

WHOSE STORY IS WAITING FOR YOU?

Erasure of Black Voices - A Historical Recovery & Preservation Exercise

Every family and community holds stories that deserve to be remembered. Think of one person whose story you would like to know more about, recover, or preserve.

1. WHO COMES TO MIND?

Name: _____

Relationship or connection to you/community: _____

2. WHAT DO YOU ALREADY KNOW?

Write three things you know about this person's life.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3. WHAT IS MISSING?

What is one thing you wish you knew about this person?

4. WHY MIGHT THE STORY HAVE FADED?

What may have contributed to this person's story becoming less known or remembered?

- ☐ The story wasn't passed down
- ☐ Family loss or trauma affected what was remembered or discussed
- ☐ People moved or became separated
- ☐ Records were lost, never created, or remain disconnected
- ☐ The person's life or contributions were overlooked or excluded
- ☐ A neighborhood, business, institution, or community changed or disappeared
- ☐ I don't know yet
- ☐ Other: _____

5. WHERE MIGHT YOU LOOK?

Check any sources that might help you find another piece of the story:

- ☐ Family members or community elders
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Newspapers
- ☐ Census records or city directories
- ☐ Birth, marriage, or death records
- ☐ Church records
- ☐ Organizational records
- ☐ Cemetery or headstone information
- ☐ Letters, family Bibles, or keepsakes
- ☐ Libraries, archives, or historical societies
- ☐ Other: _____

6. TAKE THE FIRST STEP

What is ONE thing you can do within the next seven days to begin recovering or preserving this story?

ONE CLUE CAN TELL YOU WHERE TO LOOK NEXT.

