

If These Walls Could Talk

Community Engagement Project



If These Walls Could Talk invites neighbors, neighborhoods, businesses or historical associations to share personal stories, private places and public spaces to capture the essence of where we live, work, eat and play. By attending one or more workshops to learn and share stories, neighbors build relationships and civic pride.

- How does one neighborhood stand apart from another?
- What businesses create the fabric of the community? The ice cream shop? Freshly baked bread from the bakery? Local coffee shop for conversation? Restaurant or grocery?
- Who are the longtime residents with untold stories?
- What are the neighborhood origin stories?
- Where are the stories of diverse cultures?

Project Director
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Preview the model project website at <http://ifhousecouldtalk.wordpress.com>

Suggested Workshops

- Mapping Your Neighborhood in 5 Blocks Square
- Capturing Family Stories
- House Detective - *Neighborhood and Home Historic Research*
- Architectural Style
- Role of Kitchens & Kitchen stories
- Crafting Stories Using Objects & Photos (*Digital story option available for fee*)

Call for Project Consultation

After you have established neighborhood interest in the project, contact Janice to discuss various options for implementing *If These Walls Could Talk* in your community.

- Initial phone consultation to discuss project
- Conference with your project team to discuss scope, partners, project scheduling and implementation, and project management fees

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Select a Project Theme

- Age of home, business, church or other structure
- Street by street
- Bakeries, Chinese restaurants, or other similar groupings
- Historic sites or homes to research - architect, style, year built, prior uses and residents
- Places where significant events occurred or decisions made

Engage Neighborhood Partners

- City parks and recreation, historical and neighborhood associations
- Libraries, chamber of commerce or small businesses
- Service learning for local schools

Identify the Scope of the Project

- One day workshop and neighborhood block party
- 2, 3, or 4 workshops culminating in a neighborhood home tour
- Multiple workshops and neighborhoods with special expanded, culminating event
- Create a blog or website to capture stories, event details, a neighborhood walking tour map and other online features

Where to Start

First Steps

- Identify the lead organization and/or neighborhood, and volunteer project leader(s) and the project theme.
- Contact Janice for a phone consultation. She can support you through planning and implementation, including providing template forms for letters, news releases and other printed materials.

Organize

- Identify project partners to engage as leaders and/or provide donated materials
- Consider project scope and establish a budget

Project Management Options

- Train the Trainer workshop and/or Project Management Plan
- Blog setup and posting
- Information Templates