

StoryCorps

Contact: Dan Klores Communications
Jo Flattery / Debra Carey / Gillian Kocher
(212) 685-4300

NPR
Susan Bluttman
(202) 513-2754
sbluttman@npr.org

STORYCORPS, THE NATIONAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT, ANNOUNCES TEN NEW CITIES ON NATIONAL TOUR, INCLUDING NEW ORLEANS

After Collecting Nearly 2,000 Stories in 26 Cities, StoryCorps Announces New Six-Month Ten-City Tour; NPR Member Stations to Host StoryCorps MobileBooths in Each City

New York – (December 14, 2005) – StoryCorps, the acclaimed initiative to create an oral history of America, today announced a new six-month national tour that will begin in January 2006 with the opening of a StoryCorps MobileBooth in Los Angeles, CA and Tampa, FL. The new tour – to be done in partnership with NPR member stations – is the second for StoryCorps, which will complete its inaugural U.S. tour later this month after having visited 26 cities and collected nearly 2,000 stories.

StoryCorps was created by award-winning radio documentary producer and MacArthur “Genius” Grant recipient Dave Isay. The multi-year project will arrange for mobile recording booths to travel to every corner of the United States and, in coordination with the stations, document the everyday history and unique stories of ordinary Americans. The tour is sponsored by NPR, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and Saturn Corporation, the automobile company. The American Folklife Center (AFC) at the Library of Congress is a partner in the project.

The new tour will include stops in the following cities: Atlanta, GA (in association with WABE); Austin, TX (KUT); Flagstaff, AZ (KNAU); Los Angeles/Santa Monica, CA (KCRW); Miami, FL (WLRN); New Orleans, LA (WWNO); San Diego, CA (KPBS); Raleigh/Durham, NC (WUNC); Tampa, FL (WUSF); Washington, DC. In addition to these cities, StoryCorps may make stops in smaller towns along their respective Eastern and Western routes.

In each city where a MobileBooth stops, the local NPR member station sponsoring StoryCorps will air a selection of the local stories and create additional programming around the project. Select stories will air nationally on NPR’s *Morning Edition*, the most-listened-to morning radio program in the country.

Each of the two MobileBooths takes a separate route – one taking an Eastern route and the other covering the Western states. Visits in each city or town will last four weeks, with about 125 interview slots available at each location. Two weeks prior to a booth arriving in each of the tour cities, participants can make reservations on the StoryCorps Web site at www.storycorps.net.

At the StoryCorps MobileBooth, participants record in pairs – oftentimes friends or loved ones – and one person interviews the other. A trained facilitator guides the participants through the interview process and handles the technical aspects of the recording. At the end of a forty-minute session, the participants walk away with a CD of their interview. With their permission, a second copy will be sent to the AFC where it becomes part of a high quality digital archive.

The first seven-month StoryCorps tour traveled to 26 towns and cities and collected nearly 2,000 stories. The two MobileBooths - special recording studios built inside modified Airstream trailers - launched from the Library of Congress in Washington, DC in May, 2005. The booths visited communities, ranging from small towns such as New Town, North Dakota and Whitesburg, Kentucky to major metropolises such as Chicago and San Francisco. The tour recorded interviews that ranged from homeless youth in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Tibetan monks in Madison, Wisconsin to Native Americans living on a reservation in North Dakota and inmates at a maximum security penitentiary in Salem, Oregon. The reservations sold-out in each city the StoryCorps MobileBooth made a stop.

“I am particularly excited about the stops on this tour, especially New Orleans, where we expect to hear some remarkable stories from survivors of Katrina,” said Isay. “Over the past seven months traveling across the U.S., we’ve seen the profound effect StoryCorps has had on the lives not only on those who have participated in the project, but also on the millions who have heard them. We engage communities, teach participants to become better listeners, foster intergenerational communication, and help Americans appreciate the strength in the stories of everyday people they find all around them.”

"Our successful partnership with StoryCorps is a natural extension of NPR and NPR member stations' role as primary sources for American oral history," said Kevin Klose, President and Chief Executive Officer, NPR. "StoryCorps has proven to be a phenomenon, particularly on the local level, by bringing generations together for storytelling in a uniquely personal and meaningful way and, through the public radio stations, providing communities with the histories of their citizens. We look forward to this new round of StoryCorps visits, which will add to this incredible archive of American lives and, especially, those of the courageous survivors of Katrina."

