

StoryCorps

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STORYCORPS, THE NATIONAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT, ANNOUNCES NEW CITIES ON THE 2007 MOBILE STORYBOOTH TOUR

Houston, Richmond and Hartford Among the New Cities On the Tour

New York – (January 2007) – StoryCorps, the acclaimed project to create an oral history of America, today announced eight cities, including Houston, Richmond and Hartford, to kick off the project's 2007 Mobile StoryBooth tour. Since its launch in October, 2003, StoryCorps' two mobile and two stationary recording studios – called StoryBooths – have collected nearly 10,000 stories.

StoryCorps was created by award-winning radio documentary producer and MacArthur Fellowship recipient Dave Isay. The project will arrange for mobile recording booths to travel to every corner of the United States and, in coordination with local public radio stations, document the stories of ordinary people living in America today. Major funding for StoryCorps is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). StoryCorps is a project of Sounds Portraits Productions in partnership with NPR and the American Folklife Center (AFC) at the Library of Congress.

To date, the Mobile StoryBooth tour has visited 52 towns and cities in 37 states, ranging from small towns such as New Town, North Dakota and Murray, Kentucky to major metropolises such as Chicago and Boston. Reservations have sold out in each city the StoryCorps Mobile StoryBooths have visited. The 2007 tour will include stops in the following cities: **Houston, TX; Jackson, MS; Lafayette, LA; Columbia, SC; Fayetteville, AR; Richmond, VA; Kalamazoo, MI; Hartford, CT.**

In each city where a Mobile StoryBooth stops, the local member station hosting StoryCorps may air a selection of the local stories and create additional programming around the project. Select stories will air nationally on NPR's *Morning Edition*, the most-listened-to morning radio program in the country, each Friday.

Each of the two Mobile StoryBooths takes a separate route – one takes an Eastern route and the other covers the Western states. StoryCorps visits in each city or town will last four weeks; about 125 interview slots will be available at each location. Two weeks prior to a booth arriving in each of the tour cities, participants can make reservations on the StoryCorps Website at www.storycorps.net. Additional reservations will also become open to the public once the booth arrives in each city.

At the Mobile StoryBooth, participants record in pairs – oftentimes friends or loved ones – and one person interviews the other. A trained facilitator guides the participants through the interview process and handles the technical aspects of the recording. At the end of a forty-minute session, the participants walk away with a CD of their interview. With the permission of participants, a second copy will be sent to the AFC where it becomes part of a high quality digital archive.

During its stay in Houston, StoryCorps will collect additional stories of Hurricane Katrina evacuees and their families who were displaced from New Orleans. Appointments will be arranged through a special outreach program.

“As StoryCorps has traveled across the country, visiting 52 towns and cities in 37 states, we’ve seen the profound effect it has had not only on the lives of those who have participated in the project, but also on the millions who have heard them each week on NPR,” said Isay. “We are so proud to begin 2007 by continuing our mission to teach people to become better listeners, foster intergenerational communication among families and communities, and help us to appreciate the strength in the stories of everyday people they find all around them.”

“NPR is proud to continue its partnership with StoryCorps with the launch of its 2007 tour,” said Ken Stern, Chief Executive Officer, NPR. “This team of oral historians has traveled throughout the U.S. and, working with NPR Member stations in each community, thoughtfully and personally captured the amazing, unknown histories of our citizens. Their efforts have provided NPR’s *Morning Edition* with fascinating programming to offer our listeners and, in a larger sense, brought generations together to create, share and experience the stories of America.”

“The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) is pleased to support StoryCorps on its historic national tour,” said Patricia de Stacy Harrison, CPB President and CEO. “We are proud to be a part of this important initiative as it spreads its message of compassionate communication and careful listening across the nation. StoryCorps represents the essence of public broadcasting: high-quality, groundbreaking public service that informs, enlightens and inspires our populace.”

“As StoryCorps continues to grow in scope and reach, the American Folklife Center is proud to remain a committed partner of the project,” said Peggy Bulger, Director of the American Folklife Center (AFC) at the Library of Congress. “The past two years have resulted in wonderful additions to the Center’s collections, and we are delighted with the nationwide excitement the project is generating.”

StoryCorps opened its first StoryBooth, a freestanding soundproof recording studio, in New York City's Grand Central Terminal in October 2003 and opened its second StoryBooth at the site of the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan in July 2005.

Individuals can reserve interview slots at **StoryCorps.net**, an online resource center that includes a reservation and payment system, step-by-step technical instructions on how to record, sample recorded interviews, a ‘question helper’ utility and troubleshooting guide.

About the AFC

The American Folklife Center was created by Congress in 1976 and placed at the Library of Congress to “preserve and present American folklife” through programs of research,

documentation, archival preservation, reference service, live performance, exhibition, public programs, and training. The center incorporates the Archive of Folk Culture, which was established in the Library in 1928 and is now one of the largest collections of ethnographic material from the United States and around the world. The Archive of Folk Culture will be the repository for the StoryCorps collection.

About CPB

CPB, a private, nonprofit corporation created by Congress in 1967 develops educational public radio, television, and online services for the American people. The Corporation is the industry’s largest single source of funds for national public television and radio program development and production. CPB, a grant making organization, funds more than 1,000 public radio and television stations. www.cpb.org.

About NPR

Since its launch in 1970, NPR has evolved into a leading media company, primary news provider and dominant force in American life. NPR produces and/or distributes more than 1300 hours of programming weekly, including more than 150 hours of news and information, talk, entertainment and cultural shows for the 800-plus NPR Member stations. NPR also programs two channels on Sirius Satellite Radio, five 24/7 multicast music channels for HD Radio and offers nearly 70 podcasts. NPR Worldwide provides a 24/7 program schedule to listeners in more than 100 countries and to the U.S. military and their families globally.

About StoryCorps

StoryCorps is a project of Sound Portraits Productions, the nationally acclaimed New York City non-profit founded by Dave Isay. For more than a decade, Sound Portraits has celebrated the lives and struggles of unheralded Americans who have quietly and courageously overcome adversity through award-winning public radio documentaries, as well as through books, CDs, museum exhibitions, and Web sites. To hear Sound Portraits past radio programs, visit www.soundportraits.org.

City	State	Date of Stop
Houston	TX	Jan. 11 – Feb. 3
Jackson	MS	Jan. 11 – Feb. 3
Lafayette	LA	Feb. 8 – March 3
Columbia	SC	Feb. 8 – Feb. 21
Richmond	VA	Feb. 27 – March 21
Fayetteville	AR	March 8 – March 31
Washington	DC	March 26 – April 1
Kalamazoo	MI	April 5 – April 28
Hartford	CT	April 5 – April 28