Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are

PROJECT INTRODUCTION FOR KEENE CENTRAL SCHOOL
MARCH 29, 2019

What is AC?
• Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are is a multi-year local history project that collects and organizes audio stories and related photographs from Town of Keene community members through an online platform to share the rich social and cultural history of this community located in New York State’s Adirondack Mountains.

The Planning Group
• Jery Y. Huntley, Volunteer Grants Manager
• Karen Glass, Library Director, Keene Valley Library
• Olivia Dwyer (KCS grad), PR/Marketing/Recruitment
• Elizabeth Rogers, Archivist, Keene Valley Library
• Leslie Kucharczyk, Town of Keene Historical Society
• Aaron Miller, Library Director, Keene Public Library
• Keene Central School:

The Grants
• VISION GRANTS
  • SEED FUNDING FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
    • KVLA awarded $1,500 in 2018 by Humanities New York (HNY) in support of brainstorming, research, and professional development for organizations working collaboratively to develop new ideas and program strategies.
    • HNY Grants
      ○ Support emerging and established partnerships between different groups on a shared project that may develop into public-facing activities.
      ○ Infuse program design with humanities themes and methodologies from the start.
      ○ Encourage experimentation in program design.
      ○ Build community input into program design.

Focus Group Plan
• Four focus groups required by the grant held summer 2018 to
  ○ Determine categories of stories and prioritize them.
  ○ List possible participants for stories later on.
  ○ Create enthusiasm for the project.
• The focus group participants will tell their stories in 2019 and beyond, but had specific tasks for these meetings.
• Marketing of focus groups and program started.
• Final report submitted August 2018 after successful focus groups.
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Categories for Stories
From the Focus Groups

- **Arts & Culture**
  - Music/art/theatre/literature/philosophy/photography/religion/tall tales
- **Work**
  - Guides/caretaking/hunting/logging/lumber mills/construction/industry/tourism and hospitality/doctors/business/gardening/farming/fishing/trapping/clubs/law enforcement/merchants/venomous/boilermaking
- **Outdoor Activities**
  - Hiking/Olympics/hunting/fishing/hiking/biking/skiing/sports/lake activities/guide boats
- **Community**
  - Cemeteries/hospitals/schools/churches/fire departments/libraries/hues/restaurants/hotels/road houses
- **Catastrophes**
  - Disaster/tragedies/war
- **People**
  - Colorful characters/strong women/early settlers
- **Daily Life**
  - Events and traditions/volunteerism/activism/philanthropy/demographic changes
- **Environment**
  - Natural history/architecture/Great Camps/mountains/nature

Successful Search for Implementation Grants

- Implementation is funded by
  - Humanities New York
  - Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation
  - Northern New York Library Network
  - Community supporters

What’s Happening Now?

- Story booth set up in the library.
- Software and hardware ready.
- First stories recorded, but no release until June when we have more stories.
- Story Aide being hired for library to help in program
- Program accelerated early June.

www.myadirondackstory.org

Adirondack Community
Capturing, Preserving, and Celebrating the Stories of who we are, and why we are proud!

The KCS “Ask”
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**KCS Involvement**

- Liaison requested, to also be on Planning Group
- Introduction to grades 9-12 this spring
- Work with liaison to bring students into library to tell stories
  - Could even bring the booth to the school
- Communication of the program and the [www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org) website, and possibly build into curricula

Students have already been involved in focus groups and making a video for the project website.

**Questions?**