



## Community Works Manitoba Inc.

*Community Economic & Social Development – Strategic Planning – Group Facilitation & Popular Education – Training Workshops – Tree of Life – Healing & Wellness Through the Arts – Digital Storytelling Workshops*

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### ***“North End Stories”***

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

*Community Works Manitoba Inc.* is seeking organizations with connections to Winnipeg’s north end to collaborate on a digital storytelling project called “*North End Stories*”. The intent of the project is to bring together north end residents from Indigenous, Newcomer and Settler communities in a series of 3- to 5-day workshops in which each participant creates a short (2 to 5 minute) video of a significant personal story. The theme for the workshops could be *Stories of Home and Identity*, where ‘home’ could refer to participants’ residence in the north end, or a place that they came from. Or host organizations can choose another theme that reflects issues that are important to north end residents.

Each workshop will engage six north end residents. Workshops will be led by a team of two facilitators trained in digital storytelling, group process and socially engaged art. Each workshop concludes with participants viewing their completed on a large screen. With storytellers’ permission, the stories can be posted to a *North End Stories* page on *Community Works*’ website and through host organizations’ social media.

Finally, a host organization will organize a public screening of *North End Stories*, with participants invited to make ‘artist statements’. Audiences will be invited to reflect on, and share their own stories.

The scope and duration of the project has yet to be determined; it could range from a pilot project of three workshops over the course of a few months (yielding up to 18 north end stories), to a 2-year project involving 10 workshops and the creation of up to 60 stories.

#### PROJECT GOALS:

“*North End Stories*” seeks to fulfill a number of goals. The project will give participants the opportunity to:

- Listen deeply to themselves and to their fellow storytellers in the safety and comfort of a small group led by experienced facilitators;
- Learn to use video editing software to add images, music and sound to first-person stories;
- Experience the satisfaction of engaging in a creative process, of learning new skills, and of producing a finished work of video art;

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- Develop understanding and bonds of empathy and trust with storytellers with backgrounds and life experiences different from their own;
- Celebrate collective achievements.

At the community level, the project will:

- Allow voices to be heard from groups that are often silenced;
- Extend the inter-group understanding and trust developed in the workshops to participants' families, friends and community networks;
- Bring to the public screenings a sense of shared place, shared values and a sense of a more inclusive community;
- Build a foundation for future dialogue and collaboration on anti-racism, reconciliation and other issues of concern to north end neighbourhoods.

#### POTENTIAL ROLES FOR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:

- Co-sponsor or write a letter of support for funding application(s);
- Promote the project within their constituencies;
- Assist with recruiting storytellers;
- Provide workshop space;
- Host a public forum.

#### SUPPORT FOR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' STORY PROJECTS:

*Community Works* would also be pleased to collaborate with other organizations on story and art-based projects that reflect their goals and priorities.

#### ABOUT COMMUNITY WORKS MANITOBA Inc.

*Community Works Manitoba Inc.* is a community social and economic development organization registered in Manitoba as a non-profit corporation. Our mandate is to support healing, wellness and livelihoods using tools of strategic planning and participatory education, often involving storytelling and the arts.

For details about our digital storytelling workshops, visit the *Heart of the Matter* page on our website at [www.community-works.ca/heart-of-the-matter](http://www.community-works.ca/heart-of-the-matter). Examples of digital stories created by participants in our workshops can be seen at [www.community-works.ca/digital-stories](http://www.community-works.ca/digital-stories).

For more information call 204-255-1131 or email [community-works@shaw.ca](mailto:community-works@shaw.ca).