



Storytelling Circles Roadmap

Antonito History Community Collection Project

Location: Antonito, CO. Multiple locations

Date: December, 2023.

Time: TBD

Facilitators: Angela Montoya (Community weaver), Lisa Marie Sandoval (Community outreach)

What is a Storytelling Circle:

A storytelling circle is a group of individuals sharing stories from their own experience and memories—focusing on themes that are important to the community. Through this communal sharing of memories, participants can experience the weaving together of the collective memory.

Goals/ Objectives

Participants will:

- Understand that all of us have important stories to tell that can help us tell the history of the community (“the history of your community is YOUR story”)
 - Experience first hand how we can learn about the past through telling and listening to stories.
 - Identifying together the unique aspects of community life and culture they all share.
 - Potentially experience a sense of pride and sense of ownership and co-authorship of the community’s history.
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Set up:

- Ideally have 6-10 people.
 - A space big enough for people to be sitting around a table, or on chairs organized as a circle, or creating a standing circle.
 - The space needs to be organized so that people can hear each other without yelling.
 - Ideally, find a space where there isn’t too much sound-bleed from other rooms or activities happening.
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Materials & Supplies:

- Sound recording device—make sure it has new batteries and a memory card.
- Snacks and water
- Nametags
- Optional-memory aids to help people recall stories:
 - community photos
 - neighborhood map
 - audio clips or video clips about the community
 - note cards with prompts such as “tell me about a time when you attended a community celebration,” “tell me about the food you grew up eating”
 - Note cards with important themes in the community: “food,” “family,” “traditions”



Activity/ Procedure:

Before beginning, make sure people feel:

- Comfortable
- Included
- Listened to
- Acknowledge

Please turn on the recorder.

1. Introductions:
 - a. Facilitators thank community members, introduce themselves and the Antonito History Community Project. This is a collaboration between Antonito Together and History Colorado that is engaging the community of Antonito and its surrounding villages to create a community collection that reflects their motivations, knowledge and interests. Since 2022 we have organized together multiple events to co-create opportunities to share and listen to the community's stories.
2. Explanation of Storytelling circle and asking for consent
 - a. Facilitators explain the storytelling circle: "In today's event we will share and listen to stories about our community. These are stories based on your experience and memories—focusing on themes that are important to the community. We will be recording these stories for the Antonito Community History Collection Project. The stories will be credited to you and will be preserved in the archive at History Colorado for anybody who would like to learn about Antonito to listen to them. By participating in this storytelling circle you are agreeing to have your 1) stories recorded and 2) for history Colorado to share them with anybody who wants to learn from them. If you do not want these to be part of History Colorado, please let me know." Do you have any questions?"
3. Explanation of activity
 - a. "We will be going around the room with each of you sharing a memory about the community or a story that tells us about the community's history. So the question is 'what do you remember you would like to share?' We will be passing around the recorder, please start saying your name and where you are from. Then please start your story with "I remember..." [Today we will be talking about X theme]. I'll begin and then pass it to the next person who would like to share: "My name is Angela Montoya/Lisa Marie Montoya, I am from [village name here], I remember" [participants can warm up using the memory aids mentioned before].
4. Continue passing around the recorder. It should feel quite organic, as people will get excited listening to someone else's stories.
5. Wrapping up: At the end, ask people how they felt and if they would like to continue with events like this one. Thank them and remind them that their stories will become part of History Colorado's permanent collection [give them another opportunity to consent].

Please turn on the recorder

POST EVENT: Please upload the sound file to the project's drive.