

A detailed historical map of Philadelphia and Camden, Pennsylvania, showing various streets, landmarks, and geographical features. The map is oriented with North at the top. Key locations labeled include Palmer, Shute, Rising Sun, Crump, DeBrenu, Richey, Mason & Harner, Meeting, and Driglam. Other labels include Garettson, Kenilworth, Shoppens, Wood, Brown, Whittman, and Ferry. The map shows a network of roads and a river system, likely the Schuylkill River.

Precious Places 2010: An Opportunity to Document Our Neighborhoods

Precious Places Community History Project invites members of Philadelphia's many neighborhoods to document the buildings, public spaces, parks, landmarks and other sites that hold the memories of our communities and define where we live. *Precious Places* is an opportunity to make our neighbors aware of Philadelphia's diverse neighborhoods and the development policies or social forces that often render certain 'precious places' out of existence.

Scribe Video Center is seeking ten community groups to participate in 2010-2011.

Each group will plan, shoot, and edit a video about their "precious place" with the help of a filmmaker and a research scholar hired by Scribe. While these facilitators will work closely with participants throughout the course of production, the work itself—the planning, writing, and filming—will be done by members of the community groups.

This program is **free** for organizations in Philadelphia and Camden, and no prior experience in filmmaking is required.

Your Precious Place

A "precious place" can be any public space—a club, a street, a building, a park, a church, or any other place that has special meaning to local residents. Previous *Precious Places* participants chose subjects as diverse as a beloved jazz club, a hundred-year-old tree, a forgotten cemetery, and the Underground Railroad. We encourage formal and informal neighborhood groups in Camden and Philadelphia to apply, with a special emphasis on those in East & West Oak Lane, Southwest Philadelphia, Olney, Feltonville and Northeast Philadelphia. While there are no restrictions on which specific places are eligible, this year we are encouraging projects that include stories from the 1910s and 1920s. Please keep in mind we also favor the following:

- Groups that have the time and capacity to produce a video;
- Neighborhoods that have buildings or other public places which 1) hold an important community memory; 2) are in danger of being lost; and/or 3) help define the neighborhood;
- Groups that can identify residents who know the neighborhood's history and are good storytellers;
- Neighborhoods experiencing a transition in housing prices, population or landscape;
- Stories that will have an impact and be of interest to the public at large

Producing a documentary video is a chance to honor the local experience and to become the author, not just the subject, of your neighborhood's history. In the process of completing a useful videotape, group members will develop professional production skills they can continue to use to uncover the rich stories of our past.

Scribe Video Center is a nonprofit media arts center that provides an opportunity for adults and young people to produce videotapes under professional instruction. Projects exploring personal visions, social issues, and community life are of particular interest to Scribe.

Project Timeline

Applications are due on April 30th, 2010. A committee of past *Precious Places* participants, community leaders, and Scribe staff will select up to ten projects to participate. Selected neighborhoods will spend the months of June, July and August developing their documentary scripts and learning how to use the video equipment. On September 4th, 2010, all ten groups will take part in a citywide day of filming, spending the entire day videotaping interviews and documenting places and events in their communities. Finally, after editing their videos, participants will be invited to show their work in the Spring of 2011.

Precious Places 2010 Application Coversheet

Thanks for your interest in participating in the 2010 *Precious Places Community History Project*. Please fill out the top part of this coversheet and answer the questions following in 2-3 pages.

<i>Group or Organization:</i>	
<i>Address:</i>	
<i>Telephone:</i>	<i>Fax:</i>
<i>Contact Person:</i>	
<i>Email:</i>	

Application Questions:

1. Give a brief history of your organization or group. What does your organization do on a day-to-day basis and with whom do you work (i.e., community residents, businesses, institutions, etc.)?
2. Which specific place do you recommend for the Precious Places Project, and why? What historic information should be most remembered about this place, and what is the most interesting story to tell about this place? Is there a widely remembered person or event associated with the selected place?
3. Is there an exact street location of this place?
4. Give a brief description of the surrounding area. What are the primary ethnicities of people living there (Please give approximate percentages if you know them)? How would you describe the economic status of the neighborhood?
5. What are the most significant political or social issues affecting the community (i.e. gentrification, eminent domain abuse, environmental degradation, etc)?
6. In five years, what changes might there be in this neighborhood? How might these changes affect the selected place? How do different people in the surrounding area feel about these changes? What are some of the sources of change (please identify if they are from within the community and/or external forces)?
7. Who specifically will be involved in planning and production? Please list specific names and their relationships to your precious place and your organization.

Please send the completed coversheet and questionnaire to:

Precious Places 2009
Scribe Video Center
4212 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Application deadline is Friday, April 30th, 2010

Please feel free to spread the word and invite additional community-based organizations to participate. We are happy to help you at any point in the application process. If you have questions please contact Corey Chao at 215.222.4201 or email corey@scribe.org. We look forward to receiving your application!