

Museum on Main Street (MoMS) is proud to offer participation in its Stories from Main Street: Youth Engagement and Skill-building (Stories: YES) digital initiative to host organizations. The initiative is a project-based learning program that lets youth become curators of their community's history by conducting research through a host venue and creating a digital project that displays their research as a meaningful and engaging narrative. This program supports the training of educators in the benefits of incorporating public history in their classroom, the utilization of local research resources, and the development or improvement of 21st century learning and technology skills for youth participants.

Empowering Youth...

This project allows youth to share their community's history the way they want by choosing a topic and conducting research and then selecting a digital format for telling their stories. Our goal is to deepen understanding of the significance of their community's history and the important role they themselves can play in preserving that history for the future. The skills they develop in communication, collaboration and research, in addition to hands-on technology training, will prepare youth to succeed in higher education and in the 21st century workforce.

Increasing Access to Knowledge and Technology ...

State and local scholars will enable educators and youth to connect local historical content to state and national narratives, including the themes featured in MoMS exhibitions. Participants will also identify a local technology specialist who will work with them to identify and purchase technology that will remain with the community after the project, and will offer guidance and technological support as youth create their digital projects.

Building Relationships...

Participants will discover the network of resources and partnerships that are available in their own communities, from their state humanities councils and from the Smithsonian Institution. Past participants in the project worked with students to develop local history projects and developed strong partnerships with local educators and youth organizations.

Stories: YES assists participating communities by providing funds for digital equipment, training and project support. We ask our partner state councils to help suggest MoMS communities where the project could have a significant impact. MoMS hosts are invited to apply to participate in this exciting project. For more information, contact Shannon Sullivan, Youth Projects Coordinator, at sullivans@si.edu or (202) 633-5343

