



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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PUBLIC INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN ORAL HISTORIES PROJECT AT THE WESTERN MONTANA FAIR

Volunteer historians and anthropologists will be present at the Western Montana Fair next week to offer Missoula and western Montana residents the unique opportunity to have their stories become part of the Western Montana Oral Histories Project.

The volunteers will be at work in the Fair History Building on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 11, 12, and 13 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, Aug. 14, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.; and all day on Saturday and Sunday, August 15 and 16. They will be recording stories and memories of participants and will also photograph any historic artifacts and memorabilia that participants wish to bring. The Western Montana Oral Histories Project is a project of the Missoula Historic Preservation Commission and the Missoula Historic Preservation Office at the City of Missoula.

The commission members launched the project at the Western Montana Fair in 2012 and are continuing it for the fourth year. The purpose of the project is to record the stories and personal histories of the residents of Missoula and western Montana to enhance the written and physical historical record of the region. History informs the present: These individual histories provide a broader understanding of where we are now by understanding how we got here. The research questions are designed to record the experiences, memories and impressions of Missoula and neighboring western Montana communities. Project organizers encourage participants to bring photographs,

memorabilia, written diaries and letters pertinent to their stories.

This project is set up similarly to the Story Corps series on National Public Radio. Historians will both tape record and video tape each participant's story. All stories will be archived for future use either in historical research or for educational purposes. Permission may also be asked of participants to make copies of their photographs and other written material. The materials will be readily available to the public at all times.

News reporters are invited to schedule an interview in advance and to stop by the project to do a story during interview times. The Fair History Building is behind the Culinary Building and next to the Commercial Building.

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