



Precious Places Community History Project 2019

Precious Places Community History Project invites members of neighborhood groups throughout the Philadelphia area 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 groups to participate in 2019. 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 community groups and organizations in Philadelphia, Camden and adjoining counties (Delaware, Chester, Montgomery and New Castle). 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 Mantua, Powelton Village, North Central, Southwest Philadelphia, Olney, Feltonville, South and Northeast Philadelphia. While there are no restrictions on which specific places are eligible, we encourage video projects that might serve to address a pressing community concern. Other important criteria are:

- 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
- Projects that explore communities affected by the presence of or lack of access to mass transit.

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 video, group members will develop professional production skills they can continue to use to uncover the rich stories of our past.

Founded in 1982, 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 will be accepted until Friday, February 15, 2019, 5 PM. A committee of past *Precious Places* participants, community leaders, and Scribe staff will select projects to participate. Selected neighborhoods will spend the following months developing their documentary scripts and learning how to use the video equipment. In the spring of 2019, selected groups will take part in a day of production, 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 when completed.

Precious Places 2019 Application

Thanks for your interest in participating in the *2019 Precious Places Community History Project*. Please attach a coversheet with your organization's contact information. Then answer the application questions in the following pages using no more than 5 pages.

The coversheet should include the name, address, phone number and website (if applicable) of the organization. Please also include the names, phone numbers and email addresses of specific contact people for this project.

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, threat of eminent domain, 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. If the story of this neighborhood related to the theme of mass transit in any way, please describe the connection. What mode of transport does it involve?
8. Who specifically will be involved in planning and production? If possible, prospective participants should each describe their relationship to the specific site and the organization in a sentence or two. They should also print and sign their name.

Please send the completed coversheet and questionnaire to:

Precious Places 2019
Scribe Video Center
3908 Lancaster Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19104
or to
inquiry@scribe.org

Deadline: Monday, February 15, 2019, 5 PM

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 Louis Massiah at 215.222.4201 or email inquiry@scribe.org. We look forward to receiving your application!

The Precious Places Community History Project is supported by Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation, Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation, Union Benevolent Association, The Alston Beech Foundation and the West Philadelphia Promise Zone.