





illustrated







Shift's Storybox program is a community engagement tool designed to bring together local people of diverse backgrounds in order to create stronger communities built on understanding, empathy and respect. The Storybox program is a series of 4-6 story sharing events run by a single host, in one or more locations, over the course of 6-8 weeks.

STATS, 2017-2019



LOCATIONS:



PROGRAM PARTNERS:

Educational institutions Charities **Cultural heritage groups Public libraries Community organizations Workplaces Conferences**

EVENT THEMES:



building



Orientation & welcoming



Health & wellbeing



Local history documentation



Social justice, civic action

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

Los Angeles:

Storybox pilot, Spring 2019. Hollywood branch of L.A. Public Library hosts Storybox events; objective is to bring together nearby homeless community and library patrons wary of them, to learn about each other in a meaningful, constructive way.

New Orleans:

History conference, Fall 2018. The Louisiana **Creole Research Association hosts its** annual conference and uses Storybox for the first time as a part of its daylong program. Eightyeight people participate — the largest single Storybox session to date.

Marshallville, GA:

Storybox events, Spring 2018. Participants so enjoy the Storybox sessions at their local library that they decide to continue meeting to share stories. They call themselves the "Marshallville Memory Keepers," dedicated to preserving their community's history.

Toledo, OH:

Storybox pilot, Spring 2019. Toledo Lucas **County Public Library** kicks off a trial run of Storybox events in advance of a later effort that will involve many of the libraries in their 20-branch system. Their local history campaign is called "Who We Are."



Story sharing events





Storybox closing celebration Terrebone Parish Public Library Dulac, LA, March 2018



Storytelling among members of NOW, LOVE (New Orleans Women, Living Our Values Everyday) New Orleans, LA, April 2018



Storybox closing celebration Middle Georgia Regional Library, Marshallville, GA March 2018



Story sharing among library staffersToledo Lucas County Public Library, Maumee, OH, Dec. 2018



Sharing untold stories among cultural heritage leaders New Orleans, LA, March 2018



Storybox feedback

"I like the idea of digging beneath layers and understanding that everything's complicated and the more you want to dig down, the more you're going to understand the connections... I was surprised at how much fun it was. I was delighted."

— Jon Kardon

"The Storybox experience can be important for building community and making connections with other people, and could help people get to know one another, but it may be more valuable in getting people to know themselves."

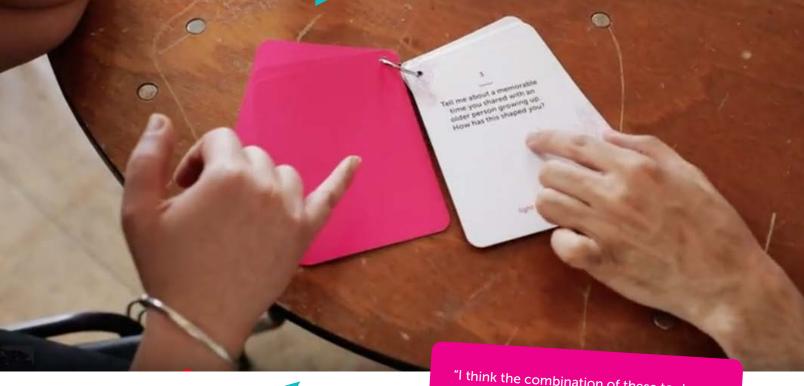
that I hadn't thought about in a long time. I re-connected with my own memories of good times in my life. You go away with good feelings."

"I really enjoyed

conjuring up old stories

- Cindy Martin

— Val Uccellani



"I love it. I love the questions because of the way they spark memories — things I had forgotten about or hadn't thought about in years. As I get older, I feel an urgency to share what I know."

Anita Dennis

"I think the combination of these tools and the cards and the questions are really powerful. I've had the experience of working with groups and asking one question, which was talk about something about your childhood, and two out of ten people were extremely uncomfortable with that. 'I don't want to talk about my childhood - don't make me.' So giving them the option of getting to some of these purposes through a different door, I think is really brilliant."

— Elisa Speranza



Inside the toolkit

