





STONEWALL *OutLoud* TOOLKIT

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STONEWALL **OUTLOUD**
IN HONOR OF 50 YEARS

StoryCorps' Stonewall OutLoud campaign is a comprehensive national effort to document the lived experiences and resilience of everyday LGBTQ people 50 years after the 1969 Stonewall riots. In June 2019, Stonewall OutLoud will encourage people across the country to pick up their mobile devices and record the stories of people within the LGBTQ community. The stories do not need to be directly related to Stonewall and the subsequent protests, but the 50th anniversary does offer a unique opportunity to honor and listen to the stories of those who lived before the modern LGBTQ civil rights movement was born. If you don't know an elder to interview, document another LGBTQ story in honor of the anniversary. Each of these interviews collected will become a permanent part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and be preserved for generations to listen, honor, and record the trailblazers of our recent past.

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GREETINGS
FRIENDS & ALLIES

Thank you for downloading this toolkit and for joining us for Stonewall OutLoud.

Stonewall OutLoud is a national effort to preserve and honor the lived experiences and resiliency of LGBTQ people 50 years after the 1969 Stonewall riots.

Since the events at Stonewall in June 1969, we've witnessed 50 years of activism, visibility, and increased civil rights for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. While progress has been made, we must remember our history so that future generations can understand the struggle and continue to work for acceptance for all people.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, we're teaming up with SAGE, the National LGBTQ Task Force, Griot Circle, GLSEN, and others to honor the lives and legacies of the people who lived before Stonewall before their voices are lost to history.

We invite everyone across the country to pick up their mobile devices and use the StoryCorps App to record the personal stories of people within the LGBTQ community who were born before Stonewall. Each of these interviews will become a permanent part of American history at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

In this toolkit, you'll find everything you need to record a StoryCorps conversation:

- **Instructions** on how to get our free app for your smartphone
- **Questions** for great conversations with special focus on LGBTQ themes and subjects
- **Tools** to add your interview to a growing archive of stories

Looking to make plans for Pride month? We've got ideas for groups of any size to participate in this effort — whether you're creating events for your organization or gathering a group of friends. Read on for instructions on hosting a StoryCorps-inspired recording event. Or, gather friends and host a viewing party with a selection of our short videos that feature inspiring stories from LGBTQ people.

The 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots offers a unique opportunity to honor and listen to the stories of those who lived in the era before the modern LGBTQ civil rights movement was born. In June 2019, we hope to show our gratitude to our elders while inspiring Americans to create a vitally important archive of LGBTQ voices.

Pledge to record. Honor elders. Ensure that LGBTQ history is never forgotten. We look forward to listening.

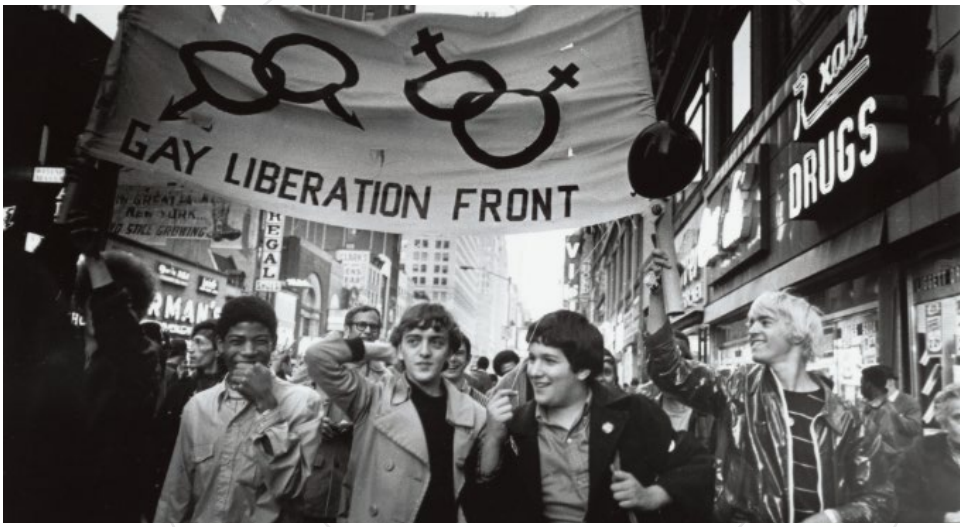
With thanks,



DAVE ISAY
Founder & President, StoryCorps

REMEMBERING **THE STONEWALL INN, 1969**

In the early hours of June 28, 1969, eight officers from New York City's public morals squad loaded into four unmarked police cars and headed to the Stonewall Inn at 7th Avenue and Christopher Street. The local precinct had just received a new commanding officer, who kicked off his tenure by initiating a series of raids on gay bars. The Stonewall Inn was an inviting target — operated by the Gambino crime family without a liquor license, the dance bar drew a crowd of drag queens, hustlers, and minors. A number of the bar's patrons had spent the early part of the day outside the Frank Campbell Funeral Home, where Judy Garland's funeral was held. She had died the Sunday before. It was almost precisely at midnight that the morals squad pulled up to the Stonewall Inn, led by Deputy Inspector Seymour Pine.



