



DC Oral History  
Collaborative

## **2025 HumanitiesDC Educators Seminar Oral History in the Classroom Program and Application Information**

**Application Opens:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The application will be open until the seminar is full. Qualified applicants whose applications are received after that will be added to the waitlist.

**Seminar Date:** Tuesday, July 15, 2025; 10am - 4pm

**Seminar Location:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, Room 401-C, 901 G Street, NW, Washington, DC

**Seminar Facilitator:** Cosby Hunt, DCPS Social Studies Educator and Director of Youth Programming at the Center for Inspired Teaching

**Application Link:** <https://forms.gle/9f1CTMVUGakYU9q76>

### **Application Accessibility:**

If you are unable to access any application materials on our website, please contact the staff member listed below. With equity as one of our [Values](#), we are focused on broadening access, inclusion, and diversity in all our work to create structures that share power and core decision-making. We are committed to becoming a more inclusive and accessible organization where everyone can participate fully in our programs and grants.

**Staff Contact:** Jasper Collier, DC Oral History Collaborative Senior Manager, [jcollier@humanitiesdc.org](mailto:jcollier@humanitiesdc.org) or 202.770.3077 x804

### **Summary:**

This annual program helps DC educators explore creative ways to use oral history in their lesson plans and consider starting oral history projects with their students. The session is hands-on and interactive, giving participants the chance to practice interviewing and reflect on the experience. Participants will also hear from young people who have recorded oral histories as part of the Real-World History program.

The group will discuss questions such as:

- What is oral history - especially as compared to other forms of interviewing and storytelling?
- What are the logistical obstacles to starting oral history projects?
- How can it be connected to learning standards?
- What impact can it have on students?
- What are some easy to access tools and resources that can help get projects started?

Participants will receive:

- An oral history toolkit including a Zoom H1n Recorder and a guide for working with oral history in the classroom
- A \$75 stipend to help purchase additional equipment and/or defray the costs of attending the session
- Lunch is included

### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Applicants must be professional educators working with DC young people in schools during classes, in schools as part of extra-curricular activities, or out of schools in youth-serving programs.

Eligible applications will be approved primarily on a first-come, first-served basis until all 20 spaces for the session are filled, however HumanitiesDC may make adjustments to the participant roster to reflect demographic diversity. Additional qualified applicants will be added to the waitlist.

Priority will be given to applicants who did not participate in last year's *Oral History in the Classroom* seminar.

### **Session Facilitator:**

The session will be led by Cosby Hunt. Cosby is a native of Washington, DC, where he teaches 11th grade US History and Advanced Placement US History at Theodore Roosevelt High School. He has also taught at Thurgood Marshall Academy and Bell Multicultural HS. He is the Manager of Youth Programs for a non-profit organization called Center for Inspired Teaching, through which Cosby is the founder and co-teacher of Real World History, the city's only credit-bearing after school history class. In that class, students from high schools across DC conduct oral history interviews with Black Washingtonians who were part of the Great Migration. The DC Public Library archives those interviews, which have taken

place each year since 2014. Cosby graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1993 and then the University of Georgia in 1995 (M.Ed.) and has been teaching in DC ever since. Cosby earned his National Board Certification in 2006; he was the District of Columbia History Teacher of the Year in 2008 and the National History Day Teacher of the Year (Senior Division) in 2019. In addition to listening to people talk and taking long walks on the beach with his wife, Cosby enjoys playing tennis and watching his sons play baseball and basketball.

### **About the DC Oral History Collaborative:**

The DC Oral History Collaborative (DCOHC) documents, preserves, and celebrates the lived experiences of all Washington, DC residents and communities through oral history. The Collaborative accomplishes this by providing training, mentorship, resources, programs, and funding to current and aspiring oral historians. The DCOHC is partnership of HumanitiesDC and the DC Public Library.

### **What is Oral History:**

"[Oral history is] distinguished from other forms of interviews by its content and extent. Oral history interviews seek an in-depth account of personal experience and reflections, with sufficient time allowed for the narrators to give their story the fullness they desire. The content of oral history interviews is grounded in reflections on the past as opposed to commentary on purely contemporary events." - [From the Oral History Association](#)

### **About HumanitiesDC:**

Washington DC is a vibrant, historical city full of curious people who have big questions, bright ideas, and unique experiences to share. These human stories allow us to navigate the complexities of our past, present, and future. The humanities help us learn from history and literature, empathize through language and comparative religion, and challenge our assumptions with philosophy and ethics. They are a compass for interpreting what humans make and exploring what makes us human. Founded in 1980, HumanitiesDC is one of 56 state councils supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities to ensure the humanities are available to all. Our grantmaking and programs allow us to celebrate, elevate, and connect local voices that bring our city to life.