

# PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY 2020 COVID-19 PANDEMIC ORAL HISTORY

## Your Pandemic Story

Welcome! As you know, this moment in history has affected everyone in myriad ways: mentally, emotionally, physically, financially and socially. This project aims to collect a diversity of experiences during this historic time. Beginning the project during the pandemic gives us a better way of capturing the stress, anxieties and uncertainties which would otherwise be generalized and presented neatly 20 years later. We would like to collect as many unique stories as possible from Hendricks County, but focusing on the Plainfield community, which would provide a deeper understanding to future researchers as to how the pandemic affected the community.

Normally, oral histories are taken in a face-to-face setting with the interviewer and narrator. Obviously, we needed to rethink the logistics of such an endeavor. The oral histories from this project will primarily be conducted through phone interviews. Once the library is opened, we will be able to schedule in-person interviews. You may also record your own history using the provided instructions and interview guide.

Once your story is recorded, we will index and transcribe it, then it will be stored in our database archives to be accessed by all who are interested in hearing them or using them for research. We anticipate that these archived histories will be invaluable for future researchers, historians and educators.

You are accorded certain rights as a participant in this oral history project. You have the right to ask and receive answers to any questions you have. You have the right to refuse to answer questions or discuss certain topics. You have the right to withdraw from this project at any time. And you have the right to review and edit transcripts produced from the interviews, and to restrict use of your interview or transcripts.

Included in the email packet, you will find an Interview Release form, which must be signed before the interview.

You will also find an Interviewee Life History form, which will be included with your story and transcript to provide background information for future researchers to better understand, use and interpret the interview. Please fill this out as thoroughly as possible and return it with the Release form.

Finally, we have included the interview guide for you to review and consider as you prepare to tell your story. During the interview, we will touch on each topic or whichever topics you are most comfortable discussing, or topics for which you have relevant anecdotes or stories to share. The interview is meant to be free-flowing and casual to allow for candid and thorough responses. We encourage you to be an active participant by expressing any expectations or needs you have, as well as asking any and all questions you may have.

We will follow up with you very soon to schedule your interview. Please take the interim to thoroughly review the interview guide and jot down thoughts, make notes, or highlight topics of interest so that your pandemic story is as complete as possible.

Thank you for your participation in this very important project. We have some oral histories in the Indiana Room, not many, but they have been so important for our historical research. These stories will be preserved forever and will ultimately provide invaluable information for future generations.