At the time, the vice squad routinely raided gay bars. Patrons always complied with the police, frightened by the prospect of being identified in the newspaper. But this particular Friday night was different. This time, tired of being harassed by law enforcement, patrons resisted arrest. The subsequent rioting sparked a revolution, and a hidden subculture was transformed into a vibrant political movement. What began with a drag queen clobbering her arresting officer soon escalated into a full-fledged riot, and modern gay activism was born.

Michael Levine recalls his experience at the Stonewall on June 28, 1969, in a StoryCorps story, "The lights went up, the music went off, and you could hear a pin drop."

> *We walked out onto Christopher Street and there are what look like 100 police cars facing the entrance and crowds of people looking at us. The kids coming out of the Stonewall, the onlookers, the police, everyone was just kind of standing there. It was*

not a riot in the sense of people breaking furniture and police hitting people over the head. It was just an enormous crowd of people.

And then the police started to say, "OK, everyone, leave," and the drag queens, they're the ones who said to the police, "We're not leaving." And they formed a chorus line outside of the bar. And they stood there dancing in the street. They were all Puerto Rican drag queens and Irish cops. It was a funny, funny confrontation. The police would disperse the group and then they would re-form half a block away and dance back toward the Stonewall.

This, and many subsequent Stonewall riots, sparked the national movement for LGBTQ rights that has led to 50 years of activism, visibility, and increased civil rights for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

THE POWER OF LANGUAGE

The events and the violence that unfolded at the Stonewall Inn have been described as a riot, an uprising, and a rebellion. While some people may use the terms interchangeably, for others each may carry a different connotation. For example, to some, "riot" may suggest an unplanned occurrence, while to others, "uprising" may connote the beginning of a series of organized events. Because of the historical significance of Stonewall in American history and in the fight for LGBTQ rights, it is important to reflect on what terms you use when referencing the event, and be open to hearing why different people choose others.

Here are some reflection questions to consider:

- Who decides how to reference or define a historical event?
- Why do different communities refer to the same event using different terms?
- What are the differences you perceive between a riot, an uprising, or a rebellion?

PARTICIPATE IN STONEWALL OUTLOUD

Explore the StoryCorps Collection

Record Your Story

Host a Community Event

There is a way for everyone to participate in Stonewall OutLoud. You may be moved to record a story with an elder in your life, invite friends over to listen to and record stories together, or host an event at a local senior center. From community Pride celebrations and events marking the June 28 Stonewall anniversary, through the end of 2019, the stories collected through Stonewall OutLoud will preserve this civil rights history for generations.



"When I was growing up, I always knew there was something different. I didn't like the same things the other boys did. You know, they wanted to play Army and Cowboys and Indians. And I wanted to be the girl on the wagon that was sewing and making coffee."

- Sue McConnell

EXPLORE THE STORYCORPS COLLECTION

Watch

Watch animations on the StoryCorps YouTube channel.

The following are beautiful examples to begin with to start exploring, learning, and connecting with the experiences, celebrations, and struggle of the LGBTQ movement from Stonewall until today.

- Everyone around you has a story the world needs to hear
- Alexis Martinez and Lesley Martinez Etherly
- Me & You
- A Certain Kind of Love
- The Saint of Dry Creek
- A Good Man
- A Life, Complete
- Chris and Gabe López

Listen

Listen to audio stories from the StoryCorps OutLoud collection.

Subscribe to the StoryCorps podcast to listen to our 2019 spring/summer season, with 12 brand-new episodes featuring conversations between loved ones, friends, and family members in the LGBTQ community.

Search

Search the Archive at Archive.StoryCorps.org for additional stories. Try keywords like "Stonewall OutLoud," "LGBTQ," "Pride," "Activism," and others.

Share

Share the OutLoud stories with your social networks and friends. This toolkit has a printable postcard and social media graphics that can be used to share information about a listening and recording event, to indicate a safe space, or to simply share the StoryCorps stories.







