Describe how your organization will make historical and other cultural resources available to youth for completing their projects.
- 7) Does your organization or any partner organizations have technology and/or technology experience in place? If not are there members of your community that you can call on to help this digital story telling project?
- 8) How will a youth project like *Coming Home: Stories from Main Street* benefit your organization and community?
- 9) Attach support letters from your organization and your primary partners (e.g. school, history organizations, youth organizations, etc.) Address them to:

Carol Harsh

Director, Museum on Main Street

Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service

PO Box 37012

MRC 941

Washington, DC 20013-7012

## *Coming Home: Stories from Main Street* Guidelines and Advice

To apply for *Coming Home*, please consider these questions as you develop your proposal. **Sydney Thatcher, Youth Programs Coordinator, is happy to answer any questions:** [thatchers@si.edu](mailto:thatchers@si.edu); 973-617-7485.

1. Please tell us a bit about your community, and the history of your area.
  - How would you describe your community to someone who has never visited?
  - What towns/ counties are you planning on working with? What are their needs?
  - How has history shaped your community?
2. What are your goals for working with local youth and how will you ensure their participation? Have you worked with youth on any previous projects?
  - Do you have a history of working with youth? What worked well or did not work well in those projects?
  - How can digital storytelling project improve your organization's youth outreach?
  - Could you combine this with an existing youth project in your community or fulfill a need?
3. What type of project would you like youth to create? What local history subjects or themes would you ask them to explore?
  - Examples of project types: video, podcast, walking tour, exhibition, Storymap, AR/VR experience, etc. **Remember that youth should lead the projects.**
  - Successful projects highlight local history. How will this topic stimulate community reflection on local history?
  - What are your organization's goals for the final project? How will you share the finished stories with your community (i.e. display them or hold a premiere celebration)?
  - Can you combine any other planned programming with youth activities?
4. Describe the logistics of your program. How long will it take and when will stories premiere?
  - What town, county or region will be the basis for your program? Will youth from multiple schools or locations participate? Will youth travel to access research, interviews, and technology?
  - Please describe your timeline if you have one.
5. Please tell us about the partners who will be involved in this project. If you do not have any established partnerships for this project, what kinds of organizations have you partnered with previously?
  - Partnerships are a hallmark of this program. Can you collaborate with schools and/or teachers? Alternatively, is it possible to collaborate with youth organizations or other extracurricular programs (e.g. Future Farmers of America or library youth programs)?
6. Describe how your organization will make historical and other cultural resources available to youth for completing their projects.
  - Youth engage with your organization and partners through research and primary sources (i.e. interviewing locals, finding images, searching local libraries or archives). What resources will you provide to help youth develop their stories?
  - Can your partners provide youth access to other cultural resources?
7. Does your organization or any partner organizations have technology and/or technology experience in place? If not are there members of your community that you can call on to help this digital story telling project?

- What technology is already available in your community for students to utilize in a digital project? (camera, microphones, lighting, editing software, etc.)
  - Do you know people who could advise students about technology or can you partner with an organization or business that can help? These roles could be filled by educators or teachers depending on their area of expertise and availability
8. How will a youth project like Coming Home: Stories from Main Street benefit your organization and community?
  9. Attach support letters demonstrating that you have established partners who will participate in this project, particularly if you don't normally host youth programs. For an even stronger proposal, include in-kind matc