

# PLACE-BASED NARRATIVE INQUIRY

Regardless of where you live, you can take action to create change right where you are. We hope that the work of 2892 Louisville's storytellers has inspired you to lead a storytelling journey in your own community too. By using a process called *narrative inquiry*, you can begin the lifelong process of shifting power, reclaiming narratives, and unlearning misguided notions of history and culture. The 2892 narrative inquiry process can help you along an investigative storytelling journey of your community and its people. By following the phases of this process, you add your miles to the #2892MilesToGo movement.

## Listen first. Take notice.

Take the time to listen to the voices and stories of those who have been left out of common narratives before formulating questions.

Whom can you learn from or what can you observe to better understand an issue of justice in your community?

Now that your insights are bubbling to the surface from the act of listening, consider what questions still feel unanswered.

## Ask courageous questions.

Courageous questions, when asked and explored with integrity, can bring light to topics that may be misunderstood or hidden.

## Collect data & gain insight.

Because of inequities and biases, narrative inquiry may require critical thinking when it comes to collecting and analyzing data.

What information or insights are still missing based on what we know about a community, the land, or its people?

### Create compelling stories.

Take responsibility for the narrative of your community by reclaiming it for those whose voices have been omitted or neglected.

How can the story I am sharing best honor the community it reflects? What steps do I need to take to make sure that it does?

What obstacles might you encounter along your path to igniting change by telling and sharing these stories? How might you maintain resilience even when the path is difficult?

### Catalyze change.

Change comes not only from the voices or efforts of people in power but also from the collective voices and efforts of people in communities.

### Take stock. Reflect forward.

Analyze your impact, reflect upon the past, root into the present, and consider ongoing paths to a more just future.

What evidence of change I led or supported do I see as a result of my effort? What steps will I take to continue the work?

2892 miles is the distance across the continental United States. These miles are symbolic, but they are not exhaustive. They represent the storytelling we all must do in order to right the wrongs of the past, accept responsibility for the present, and create a more just future. By owning your “mile,” or this journey you just walked, however long it may have actually been, you are contributing to a larger movement of many people across time and space who have dared to create change in the name of justice and equity. And we must all keep moving. So, what is next for you?

For a deeper dive into the 2892 place-based narrative inquiry process, download the toolkit for [educators](#) or [youth](#).