



Different Threads of the Same Fabric



**Boston Stories
of Justice from
1970-2010**

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In early 2021 while still in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, community historian & lifelong freedom fighter, Dolores E. Pickett, put out a call to people with whom she had lived and fought for justice throughout the decades, to come together and reflect on the work we've collectively done to have our people's backs, and to share those stories with our community.

A group of us who are black, brown, white, queer, straight, mostly working-class, mostly women and gender non-conforming, mostly elders yet intergenerational, whose personal lives and community work is rooted in Dorchester, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and Mattapan answered the call. Together, we've built a vision of a community-based story-telling project in the form of a perpetual calendar* and accompanying booklet, that will share slivers of our stories of justice work in our Boston communities between the years of 1970 and 2010.

These stories express our way of life as we have supported each other and had each other's backs; the ways in which we identify ourselves as a part of a whole and address our collective needs. These stories illustrate how threads of relational experiences sustain us in and through the work that we do; how our collective work is crucial to our ability to thrive. They are reflections of the ways our successes and failures had deep and lasting effects on one another. They are stories of organized campaigns and projects, and also of informal services & supports. This is a collage-style archival project and these stories aren't comprehensive nor are they necessarily more important than stories we aren't including. They are slivers of our stories; different threads of the same fabric.

We invite our community to contribute written reflections and/or visual materials such as fliers, photographs, and other memorabilia, to be included in this project.

*(*A perpetual calendar indicates the dates of a month and not the days of the week. It serves the purpose of recording event that remain the same year after year, such as birthdays and anniversaries.)*

Story Prompts

Think of these prompts as options to help you shape your storytelling.

- What was the reason for your work? What inspired you to get involved and what made you do the work that you did? Where were you coming from?
- What was your visions for the work?
- What were the implicit and explicit values and principles that shaped your work?
- How has what you understand about race, class, and gender changed over the years?
- What did you learn about working across race/ in multiracial groups, that may be helpful today?
- With the benefit of hindsight, how do you now realize that your work perpetuated misogyny, homophobia, racism, elitism, colorism, etc.
- What did you learn about what it takes to build effective coalitions?
- What are lessons learned about struggling with others through conflict in principled ways?
- What are your reflections and learnings about contradictions, mistakes, lessons learned and missteps?
- How were you personally transformed by the work?

Consents

- Don't send us your secrets, if it's a secret, keep it!
- This booklet is being shared widely including potentially becoming a part of institutional archives. Once it is published and shared, we don't have control over who reads it.
- When sending written stories, make sure to attribute names to any quotes you may be including.
- When sending visual materials, include any names that need to be attributed to its creation.
- We will be collaging visual materials together to create the calendar artwork, so if you are sending visual materials, please indicate if you do NOT intend for the material to be cut and pasted with other materials and that instead you intend for the material to be presented as a whole piece. There will be space made in the booklet for whole pieces of visual art/materials.
- Contributors will be asked to review edited work before we go to print.
- Contributors will be asked to complete a waiver, agreeing that the planning committee of Different Threads, Same Fabric has the final say about whose writing and visual materials will be included in the booklet.

Submission Instructions:

- **STORIES:** People are invited to submit written stories about community activism in Boston between 1970-2010.
 - Stories may come in various forms including essays, prose, poems, songs, etc.
 - People may also share audio recorded stories or video recorded stories.
 - And if desired, people may request to be interviewed.
- **VISUAL MATERIALS:** People may submit visual materials that help to tell the stories of community work in Boston between 1970-2010, such as fliers, photos, t-shirts, etc.
 - All original materials should be scanned (if needed, we can assist with accessing high quality scanners).
 - If the materials are not flat, such as a sculpture etc., and therefore cannot be scanned, a high- quality photo can be taken. (If needed, we can assist with accessing high quality 3D photography).
- **EMAIL** stories and visual materials to:
DifferentThreadsSameFabric@gmail.com
 - If the file is too large to send via email, we can assist in sending the files via our We Transfer account.
 - If it is not possible to send the the stories or visual materials via the Internet, we can make arrangements for them to be sent via snail mail.