“CPB and StoryCorps share in the mission to inform, enlighten and enrich the public,” said Patricia de Stacy Harrison, CPB President and CEO. “CPB is proud to support this creative and engaging project, which will not only capture stories that families will cherish for generations, but build respect for the stories we all have within us.”

“StoryCorps recognizes the importance of every citizen to our culture and history,” said Saturn General Manager Jill Lajdziak. “This project is a natural fit for Saturn as we follow a similar approach – putting ‘people first’ in everything we do.”

“StoryCorps will provide America with important social documentation on a grassroots, nationwide scale that mirrors what the historic Works Progress Administration (WPA) Federal

Writers' Project accomplished more than half a century ago," said Peggy Bulger, Director of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. "We are delighted to be partners with StoryCorps and to house a new generation of America's stories."

StoryCorps opened its first StoryBooth, a freestanding soundproof recording studio, in New York City's Grand Central Terminal in October 2003 and opened its second StoryBooth at the site of the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan in July 2005.

Over the course of the project, StoryCorps plans to open recording booths across the country. StoryCorps is a project of Sound Portraits Productions, a non-profit public radio documentary production company founded by Isay.

Individuals can reserve interview slots at **StoryCorps.net**, an online resource center that includes a reservation and payment system, step-by-step technical instructions on how to record, sample recorded interviews, a 'question helper' utility and troubleshooting guide.

About the AFC

The American Folklife Center was created by Congress in 1976 and placed at the Library of Congress to "preserve and present American folklife" through programs of research, documentation, archival preservation, reference service, live performance, exhibition, public programs, and training. The center incorporates the Archive of Folk Culture, which was established in the Library in 1928 and is now one of the largest collections of ethnographic material from the United States and around the world. The Archive of Folk Culture will be the repository for the StoryCorps collection.

About CPB

CPB, a private, nonprofit corporation created by Congress in 1967 develops educational public radio, television, and online services for the American people. The Corporation is the industry's largest single source of funds for national public television and radio program development and production. CPB, a grant making organization, funds more than 1,000 public radio and television stations. www.cpb.org.

About NPR

Since its launch in 1970, NPR has evolved into a leading media company, primary news provider and dominant force in American life. In partnership with 815 public radio stations, it attracts 26 million listeners to the 150 hours of news, information, music and cultural programming it produces and distributes on a weekly basis. NPR also programs two public radio channels on Sirius Satellite Radio, five 24/7 multicast music channels for HD radio and offers 33 NPR Podcasts that rank high on all major directories' most-popular lists.

About Saturn Corporation

Saturn, a division of General Motors Corp., offers a line of vehicles including the compact Ion Quad Coupe and sedan, the Vue sport utility vehicle and the Relay crossover sport van. Operating with a philosophy of "People first," Saturn has earned a reputation for superior customer satisfaction throughout the vehicle purchase and ownership experience. The brand is in the midst of an ambitious product expansion, with plans to double its portfolio by the end of 2006. During that year, Saturn will introduce three new vehicles – the 2007 Sky roadster, a new midsize sedan and a midsize SUV.

About StoryCorps

StoryCorps is a project of Sound Portraits Productions, the nationally acclaimed New York City non-profit founded by Dave Isay. For more than a decade, Sound Portraits has celebrated the lives and struggles of unheralded Americans who have quietly and courageously overcome adversity through award-winning public radio documentaries, as well as through books, CDs, museum exhibitions, and Web sites. To hear Sound Portraits past radio programs, visit www.soundportraits.org.

StoryCorps Mobile StoryBooth Tour (January – June 2006)

EAST		
City	Dates	Station(s)
Tampa, FL	January 5-25	WUSF
Miami, FL	February 2-26	WLRN
Atlanta, GA	March 2-26	WABE
Raleigh/Durham, NC	April 6-30	WUNC
Washington, DC	May 18 (1 Year Anniversary)	

WEST		
City	Dates	Station(s)
Los Angeles/Santa Monica, CA	January 9 -February 5	KCRW
San Diego, CA	February 9-March 5	KPBS
Flagstaff, AZ	March 9-April 2	KNAU
Austin, TX	April 6-30	KUT
New Orleans	May 4-28	WWNO