



The [Boston Sankofa Journey](#) seeks to cultivate a common memory and nurture the spiritual vitality that has sustained the Black freedom movement—past and present—rooted in the liberating heart of the gospel.

We invite you into this **Story-Collecting Movement** to engage in your own Sankofa practice: Looking back to the Christian leaders in Boston who have shaped your faith following Jesus, so we might cultivate a more just future together.

Below are some guidelines to participate in this journey. Whether you are a young person looking to honor a mentor or a church leader wanting to preserve your congregation's legacy, here is how you can record, honor, and share these stories of God's work in our city.

1. Identify Your "Person"

Who has made a difference in your journey following Jesus? Who has modeled the work of racial justice and liberation for you?

- **Cross-Generational Connection:** We encourage individuals to reach out to the pastors, elders and spiritual leaders who have shaped their own journey following Jesus.
- **Share Your Own Story:** If interviewing another person is not feasible, or if you have not been approached by someone else for an interview, you may simply record and share your story.

2. Prepare the Heart Posture

Before you hit record, position yourself as a student. Ground the conversation in your own relationship with the leader:

- **Share your "Why":** Explain why you want to capture and share their story.
- **Honor them:** Share how their ministry has impacted your own spiritual formation.
- **The Invitation:** Frame the interview as an act of "standing on their shoulders."

3. Gather the Equipment

To ensure your interview is preserved with the dignity and clarity it deserves, we recommend the following tools and locations. Whether you are using a smartphone or a professional studio, these resources will help you capture the story:

A. Choosing Your "Studio"

- **Community Resources:** The **Boston Public Library (Copley Square)** offers a [Community History Studio](#) and digitization tools for the public. They have an [Innolab](#), a private, bookable space designed for digital storytelling, including camcorders, microphones, lighting equipment, as well as software. You must complete a brief InnoLAB tutorial before your first session.
- **On-Site (Dorchester):** Use the **Film Studio at the Emmanuel Gospel Center**. This space is equipped with professional lighting and backdrops specifically for ministry and community storytelling. Contact: Elijah Mickelson, emickelson@egc.org
- **At Home:** A quiet, carpeted room with a smartphone on a **tripod** works wonders. Position your subject facing a window for soft, natural light within 3-6 feet.

B. Recording Software

- **In-Person:** Use the native camera app on your smartphone (set to **1080p or 4K at 30fps**).
- **Remote Interviews:** Avoid standard Zoom or FaceTime if possible. Consider using [Riverside.fm](#). It records high-definition video directly on each person's computer, ensuring a crystal-clear image even if your internet connection lags.

C. Audio & Accessibility

- **Microphones:** If you don't have a professional microphone, keep the recording device within three feet of the speaker.
- **Captions are Essential:** We strongly recommend adding **captions** to your final video. Tools like **CapCut** or **Descript** can automatically generate subtitles, making these vital testimonies accessible to all members of the Body of Christ, including those who are D/deaf or hard of hearing.

3. The Interview Guide

You don't need to be a professional journalist—just a faithful listener. Use these guiding questions:

- **The Roots:** Where are you from, and which Boston communities have shaped you?
- **The Faith:** Share a story of how your faith in Jesus informed your work for racial reconciliation and justice.
- **The Why:** Why should racial healing and liberation be central to the Church today?
- **The Wisdom:** What wisdom do you offer to the next generation of Christians in Boston?

- **The Place:** If interviewing at a specific location, ask: "Why this place? What is the history here?"

Pro Tip: Ask them to bring **artifacts**—photos, old Bibles, letters, or objects—that help tell their story. Tangible items draw viewers deeper into the narrative.

5. Agency & Consent

Treat every story as sacred. Always ensure the leader has the ultimate agency and authority to tell their own story the way they would like it to be portrayed:

- **The Right to Stop:** They can skip any question or end the interview at any time.
- **Trauma-Informed Care:** If a story becomes difficult to tell, pause the recording to honor their experience.

6. Share the Story with the City

Once your interview is complete, contribute it to the **Boston Sankofa Journey Archive**:

1. **Upload:** Use our [Google Form](#) to submit your video file.
2. **Preserve:** We will upload selected stories to the [Boston Sankofa YouTube Channel](#) and [BostonSankofa.com](#) to inspire the broader Church.
3. **Archive:** Consider [donating the digital file](#) to the Boston Public Library's local history collection for future generations.

4. Resources

- **Boston Public Library (BPL):** Utilize the BPL's [Community History tools](#) and recording equipment available to the public through [Oral History Backpacks](#).
- **Reckonings Project:** For deep-dive guidance on uncovering overlooked stories, use the [Reckonings Project Toolkits](#) or [Boston Research Center](#)

For questions or comments, contact Rev. Devlin Scott, devlin@uniteboston.com

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