RECORD YOUR STORY

The StoryCorps App provides start-to-finish tools to help anyone listen to, record, and share StoryCorps stories. StoryCorps cares about your privacy. Click here to see the privacy policy, and know that you have complete control over how and whether to share your story, and whom to share it with.



Ready to Record?

Here are some steps to follow:

1

IDENTIFY AN INTERVIEW PARTNER.
The idea for Stonewall OutLoud is to celebrate LGBTQ elders by listening to their story. Consider whether you know someone to interview, perhaps an older friend or family member, who may have memories they would like to share. An invitation to share a story is an honor, as is the act of receiving the story itself.

2

FIND THE RIGHT TIME AND PLACE.
Find a time where neither of you will be rushed, and a quiet place where you'll be comfortable, left alone, and able to hear and record with ease.

3

DOWNLOAD THE STORYCORPS APP.
Using your smartphone, explore and play with the tools on the app before your interview so you can focus on the conversation and storytelling with your partner. Visit the website for more tips on how to get started, perfect your interview, and have amazing sound quality for your interview.

4 PREPARE YOUR QUESTIONS.

Start with some warm-ups to get you and your partner comfortable and at ease. Ask open-ended questions — the kind that can't be answered with a simple "yes" or "no." Follow up with probing questions about details that interest you. If you are interviewing someone you know well, share a specific memory or story you want to hear more about. Most of all, think of it as a great conversation, and be yourself. To get you started, here is a list of 10 of StoryCorps founder Dave Isay's favorite interview questions for Stonewall OutLoud:

TELL ME...

a little bit about yourself— when and where were you born?

HOW DID YOU...

first begin to realize your sexual or gender identity?

TELL ME...

about the first time you came out. Whom did you tell and why?

DO YOU HAVE...

memories from your youth when you were treated kindly due to your sexual or gender identity? Cruelly?

HOW...

has your life been different than you imagined?

WHO...

was your first love? Your first relationship?

HAVE...

things changed for the LGBTQ community over the past 50 years? How do you hope life will be different for the LGBTQ community 50 years from now?

WHAT ADVICE...

would you give your teenage self?

WHAT...

are you most proud of?

HOW...

do you want to be remembered?

5 CONDUCT YOUR INTERVIEW.

Enjoy the time together, and the honor you do to one another to share these stories. Offer your gratitude and appreciation at the end.

6 ARCHIVE YOUR STORY.

At the end of the interview, the StoryCorps App will ask whether you would like to have your story archived for future generations. The StoryCorps App gives you three options for sharing after you record your interview: "Everyone," "Archive Users," and "Only You." **Be sure to check with your partner about privacy, what name they would like to use, and with whom they'd like to share the story.** You can always change your privacy settings at any time. Once your level of sharing has been chosen, your story will be archived with over 500,000 other stories at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

7 ADD KEYWORDS TO YOUR STORY SO OTHERS CAN FIND IT.

The stories in the App are organized by keywords, which refer to the main themes or topics of a story, and are what others will use to look for your story. Please tag your story "Stonewall OutLoud" in addition to other relevant tags, such as "LGBTQ," "Pride," "Coming Out," "Activism," or others.

8 STORYCORPS CARES ABOUT YOUR PRIVACY.

Click here to see the privacy policy, and know that you have complete control over how and whether to share your story, and whom to share it with.

PARTNER AND **PLAN**

HOSTING A STONEWALL OUTLOUD EVENT

A StoryCorps OutLoud event can be as simple as having a few friends over for dinner, or creating a public event in partnership with a nonprofit organization, elder home, or faith community. Regardless of what you do, you can infuse the event with a celebratory spirit of Pride while acknowledging that, for some, the stories and memories that come up may be challenging. There are many ways to structure an event that will honor and bring attention to this important moment in American history. Here are some formats to consider:

- **CONTACT**
  Contact your local LGBTQ Center, an inclusive faith community or public community center to host a Stonewall OutLoud Story Party.
- **GATHER**
  Gather a group of friends in your home and invite each one to bring someone from outside your age group.
- **WORK**
  Work with people or groups planning Pride events in your community to identify an opportune time and place for storytelling.
- **FIND**
  Find a space in your community that has historic meaning and host a Stonewall OutLoud event there.
- **WORK TOGETHER**
  Work together with a senior center, one that houses LGBTQ people or one committed to eliciting and sharing the wisdom and stories of their residents.
- **CONTACT**
  Contact youth groups or youth-led organizations to introduce a new generation to the history of Stonewall and the power of storytelling.

