WOSU Public Media to Host StoryCorps, the Groundbreaking Oral History Project, in the Short North Arts District this July

COLUMBUS, OH -- WOSU Public Media will host the StoryCorps Mobile Tour when it rolls into Columbus’ Short North Arts District as part of a cross-country mobile storytelling journey. StoryCorps, a renowned nonprofit organization celebrating the stories of everyday Americans, will record interviews with local participants from July 2-31.

The StoryCorps MobileBooth – an Airstream trailer outfitted with a recording studio – will be located in the Short North Arts District at the Greystone Court Apartments (815 N High St, Columbus, OH 43215). Appointments are free, made on a first come, first served basis and open at 10am on July 3. Reservations at 1-800-850-4406 or wosu.org/storycorps.

WOSU Public Media and StoryCorps, along with City of Columbus and Franklin County leadership and the Short North Alliance, will celebrate the launch of the Mobile Tour in Columbus with a press event at the booth location in the Short North Arts District on Tuesday, July 2 at 11:30am.

StoryCorps will have a lasting impact on Columbus storytelling, as WOSU Public Media will collaborate with the Mobile Tour to curate and broadcast a selection of the local stories captured in our city for StoryCorps Columbus. Nationally, less than one percent of the conversations captured make it to broadcast. StoryCorps may also share excerpts of select stories through the project’s popular weekly NPR broadcasts, animated shorts, digital platforms and best-selling books.

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“Throughout history, stories have been used to educate, entertain and intrigue. At WOSU, storytelling is key to the platforms we provide – engaging Central Ohio through radio, TV, digital and in the classroom,” said Tom Rieland, general manager of WOSU Public Media. “StoryCorps presents new opportunities for our residents to continue telling their stories well beyond the month of July as we envision an ongoing StoryCorps Columbus.”

The StoryCorps MobileBooth will be prominently featured in the Short North Arts District and will draw visitors to the neighborhood throughout its stay. "The Short North Arts District is a consummate generator of stories in Columbus," said Betsy Pandora, Executive Director of the Short North Alliance. "From the iconic Short North Arches, the distinct businesses, and limitless creative spaces to the epicenter to celebrate all things in our City – we are thrilled to have StoryCorps capture the stories from the art and soul of Columbus."

The Short North Alliance will give Short North Arts District residents and visitors the opportunity to win three reserved recording appointments. People are invited to share their stories about the neighborhood via social media; from the stories submitted, the Short North Alliance will select three winners, each of whom will be given a reserved StoryCorps recording appointment. For more information, visit shortnorth.org/storycorps.

Listen to StoryCorps on 89.7 NPR News Fridays between 6:20–6:30am and again between 8:20–8:30am.

About the Short North Arts District

The Short North Arts District is the most vibrant spot in the City of Columbus, and is home to more than 300 exciting businesses, the majority of which are locally-owned or headquartered. It has received numerous national accolades, is considered a model for urban revitalization, and is known as the art and soul of Columbus. The Short North Alliance (SNA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving both the property owners and business owners of the Short North Arts District. For more information, visit www.shortnorth.org.

About StoryCorps

Founded in 2003 by award-winning documentary producer and MacArthur Fellow Dave Isay, StoryCorps has traveled to every corner of the country to record interviews in the organization’s effort to create a world where we listen closely to each other and recognize the beauty, grace and poetry in the lives and stories we find all around us. Recordings are archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress

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“StoryCorps tells the true American story—that we are a people defined by small acts of courage, kindness and heroism. Each interview reminds people that their lives matter and will not be forgotten,” said Isay. “By strengthening connections between people and building an archive that reflects the rich diversity of American voices, we hope to build StoryCorps into an enduring institution that will touch the lives of every American family.”

About WOSU Public Media

A licensee of The Ohio State University, WOSU Public Media is a non-profit, community supported, noncommercial multimedia organization serving 31 counties in Ohio. An NPR and PBS affiliate, WOSU offers programming and services through two public radio stations (89.7 NPR News and Classical 101), a public TV station made up of four channels (WOSU TV, WOSU Plus, WOSU Ohio and WOSU Kids), a mobile app, and two websites (wosu.org and columbusneighborhoods.org). From initiatives like Ready To Learn®, which provides workshops to childcare providers, teachers and parents, to American Graduate, which looks at workforce issues in Ohio, to offering venues for civil discourse, the mission of WOSU Public Media is to enrich lives through content and experiences that engage, inform, and inspire.

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