



FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

CONTACT: Chene Koppitz, Communications Coordinator

Flint Institute of Arts

P: 810.234.1695

E: ksharbaugh@flintarts.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michigan Radio and the FIA Welcome StoryCorps to Flint

Flint, MI – This August, Michigan Radio and the Flint Institute of Arts welcome StoryCorps' renowned Airstream-trailer-turned-recording-studio to Flint to collect stories of local residents. StoryCorps, a non-profit organization that celebrates stories of everyday Americans, will record interviews in Vehicle City as part of its cross-country MobileBooth tour.

Beginning on August 6, the StoryCorps MobileBooth will stop in front of the Flint Institute of Arts for community members to record their personal stories. These recordings will be added to the StoryCorps Archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and become part of the national historical record. The visit is part of the 2019 MobileBooth tour across the United States to collect and preserve the meaningful stories and memories of regular Americans and under-represented communities. Starting on January 5 in Orlando, Florida and ending on December 21 in Yuma, Arizona, the MobileBooth will travel thousands of miles throughout the U.S. in 2019. The MobileBooth will remain in Flint through September 4, 2019.

Michigan Radio is partnering with the Flint Institute of Arts and StoryCorps to invite local residents to bring a friend or a loved one to participate in a recorded conversation in the booth. Conversations will be facilitated by the StoryCorps staff to help guests record important conversations with a special person in their lives. Ahead of their arrival in Michigan, the StoryCorps team will begin recruiting guests who would like to be part of the project. Reservations, which are free and open to the public, will be available beginning July 23, 2019 and can be booked online at storycorps.org. Participants must register in advance for their appointment in the MobileBooth.

Later this year, Michigan Radio plans to air a selection of the Flint interviews, and the station will also host several events in the city in conjunction with the MobileBooth visit. StoryCorps may also share edited versions of select interviews collected throughout the tour via its weekly broadcasts on NPR's *Morning Edition* or via StoryCorps' digital platforms or best-selling books.

ABOUT STORYCORPS

Founded in 2003 by award-winning documentary producer and MacArthur Fellow Dave Isay, StoryCorps gives people of various backgrounds the opportunity to sit down and listen to one another and have that experience recorded into collective American memory. More than 500,000 people have participated since StoryCorps' founding, making it both the largest single collection of human voices ever gathered and a priceless repository of wisdom for future generations.

ABOUT THE FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

The Flint Institute of Arts is Michigan's second largest art museum and one of the largest museum art schools in the nation. The FIA's mission is to advance the understanding and appreciate of art for all through collections, exhibitions, and educational programs.

The FIA is located at 1120 E. Kearsley St. in the Flint Cultural Center. The museum is open Monday-Friday 12-5 PM; Saturday 10 AM-5 PM, and Sunday 1-5PM. FIA admission is free to all Genesee Country residents, members, and children under 12. Adults are \$10; Seniors and students with current ID from an educational institution are \$8. Saturdays are free to all thanks to Huntington Bank.

For more information, call 810.234.1695 or visit www.flintarts.org.