



“The highest form of knowledge... is empathy, for it requires us to suspend our egos and live in another’s world. It requires profound purpose larger than the self kind of understanding.”

– Bill Bullard

A Fourth Grade Community Project

How do we, as storytellers, create a more empathetic community?

Driving Questions

Could we, as artists, humanize the way we see others in our community?

How can we, as writers, tell powerful stories to create personal connections with others?

How does listening to personal stories impact us?

What can we teach others about the stories we have collected from our community?

How can we, as positive change agents, honor other’s personal stories to build appreciation in our community?

Project Overview

All people have unique stories, and sharing our stories builds community. Using the Humans of New York series as inspiration, students will capture interesting stories from around our community through interviews and photography. We will get to know various people in the community, learning about their unique experiences, passions, and cultures. For our product we will share a collection of stories and portraits in several ways, including social media. At exhibition we will transform our rooms into an art museum to share favorite portraits and a comprehensive, collaborative art piece. By honoring others’ stories, we can turn the invisible visible to build appreciation for the diverse members of our community.

Habits and Skills

We will delve into many lessons, activities, and fieldwork experiences designed to help students develop essential habits and skills. Here are some of our biggest goals:

Students will...

Take Perspective- Practice taking multiple perspectives to inform their ideas and opinions

Empathize- Strengthen connections to others, appreciate diversity, use social thinking strategies, practice empathy when thinking about current events

Collaborate- Learn from adult experts and work effectively with peers to honor others' stories

Calculate- Interpret and use data to validate opinions, use mathematical models to represent populations throughout history

Communicate- Share personal stories and perspectives through writing and photography, improve work through revisions
(CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences)

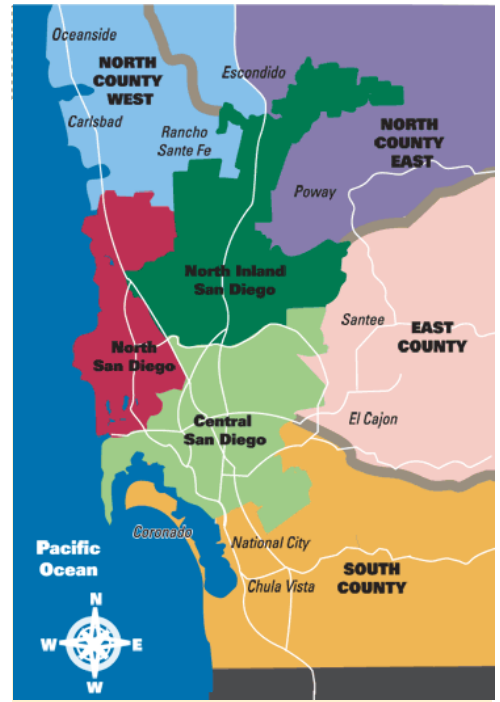
Think Critically- Synthesize information learned through multiple sources including interviews, books, articles, and images
(CA State Standard for Social Studies 4.2: Students describe the social, political, cultural, and economic life and interactions among people of California from the pre-Columbian societies to now)

Conduct Interviews- Ask purposeful questions to gather information, listen critically and respond thoughtfully
(CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.1.C: Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information, and make comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.)

Become Historians- Engage in discussions about current events using historical events and personal experiences as context
(CA State Standard for Social Studies 4.2: Students describe the social, political, cultural, and economic life and interactions among people of California from the pre-Columbian societies to now)

Personalization

Students will be able to exercise voice and choice throughout this project. They will be able to share their own personal stories and choose, with guidance, people to interview and collaborative partners. Additionally, they will work together to create a final, cumulative art piece that synthesizes their experiences.



Fieldwork and Experts*

- 1 Launch**
January 14th: Museum of Photographic Arts and the San Diego History Center
- 2 Experts**
Rancho Bernardo H.S.
HORB
- 3 Fieldwork**
February 8th: Special Person Breakfast

* Only some fieldwork and expert opportunities are listed above.

This information is subject to change based on student interest, curiosity, and work.