



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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StoryCorps' One Small Step to Record Conversations at the Library of Virginia Oct. 2–6

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA – StoryCorps' [One Small Step](#), a national effort to bring our country together one conversation at a time, is currently focusing on Richmond, one of three One Small Step Anchor Communities, and will record conversations at the Library of Virginia Oct. 2–6, 2023. The program, which pairs strangers with opposing political views to get to know each other as people, is looking for individuals in the Richmond metro area who would like to participate.

Piloted by StoryCorps in 2017 and launched in 2021, One Small Step brings strangers together for a 50-minute conversation about their lives, not to debate politics. Each conversation is moderated by a trained facilitator and, with participant permission, interviews are archived at the Library of Congress. A very small number of interviews are edited into short audio and animated stories that showcase the impact of the program.

One Small Step is based on contact theory, which suggests that a meaningful interaction between people with opposing views can help turn “thems” into “us-es.” By talking about who we are as people, rather than our differences, One Small Step reminds us of our shared humanity. To date, 3,800 people in 40 states across the country have recorded a One Small Step interview.

Currently, Richmond is one of three Anchor Communities—along with Fresno, California, and Wichita, Kansas—chosen to lead this work and show the rest of the country what it means to have the courage to listen. Learn more about One Small Step Richmond at takeonesmallstep.org/richmond.

The Library of Virginia and StoryCorps' One Small Step share a common goal—to collect and share stories that can help us make sense of our world. Richmond-area individuals interested in applying to be matched for a conversation at the Library of Virginia may sign up at onesmallstep.storycorps.org/library-of-virginia.

StoryCorps Founder and President Dave Isay remarked, “In the coming years, our hope is that One Small Step will convince each of us to listen to people with whom we disagree and to have the courage to see the humanity in others.”

View the “Take One Small Step, Richmond” video spot:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqaRuimZcAk>

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ABOUT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

The Library of Virginia is the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our online offerings attract nearly 4 million website visits per year, and our resources, exhibitions and events bring in nearly 100,000 visitors each year. The Library's collections, containing more than 130 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens. The Library is located in downtown Richmond near Capitol Square at 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Learn more at www.lva.virginia.gov.

ABOUT STORYCORPS

StoryCorps' mission is to preserve and share humanity's stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world. Founded in 2003, StoryCorps has given over 635,000 people the chance to record interviews about their lives. The award-winning organization preserves these recordings in its archive at the Library of Congress, the largest single collection of human voice ever gathered. Learn more at storycorps.org.