

## COLLECTING STORIES MEETING GUIDING QUESTIONS

The questions below can help your Project Team think through the types of stories you'd like to collect at the event. You don't have to answer all of them. These questions are intended to spark a fruitful dialogue between librarians and professionals at cultural institutions and community members. We encourage you to choose which questions will work best for your Project Team.

- Why are you interested in holding this event? What do you hope to gain from the experience?
- What documents (related to the theme/these stories) have already been collected by local libraries and cultural institutions?
- After learning more about existing collections, what are some gap areas that come to mind? We have an opportunity to help close these gaps and to add existing collections missing pieces of community legacy. What types of stories about the community would you like to collect? What community stories are important to you? What is missing from the documentary record?
- What do you want future generations to know about your community?
- What do we not know about?
- What questions do you have about your community? What important changes or key events do you want to document?
- What types of stories are held within families but not within existing collections?
- What story or stories would be lost if we didn't host this event?
- Ideally, what would you like people to bring to the event? Consider what types of photographs, diaries, letters, posters, brochures, mementos, and small objects help tell these stories.
- What are you going to do with the items that are collected? Are they for a specific exhibition?