

Coming Home: Stories from Main Street Application Guidelines and Advice

To apply for *Coming Home*, please consider these questions as you develop your proposal. Additional planning resources are available on MoMS website: <https://museumonmainstreet.org/content/stories-yes-resources>.

Sydney Thatcher, Youth Program Coordinator, is happy to answer any questions: thatchers@si.edu; 973-617-7485.

1. What are your goals for working with local youth and how will you ensure their participation? What will be the benefits to your organization?
 - How can storytelling improve your organization's youth outreach?
 - Could you combine this with an existing youth project in your community or fulfill a need?
 - 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)?
2. Describe how your organization will make historical and other cultural resources available to youth for completing their projects. If you're not a history organization, how will this benefit your mission?
 - 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?
3. What type of project would you like youth to create (e.g. video or website)? What local history subjects or themes would you ask them to explore? Remember that youth should lead the projects.
 - Successful projects highlight local history and relate to the theme of the MoMS exhibition *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*. 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 personnel that would be involved in your project.
 - A Project Manager should be a representative of your organization (staff or volunteer) while a Technology Adviser may be external. Do you know people who fit these roles 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.
 - If already identified, provide specific names, job titles and a description of the roles.
5. 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?
 - What activities do you have planned that can prepare youth for the recording and editing process? You may use MoMS online tools, training modules, and notebook or develop your own workshop plan. Please describe your timeline.
6. Describe the technology you will use. How will new equipment (video cameras, microphones, lighting kit, etc.) and software benefit your organization and local youth? A sample equipment list can be found [here](#).
 - How will you provide training for youth (e.g. Learning Lab, Field Guide, other resources)?
 - How might you continue to use this technology and pursue other partnerships to expand your community services and programming?
7. Attach support letters demonstrating that you have established partners who will participate in this project, particularly if you don't normally host youth programs.

Coming Home: Stories from Main Street Proposal



Organization/State: _____

Contact Person Name and Email: _____

Name of Exhibition and Dates: _____

1. What are your goals for working with local youth and how will you ensure their participation? What will be the benefits to your organization? (please limit to 200 words)
2. Describe how your organization will make historical and other cultural resources available to youth for completing their projects. If you're not a history organization, how will this benefit your mission?
3. What type of project would you like youth to create (e.g. video or website)? What local history subjects or themes would you ask them to explore? Remember that youth should lead the projects.
4. Describe the personnel that would be involved in your project (teachers, advisors, etc).
5. Describe the logistics of your program. How long will projects take and when will they finish?
6. Describe the technology you will use. How will new equipment (video cameras, microphones, lighting kit, etc.) and software benefit your organization and local youth?
7. Attach support letters from your organization and your primary partners (e.g. school, history or youth organization). Address them to:

Carol Harsh
Director, Museum on Main Street
Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service
PO Box 37012
MRC 941
Washington, DC 20013-7012

Please submit this application to Sydney Thatcher, Youth Program Coordinator at thatchers@si.edu.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis; but project participants are expected to start in May of each year.