



**PRESS RELEASE
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STORYCORPS, THE NATIONAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT, COMES TO ATLANTA, GA

**RESERVATIONS NOW OPEN AT STORYCORPS' RECORDING BOOTH LOCATED IN
ATLANTA'S PUBLIC RADIO STATION, WABE**

October 13, 2009 – ATLANTA – StoryCorps, a national initiative to document the stories of everyday Americans, will open its newest StoryBooth on **October 22, 2009** in partnership with Atlanta's public radio station **WABE**. StoryCorps is the most ambitious oral history project ever undertaken, with interviews collected from more than 50,000 Americans in all 50 states.

During its first year in Atlanta, StoryCorps will record interviews with approximately 1,500 local residents who will share their life experiences with friends and family members inside the StoryBooth. Atlanta will become the third city in the country currently hosting a long-term StoryBooth.

The StoryBooth is located in the studios of Atlanta's public radio station WABE at 740 Bismark Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30324. Reservations can now be made through StoryCorps' 24-hour reservation line, **1-800-850-4406**, or at www.storycorps.org. Additional reservation slots will be available at **10 AM** on the first day of every month.

StoryCorps was created by award-winning radio documentary producer and MacArthur "Genius" Grant recipient Dave Isay. This unprecedented project has traveled to every corner of the United States, instructing and inspiring individuals to record their stories in sound. StoryCorps currently has one of the largest archives of American voices ever created.

StoryCorps interviews are conducted between two people who know and care about each other. A trained StoryCorps facilitator guides participants through the process and handles the technical aspects of the recording. At the end of each 40-minute recording session, participants walk away with a free CD copy of their interview. With participants' permission, a second copy becomes part of an archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress for future generations to hear. Select StoryCorps segments air nationally each week on NPR's *Morning Edition*. Atlanta's NPR station, WABE, will also air a selection of local stories recorded at the Atlanta StoryBooth.

"WABE is family to us," said Dave Isay. "Public broadcasting is all about public service, and WABE personifies that. We are so proud to work with one of the great public broadcasting organizations in the country to continue our mission to teach people to become better listeners, foster intergenerational communication, and help Americans appreciate the stories that exist all around them."

“WABE is honored to be a part of the nation’s most remarkable oral history project,” said John Weatherford, WABE’s Senior Vice President and General Manager. “We share StoryCorps’ passion for sharing the powerful, meaningful, and inspirational stories of people from all cultures and walks of life.”

StoryCorps currently has four major initiatives: StoryCorps *Historias* collects the stories of Latinos throughout the United States and Puerto Rico; StoryCorps *Griot* preserves the voices and experiences of African Americans; StoryCorps’ *Memory Loss Initiative* reaches out to people affected by memory loss disorders and their families; StoryCorps’ *9/11 Initiative* honors and remembers the stories of survivors, rescue workers, and others most personally affected by the events of September 11, 2001.

WABE has previously hosted StoryCorps’ MobileBooth in 2006 and StoryCorps *Griot* in 2007. Approximately 25 percent of all StoryCorps appointments in Atlanta will be filled by local community organizations from diverse backgrounds. Interested community organizations should contact Amanda Plumb at (678) 686-0388.

StoryCorps requests a donation of \$25 for each interview. If participants cannot afford to meet the suggested donation, they may participate at no cost, ensuring that StoryCorps remains a free public service.

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About StoryCorps

StoryCorps is an independent non-profit whose mission is to honor and celebrate one another’s lives through listening. Each week, millions of Americans listen to StoryCorps’ award-winning broadcasts on NPR’s *Morning Edition*. Fifty of StoryCorps’ most emblematic stories have been collected in the *New York Times* bestseller, *Listening Is an Act of Love* (Penguin Press). A follow-up book, *Mom: Remarkable Stories of American Mothers from the StoryCorps Project*, scheduled for publication in the Spring of 2010, will feature inspiring stories by and about mothers.

In addition to the new Atlanta booth, StoryCorps currently operates recording booths at Foley Square in New York’s Lower Manhattan and at the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco. StoryCorps’ major funders include: The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), The Atlantic Philanthropies, The Ford Foundation, The Annenberg Foundation, The Kaplen Foundation, and Joe and Carol Reich. For more information, or to listen to StoryCorps stories, visit www.storycorps.org.

About WABE

WABE 90.1 FM brings NPR News, music and the arts to hundreds of thousands of listeners in Atlanta each year. We serve community; we enhance life. We educate, entertain, empower. We broaden perspectives, create joy, expand knowledge. And through our endeavors, we connect people to each other and the world. As a broadcast service of Atlanta Public Schools in partnership with the Atlanta Educational Telecommunications Collaborative (AETC), Public Broadcasting Atlanta has never lost sight of its original mission. Education remains at the core of our operation at every level, from preschoolers to our elders. For more information, visit www.pba.org.

WABE will host a press event November 5, 2009 to introduce StoryCorps to the Atlanta community and to allow press and the public to visit the booth, interview StoryCorps staff, and hear from two sets of participants who will interview on that day.