Presentation Format

• Intro

• Case Study

• Takeaway Tools
Seeking Absent Voices - What does this mean?

Recognizing the value of, and participating in, meaningful, sustained engagement with communities we serve

• Educational: Expanding the narrative
• Ethical: Inviting people to speak for themselves
• Economic: Relevance to wider audiences

There are stories that are missing from our institutions’ narratives. But that doesn’t mean that they are lost.
Case Study
Lessons

Our collections may hold stories that can only be seen through different eyes.

Our collections may exclude some stories. But many still exist in family or community memory.
Takeaway Tools
So How Do You Move Forward?

• Build relationships and maintain them.
• Don’t take things personally. Accept centuries of broken trust.
• Get in touch with community contacts via community organizations and word-of-mouth.
• Go to the communities.
• Be prepared for honest feedback, then keep going.
• Realize that the stories that a community decides to share may not be the ones you wanted. Respect that they might not share all.
• Expect that the ways they would like to see these stories told may be different too.