



I N V E S T S T L

people | power | place | systems

# Neighborhood Storytelling Practice

*A Paid, Resident-Led, Healing-Centered Storytelling Opportunity in North St. Louis*

**Launching May 2026**

The **Neighborhood Storytelling Practice (NSTP)** is a new, resident-led storytelling opportunity created for neighbors in **The Ville, Greater Ville, and Kingsway East**.

This nine-month practice invites residents to explore their stories, neighborhood histories, and creative expression — and to help others do the same — in a supportive, healing-centered environment. Participants (resident storytellers) will be supported as **storytellers** (sharing their own experiences) and **story conductors** (helping others uncover and express their own).

No storytelling or artistic experience required.

## Who Might Consider Applying

This may be of interest to you if you:

- Live in, work in, were displaced by, or have a deep connection to **The Ville, Greater Ville, or Kingsway East**
- Are 18 or older
- Are passionate about your neighborhood's stories, history, or memories
- Want space to reflect, create, and connect with other residents
- Are interested in storytelling as a form of expression, healing, or community care
- Want to explore creative mediums like writing, audio, photography, art, or performance
- Are open to learning and growing alongside neighbors

You do **not** need to be a writer, artist, or public speaker to apply.

## What You'll Do

Resident storytellers will participate in a **nine-month storytelling cohort** that includes:

- Story sharing and story harvesting
- Exploring personal and neighborhood history
- Creative workshops with artists and storytellers
- One-on-one mentorship and guidance
- Trying different creative mediums
- Reflection, care, and healing-centered practices
- Learning how to help others share their stories ("story conducting")
- Sharing your stories publicly (as comfortable)

Each resident storyteller will create **one personal or place-based story** in the medium of their choice. **Resident storytellers will be paid \$2,000.**

## Creative Mediums You Can Explore

Resident storytellers will explore mediums, with support, such as writing, poetry, audio storytelling, oral history, spoken word, photography, videography, performance, visual art and illustration, mixed and experimental media.

Each resident storyteller will **choose what medium feels right for their story.**

## What Makes This Practice Different: Our Guiding Principles

The NSTP is grounded in practices that are:

- **Resident-led:** You decide what your story is and how it's shared
- **Healing-centered:** Emotional safety, care, and consent are core to the experience
- **Place-based:** Stories are rooted in your neighborhoods and lived experiences
- **Accessible:** No prior storytelling experience is required
- **Paid:** Resident storytellers are compensated for their time, energy, and participation

Each resident storyteller retains agency **over if, when, and how your story** is shared publicly.

## Time Commitment

- **Duration:** 9 months (May 2026 - January 2027)
- **Format:** Twice-monthly group gatherings + individual creative work time
- **Support:** Stipends, accessibility, and other supports available

Detailed scheduling will be shared with resident storytellers.

## Why This Matters

Stories shape how neighborhoods are seen, valued, and invested in. Too often, stories about Black neighborhoods focus only on loss or struggle. The NSTP exists to:

- Honor community history and memory
- Uplift authentic resident voices
- Support healing and connection
- Shift how North St. Louis neighborhoods are understood across the region

## Interested in Applying?

Applications will open soon.

If you're interested in applying, we encourage you to stay tuned and fill out the interest form [here](https://forms.gle/CdPVaA64bW6g5DzU7) (<https://forms.gle/CdPVaA64bW6g5DzU7>). People who complete the form will receive the application directly when it becomes available.

For questions or more information, contact: **Email [comms@investstl.org](mailto:comms@investstl.org) or call 314-399-8812.**