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# Real talk about boro: Oral history project needs you

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Everyone who lives or works in Queens has a great tale to tell - even if they don't know it.

StoryCorps, a national oral history project, is coming to the borough this week and hopes to capture some of those vital memories.

The six-day program, which kicks off tomorrow, is part of a larger effort to collect the contemporary history of Queens through interviews, photos, keepsakes and other items in an online digital archive known as the Queens Memory Project.

"One of the things we have not documented in Queens is the voice," said John Hyslop, digital assets manager at the Archives at Queens Library. "We've got the written documentation. We have books and pictures, but we don't have that oral documentation - and that's definitely what StoryCorps and the Queens Memory Project will add."

The Memory Project is a collaboration between Queens College and the Queens Library to help make their vast archives of photos and papers more accessible through the Internet.

It also will include the personal experiences of local residents, who are being asked to add their thoughts and materials.

Memory Project Director Natalie Milbrodt has spent more than a year interviewing people and helping craft the website, [queensmemory.org](http://queensmemory.org), which also launches tomorrow.

"It will be a resource and a tool for people who live in Queens and have questions," she said. "It will also build relationships between stories and images and people of different generations."

For example, people can log onto the Memory Project website and tag a photo with comments and information, similar to the way they communicate on social media sites.

StoryCorps facilitators will spend Friday, Saturday and Sunday interviewing people at Queens College before moving to the Flushing Library on Main St. for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. They are hoping to record six interviews each day.

"People can come in with a family member, co-worker or loved one, and just be themselves and share their relationship with the borough," said John White, the New York site supervisor for StoryCorps.

To make a reservation in Queens, email [nyc+queensweek@storycorps.org](mailto:nyc+queensweek@storycorps.org), or call (646) 723-7020, extension 27.

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