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**STORYCORPS, THE NATIONAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT,  
COMES TO GRAND RAPIDS, MI**

***WGVU AND STORYCORPS INVITE LOCAL MEDIA TO OPENING DAY!***

**September 16, 2009 – Grand Rapids** – StoryCorps, a national initiative to document everyday history and the unique stories of Americans, will arrive September 21, 2009 in Grand Rapids to collect the stories of Grand Rapids’ residents as part of its cross-country tour. StoryCorps is an independent nonprofit project in partnership with NPR and the American Folklife Center (AFC) at the Library of Congress.

The StoryCorps MobileBooth - an Airstream trailer outfitted with a recording studio - will be parked in front of the Public Museum on Pearl St. for four weeks and will be open 10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. StoryCorps plans to collect around 120 interviews during its stay in Grand Rapids.

Registration times are already filling up! Additional times will open for reservation on September 25, 2009 at the StoryCorps web site at [storycorps.org](http://storycorps.org) or by calling 800-850-4406.

**The first interviews will be conducted on Thursday, September 24 at 10:30 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. In between these interviews, members of the press may interview the participants and the StoryCorps staff, as well as tour the recording booth. Photographers are welcome, although reporters and photographers are not allowed in the booth during the recording of the actual interview.**

StoryCorps was created by award-winning documentary producer and MacArthur “Genius” Grant recipient Dave Isay. This unprecedented project has traveled to every corner of America, instructing and inspiring individuals to record their stories in sound. StoryCorps is the largest multi-year oral history project ever undertaken. Since its launch in October 2003, StoryCorps has collected interviews in all 50 states - over 26,000 stories in all.

In Grand Rapids, StoryCorps is partnering with WGVU, west Michigan’s NPR station, which will air a selection of the local stories and create special programs around the project. Selected segments may also air nationally on NPR’s *Morning Edition*.

At the MobileBooth, interviews are conducted between two people who know and care about each other. A trained facilitator guides the participants through the interview process and handles the technical aspects of the recording. At the end of a 40-minute session, the participants walk

away with a CD of their interview. With their permission, a second copy becomes part of an archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress for future generations to hear.

Major funding is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. StoryCorps also relies on the support from its participants and listeners.

Individuals can visit **StoryCorps.org** to make interview reservations, listen to stories, and learn how they can support StoryCorps' mission to honor and celebrate one another's lives through listening.

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#### **About WGVU**

WGVU's continued mission is to provide educational, informative, and entertaining programs and events to the West Michigan community as a service of Grand Valley State University.

#### **About StoryCorps**

StoryCorps is an independent nonprofit project whose mission is to honor and celebrate one another's lives through listening. Since 2003, tens of thousands of everyday people have interviewed family and friends through StoryCorps. Each conversation is recorded on a free CD to take home and share, and is archived for generations to come at the Library of Congress. Millions listen to the award-winning broadcasts on public radio and the Internet. Select stories have also been published in the New York Times bestselling book, *Listening Is an Act of Love* (Penguin Press). StoryCorps is one of the largest oral history projects of its kind, creating a growing portrait of who we really are as Americans. Major funding is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). Visit [www.storycorps.org](http://www.storycorps.org) for more information.