SAGE, a StoryCorps partner who works with LGBTQ elders across the country, has created a series of SAGE Table events to create intergenerational community over a shared meal. It offers some advice for planning an intergenerational event with special consideration for difference across physical ability and income:

- Consider the sound level - will everyone be able to hear?
- If there is a cost associated with your event, will you offer a sliding scale or suggested donation that varies for those for whom the cost might be prohibitive?
- Is there an elevator and/or flexible seating for people who have difficulty walking or are using wheelchairs?

STONEWALL-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

The story of Stonewall is one that invites reflection on the intersecting identities of many LGBTQ people. Sharing the history of the Stonewall riots and fostering connections across generations suggests some special considerations:

HONOR THE LEADERS.

The Stonewall riots were begun by transgender women of color who fought back against police violence and harassment. Fifty years later, transgender women of color are still disproportionately affected by violence and harassment. As such, it is an important time to recognize their contributions to this important history and the urgent need to protect their rights.

WELCOME EVERYONE.

LGBTQ elders in general community settings, and others, may not feel free or safe to be "out" about their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Furthermore, people in different parts of the country, even in different parts of the same state, have differing access to care, services, and acceptance based on the sexual and gender identity. If your event is welcoming to all, everyone will feel welcome and that their attendance won't bring unwanted harm or attention, or out them unintentionally.

HOLD SPACE FOR EMOTION.

Elders in the community who remember the beginnings of the LGBTQ rights movement may hold traumatic and difficult memories of what life was like before and since Stonewall. Young people might also be reminded of difficult events in their own lives. Before your event, check with your local LGBTQ center or access national resources like these listed on StoryCorps' partner GLSEN's website for helping hotlines and resources to offer support.

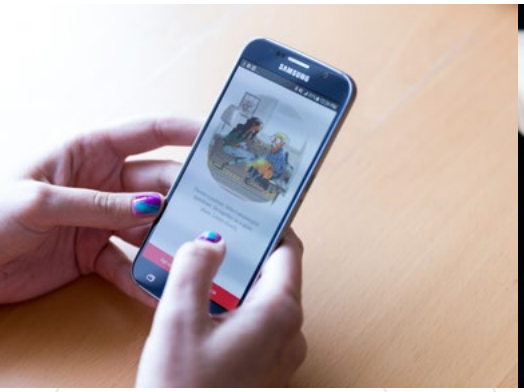
PAY ATTENTION TO WORDS.

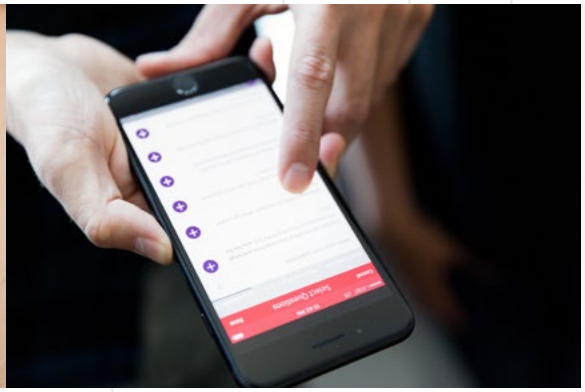
The language people use to refer to themselves and others may be very different for older and younger people, for people of color, for people from rural and urban areas, etc. For example, while the word "queer" represents a proud identity for many people in the younger generation, elders may hear the word as an insult. Conversely, words older people use may sound off-putting to young people. Invite guests to get curious about these differences. The best practice is to learn about why people use the words they do, and respect the language choices people make about themselves.

SUGGESTIONS FOR STONEWALL OUTLOUD EVENTS

If you are planning an event, the following ideas can be used separately or together to build toward recording stories and uploading them to the StoryCorps App with your event attendees. Whatever your intention, remember that some people may be experienced with telling their story, while for others this may be the first time they have shared this part of their lives. Keep in mind that the tone and feel of an event may be quite different if you invite the public and people are meeting one another for the first time than it would be if you invite a group of friends or colleagues who know one another well.

If you are hosting an event in partnership with or at an elder living center, please consult this fact sheet from SAGE for tips on working with LGBT elders.







EVENT IDEA: LISTENING

The centerpiece of any StoryCorps event is listening. Listening is a skill to be learned and honed. Here are the steps to hosting a listening event.

- Open the event with an exercise to enable your guests to get to know each other in a way that centers on listening.

