

# Expanding Shoreline Historical Museum; the Archives Project



## Introduction

The purpose of this project means to serve two long term goals with the museum; to create authentic relationships with the city of Shoreline and to promote the museum's modernization efforts improving its archives.

As of present the current administration directing Shoreline Historical Museum are addressing methods more likely to enhance community engagement through public programming; yet in doing is taking into consideration anything to attribute new attempts to gain the public's attention.

Therefore, this project was built upon the hypothetical chance in supportive outreach to the community and the possibilities that would sustain. Typically, the expectancy regarding relationship building with local communities varies both in time and expectancy, making this outreach project even more important as a measure to enhance each individual program Shoreline Historical Museum offers.

## Goals, Outcomes & Audiences

- ❖ **Goals:** The following project intends to develop a community archive exhibition with their partner institutions students for Shoreline museum's archives.
- ❖ **Outcomes:** The students who engage with this community project will create meaningful connections with museum staff.
- ❖ **Target Audience:** The following audience are made of seven AP African-American history students from Shorewood High School. Their teacher Kyle Bishop was a follow facilitator alongside Shoreline's own. A unique facet about Mr. Bishops' class are that this class makes for the first (AP ) based program associated with the high school's history.

## Shoreline Historical Museum Archives

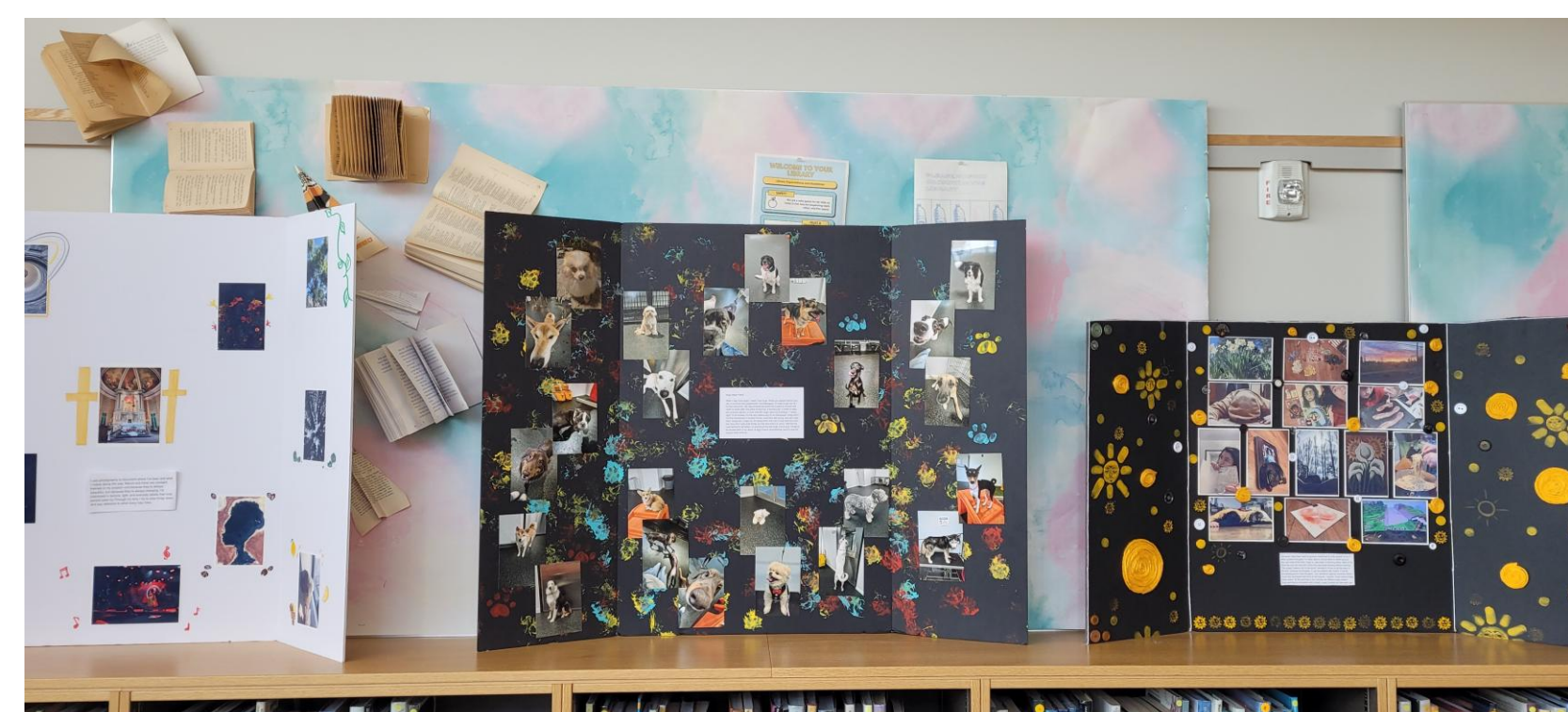


## Deliverables

The following Community Archives project will produce three primary deliverables;

- A curated digital photography exhibition placed on display within Shorewood High School library. The following photography exhibition was created by seven students who participated with this project through their teacher Kyle Bishop, an AP African American history teacher among Shorewood High administration.
- A recorded video summarizing the community project and its significance.
- Evaluation forums filled out by the participatory students from Mr. Bishop AP class and their facilitator; expressing their opinion on the community project overall.

## Community Archives Exhibition Visuals



## Project Timeline

### Phase I (Identifying Needs)

- **Spring 2024-** Initial ideas are explored with Shoreline Museum staff. While doing so, all previous projects identical with this one were brought into discussion with the director, volunteers and myself for the result product.
- **Fall 2024-** First formal introductions were initiated between Shoreline Museum staff and Shorewood High administration. Following a private meeting between the two parties afterward, the project was approved.

### Phase II (Design)

- **Early Winter 2025-** A project flyer was created to recruit project participants from Shorewood High.
- **January 2025-** The project ad launch was permitted, and the finalized project pitch was given to the partner institution.

### Phase III (Implementation)

- **Spring 2025-** A teacher from the partnered institution reaches out in support of the project launch. A series of formal email conversations begins between the institute facilitator and Shoreline staff to determine next steps.
- **Mid March - Mid- April**
  - \* Workshops were conducted with the target audience over the course of eight weeks to develop the photography exhibition.

\*The completion of on-site workshops concludes by mid-April, including evaluations from all the following participants with Shorewood High School.

## Reflections

- The resulted project between Shorewood High and Shoreline Museum shows how accessible community projects can be with authentic effort. By officiating familiarity between two local institutions in the city of Shoreline Washington, the engaged audience was able to create a project made beneficial for both parties involved.
- As this project was one of the first successful outreach program directed with teenagers in mind as the primary audience, this project model proven itself flexible enough to be adapted by other community members throughout Shoreline & Richmond Beach to create their own narratives around heritage and culture to share with the museum archives. The positive reception received within the central community of the project fostered such a genuine show of comradery and surprise it'll likely contribute possible favoring project with the museum in the foreseeable future.
- The archives within the museum are currently undergoing changes to better reflect the museum's new administration; therefore, this project will be apart of those developments and hopefully the start of more community centered projects with the public to accession into Shoreline Museum archives.

## Citations

- Casewell Michelle, Cifor Marika, Ramirez H. Mario. "To Suddenly Discover Yourself Existing": Uncovering the Impact of Community Archives." <https://meridian.allenpress.com/american-archivist/article/79/1/56/73/To-Suddenly-Discover-Yourself-Existing-Uncovering>. The American Archivist. (2016) 79 (1): pg. 56-81