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STORYCORPS, THE NATIONAL STORYTELLING PROJECT TRAVELING THE COUNTRY, VISITS HOUSTON

STORYCORPS TO SPEND ONE MONTH CAPTURING THE STORIES OF HOUSTONIANS, INCLUDING HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUEES

HOUSTON, TX (January 2007) – StoryCorps, a national project to document everyday history and the unique stories of America, today announced that it will launch its 2007 tour at the Houston Museum of Natural Science on Thursday, January 11, 2007. In partnership with KUHF public radio, StoryCorps will spend one month in Houston gathering the stories of Houstonians.

StoryCorps was created by award-winning radio documentary producer and MacArthur Fellowship recipient Dave Isay. The project will arrange for mobile recording booths to travel to every corner of the United States and, in coordination with local public radio stations, document the stories of ordinary people living in America today. Major funding for StoryCorps is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). StoryCorps is a project of Sounds Portraits Productions in partnership with NPR and the American Folklife Center (AFC) at the Library of Congress.

With a grant from the Ford Foundation, StoryCorps will collect additional stories of Hurricane Katrina evacuees and their families who were displaced from New Orleans during the stay in Houston. Appointments will be arranged through a special outreach program. Displaced evacuees affected by Hurricane Katrina are urged to call a **special reservation hotline (646-723-7025 ext. 43)** to learn more about StoryCorps and the visit to Houston. All other participants wishing to schedule interviews should call the regular reservation line at (800) 850-4406.

At the Mobile StoryBooth, participants record in pairs – often times 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 the permission of participants, a second copy will be sent to the AFC where it becomes part of a high quality digital archive.

The new tour will also include stops in the following cities: **Jackson, MS; Lafayette, LA; Columbia, SC; Fayetteville, AR; Richmond, VA; Kalamazoo, MI; Hartford, CT.**

In each city where a Mobile StoryBooth stops, the local member station hosting StoryCorps may 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 Friday.

The StoryCorps tour has already traveled to 52 towns and cities in 37 states and collected more than 4,000 stories. The two Mobile StoryBooths - 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 Murray, Kentucky to major metropolises such as Chicago and Boston. The reservations have sold-out in each city StoryCorps has made a stop.

"KUHF is delighted to participate in this national event, which allows Houstonians to share their memories for generations to come," says Paul Pendergraft, KUHF News Director. "

"We are honored to have this opportunity and feel it is imperative to record the stories of those affected by Hurricane Katrina," says Isay. "StoryCorps has a meaningful and profound effect on the lives of those who have participated in the project, and the millions who have heard them on NPR. As we have seen over the past year and a half, the stories of the people of New Orleans who lived through the disaster are an important part of the history of our nation, and we believe that the stories of the evacuees will greatly enrich StoryCorps, both for our participants and our listeners."

Fulbright and Jaworski, L.P. is the sponsor of StoryCorps in Houston.

About KUHF

KUHF Houston Public Radio is a fully professional radio service affiliated with National Public Radio (NPR) and certified by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Broadcasting on 88.7 FM and in HD Digital, KUHF provides two independent program services of News and Information and, at the same time, Classical Music. KUHF is supported financially by its listener-members, and by gifts from the greater Houston community, through the Association for Community Broadcasting. KUHF is licensed to the Board of Regents of the University of Houston and is operated in the public interest as a community outreach of the University. More information at www.kuhf.org.

About StoryCorps

StoryCorps opened its first StoryBooth, a freestanding soundproof recording studio, in New York City's Grand Central Terminal in October 2003 and in July 2005 opened its second StoryBooth in lower Manhattan. Individuals can visit **StoryCorps.net** to make interview reservations and listen to excerpts of other stories told in the booth.

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