- Have guests pair up with a person they don't know well. If your event has an intergenerational theme, invite them to pair with someone they perceive to be a different age from themselves.

- Explain that the pairs are going to get to know one another with a listening exercise. They'll decide between them who will be the first listener and the first speaker. The first listener will pose a thoughtful question. The first speaker will then get ten seconds to think, and one minute to answer. During that time, the listener's job is simply to listen. They can ask a probing question if the speaker gets stuck, but can't offer new information about themselves. After that minute, the pairs change roles. The second listener will choose a question and offer the second speaker ten seconds to think and one minute to answer.

Here are some sample thoughtful questions recommended by StoryCorps partner SAGE, whose SAGE Table events bring people of mixed generations together to share a meal and create community:

- In your opinion, what was the defining event of your generation?
- Tell me about a person in your family, or your chosen family, with whom you are particularly close. What's a favorite memory of them?

When both in the pair have had a chance to speak and to listen, ask the group to talk about their experience.

- How was this different than normal conversation?
- How did it feel to listen without responding?
- How did it feel to speak to someone whose only job was to listen?
- What does the group think this exercise has to do with storytelling?

After your listening exercise, invite the group to watch and/or listen to a few StoryCorps stories from the playlist or from the StoryCorps OutLoud collection. After each, elicit discussion by asking:

- What did you hear in this story that stood out to you?
- Why do stories like this one matter?
- In what ways does listening to this story make you reflect on your own life?

You can close the event by reflecting on the experience with a paired or group discussion.

- What was the experience like of listening to this collection of stories?
- What was different about these stories than everyday conversation you have with people you are close to?
- What does storytelling mean to you and your community?
- Did the stories make you think of someone in your life whose story you would like to learn more about?
- What will you share with your friends or family about this event?



EVENT IDEA: SHARING

With this event, use the initial steps of the listening event, but make story sharing a big feature of the event. Limit the number or StoryCorps stories to one or two, and then transition to eliciting stories from one another. Consider showing these StoryCorps videos with tips for active listening and asking great questions:

- Tips for Active Listening video.
- Four Tips for Effective Interviews

Afterwards, invite guests to tell stories to one another. This can be a warm-up before recording their future StoryCorps story, or just an opportunity to get to know a new person in the community.

Ask guests to choose a reflection or question to share with a discussion partner that came up while they were listening to their partner or a StoryCorps story. Or, use the Stonewall theme to suggest some topics:

- What does Stonewall mean to you?
- Where were you in 1969, when the riots happened? What did you hear about them?
- In what ways has your life changed since Stonewall?

As the listener, consider carefully how to ask great questions to learn more about the speaker's story.

- Open-ended questions can't be answered with a "yes" or "no." For example, "Did you like that time in your life?" is closed, but "What did you like about that time in your life?" is open.
- Probing questions ask for more information, "Tell me more about how it looked/sounded/felt..." and "Why has this story been important to you?"
- Listen carefully for details and emotions and check for understanding and clarity.

Download the StoryCorps Interview Tips to help guide the listeners. If you choose to end your event after storytelling, invite further connection with these ideas from SAGE Table:

- Decide if you want to meet or connect again and set a date.
- Seek out opportunities to take positive action in your community.

EVENT IDEA: RECORDING



For this event, make recording the focus. Use the StoryCorps App to encourage your guests to record and share their stories. Refer to the **Record Your Story** section of this guide for tips on using the app and creating interviews at your event or afterwards.

Remind your participants to tag their stories "Stonewall OutLoud" in the keyword section of the app to make sure others can find and listen to them.

Whether or not your event will include story recording, please share the app with your attendees so they can explore and listen to stories.

PLANNING CHECKLIST

Use this checklist as a starting place to help your event take shape.

One Month Prior

- ☐ **SET A TIME, DATE, AND LOCATION.** Consider the format of your event. If you are planning to record stories, think of quiet spaces that will allow participants to share their stories. Reference these tips to think about sound quality.
- ☐ **BRAINSTORM** and prioritize a list of possible community partners to support outreach.
- ☐ **IDENTIFY** your guest list; secure community partners.
- ☐ **DECIDE** on the format. Programming ideas for various events are included in this toolkit.
- ☐ **SEND OUT INVITATIONS** with the time, date, location, and description of the event. A sample flyer is included with this toolkit; just fill in your organization, time, date, partners, and location. Also consider using social media to spread the word.
- ☐ **WORK WITH** partners or allies in the community to make the invitation for the event active.

