Community Archiving Strategies for Oral History

Natalie Milbrodt, Director
Queens Memory Project
population of 2.3 million

280 square km (108 square miles)

48% foreign born residents

over 50% non-English households

65 Queens Library locations
QUEENS MEMORY

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QUEENS MEMORY

Founded 2010

Over 500 interviews

Over 200 history events

Over 50 neighborhoods

Over 23 countries of origin
How do we help Queens residents preserve local history?
Engagement Funnel

Audience Member
Anonymous Participant
Impromptu Contributor
Invited Contributor
Co-Organizer
Public Interview Events

Audience Member
Anonymous Participant
Impromptu Contributor
Invited Contributor
Co-Organizer

Flushing Community Library
March 14, 2016
Zhang Hongtu with Natalie Milbrodt
Story Collecting

Anonymous Participant
Impromptu Contributor
Invited Contributor
Co-Organizer

Glen Oaks Community Library Pride Day
June 2, 2018
Photo by Natalie Milbrodt
Story Sharing Events

Audience Member
Anonymous Participant
Impromptu Contributor
Invited Contributor
Co-Organizer

Laurelton Community Library
October 22, 2016
Photo by Natalie Milbrodt
Scanning Days

Audience Member
Anonymous Participant
Impromptu Contributor
Invited Contributor
Co-Organizer

Flushing Community Library
May 15, 2016
Photo by Betsy Edasery
Stephen Kappel and younger brother Lawrence in front of their home in Sunnyside Gardens, NY November 1949, Courtesy of Jo Anne Kappel
Open Mic for New Americans

Audience Member
Anonymous Participant
Impromptu Contributor
Invited Contributor
Co-Organizer

Long Island City Community Library
October 3, 2019
Photo by Natalie Milbrodt
Workshop Series

Audience Member
Anonymous Participant
Impromptu Contributor
Invited Contributor
Co-Organizer

Flushing Community Library
August 21, 2018
Photo by Natalie Milbrodt
Our Story Quilt

Global Grand Central activity report:
https://goo.gl/zRnkNf

Queens Museum
Summer 2019
Photo by Catherine Grau
Collaborative Curation

Audience Member
Anonymous Participant
Impromptu Contributor
Invited Contributor
Co-Organizer

https://soundcloud.com/queens-public-library/sets/season-one-memories-of

Jackson Heights Community Library
June 17, 2019
Photo by Natalie Milbrodt
The COVID-19 Project

Help us document the experiences of Queens residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The stories we gather today will become a testament to the struggles and resiliency of the World’s Borough.

3 Ways to Contribute:

1. Leave a message on our storyline at 1-855-QNS-LOVE (767-5683)
   In your recording, please include:
   A. The spelling and pronunciation of your first and last name
   B. Your age
   C. A way to contact you
   D. A description of where you are

2. Follow Queens Memory on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
   Tag us in your posts by using @queensmemory and #QueensCOVID.

3. Use the webform at https://queenslib.org/covid
   Send us an account of your experience in Queens. This can be captured through writing, photography, sound, video, or oral history interview recordings.

We look forward to adding your photos, stories, interviews and other contributions to the Queens Memory digital collections at Queens Public Library and Queens College.
Who have you been able to help?

#QueensCovid

If you'd like to volunteer as a #QueensCovid Oral History Interviewer, send us a DM! We can get you set up with remote recording.
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