Day(s) Before

- ☐ **SEND REMINDERS** to speakers and to guests. If people will be recording stories at your event, encourage them to download the StoryCorps App in advance
- ☐ **MAKE SURE** you have downloaded the StoryCorps App and have access to all stories you want to share.
- ☐ **COPY AND ASSEMBLE** any discussion materials or promotional handouts.

Day of Event

- ☐ **ARRIVE AT LEAST AN HOUR PRIOR.** This allows for enough time if you need to set up the room, test the A/V equipment, greet guests and panelists, and review your agenda.
- ☐ **TAKE A MOMENT** of gratitude at the end of the event, where speakers and listeners can thank and acknowledge one another.
- ☐ **IF YOU RECORDED STORIES**, remind your participants to check and double-check preferences for confidentiality.
- ☐ **BRAINSTORM** uniform tags and keywords like “Stonewall OutLoud” so that event attendees can listen to one another’s stories.
- ☐ **ENCOURAGE** guests to share the stories they collected on the StoryCorps App and the experience of recording with others in their community.

CREATE A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE SPACE FOR YOUR EVENT

The first step to consider for any event is inclusion. Inclusion is a central theme of the LGBTQ movement, and there are some general principles to follow to help your event feel like a welcome space for all:



BE EXPLICIT ABOUT YOUR INTENTIONS.

Begin every event by welcoming every person in the room — people of any age, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, physical ability, and any other aspect of identity. Acknowledging the nature of the event — though celebratory against the backdrop of Pride and of 50 years of activism since Stonewall — is necessary because of the exclusion and violence too many members of the LGBTQ community have experienced.

BE GENTLE. In this divisive moment in our nation, many people are feeling under attack because of some aspect of their identity. In such a charged time, words and phrases that mean one thing to you may be very painful to someone else. It's important to acknowledge this reality and that hurtful mistakes may happen. Let your guests know that you'd be grateful, if and when you make a mistake, if someone would be willing to offer their insight into their experience of it. In creating this kind of openness in your space, you can shift "call-out" culture to become "call-in" culture.





ASK FOR WISDOM FROM THE GROUP. Elicit ideas and tools from your group that have worked for them in the past when they've been in a group where they wanted to feel safe. Come to a consensus together about how to handle any "oops" or "ouch" moments.

TALK ABOUT CONFIDENTIALITY.

Even if the intention of your event is to record stories, it is critically important to be checking in repeatedly about the group's understanding of what will be shared and when. Even if a story is recorded, the storyteller may choose not to have that story shared, or only to do so within the closed community of event attendees. The story of Stonewall itself reveals why many people in our communities who have been marginalized or systematically persecuted in many ways mistrust unfamiliar institutions and value privacy highly.



TWO CONSIDERATIONS TO BRING FORWARD:

1. StoryCorps' privacy policy details how StoryCorps will use private information shared through the App.

2. Come to an agreement about when and whether your guests want to share the stories generated during your event. When stories are uploaded, the information within them about sexual orientation, gender identity, and other identifying factors may be accessible to others. Protecting and respecting the confidentiality is of utmost importance.



RESOURCES

Partner Resources

StoryCorps' Stonewall OutLoud partners and others have tools and materials to help inform consideration for everyone who may attend your event:

- SAGE's National Resource Center on LGBT Aging offers hundreds of tools, fact sheets and other resources related to LGBT aging
- SAGECare offers training and consulting services for aging services providers
- Facts on LGBT Aging
- Griot Circle's Fact Sheet on LGBTQ Elders of Color
- Reports and Studies from the National LGBTQ Task Force on special considerations with regard to the needs and challenges of transgender, Native American, homeless, and other populations of LGBTQ people
- GLSEN has toolkits and resources about creating LGBTQ-inclusive spaces for educators and students

Resources for Further Learning

Atlantic Magazine, "An Amazing 1969 Account of the Stonewall Uprising"

New York Public Library Exhibition: Love & Resistance: Stonewall 50

Stonewall National Monument: National Park Service website

The Stonewall 50 Consortium: An organization bringing nonprofit institutions and organizations committed to producing programming, exhibitions, and educational materials related to the Stonewall uprising and/or the history of the LGBTQ civil rights movement in the context of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising.

Stonewall Uprising: PBS American Experience

National Partners

sage Advocacy & Services for LGBT Elders — We refuse to be invisible

NATIONAL LGBTQ TASK FORCE

GRIOT Circle — a gathering of elders

GLSEN®

StoryCorps

Listen. Honor. Share.

STORYCORPS.ORG

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