



THE POWER *OF* PLACE

Heritage Village | Pinellas County



Program Overview & Participation Guide

The Power of Place Oral History Initiative invites Pinellas County residents to share stories about the places that matter most—neighborhoods, parks, shorelines, workplaces, schools, faith communities, and everyday spaces where life unfolds.

Launched in celebration of Heritage Village's 50th Anniversary and America's 250th, this initiative builds a lasting community archive that connects personal memory to public history

All interviews are preserved in the Heritage Village Archives and made publicly accessible through PastPerfect, our collections management system unless otherwise specified.

Mission

To bring people together across Pinellas County—celebrating our unique identity, honoring our heritage, and strengthening our shared American story.

Ways to Participate

We welcome participation at multiple levels:

1. Self-Recorded Testimonial (Individual Participation)

Residents may:

- Record their own story directly through the TheirStory™ platform
- Submit a guided testimonial interview
- Participate remotely at their convenience

Ideal for individuals who want to contribute a personal story without leading a full project.

2. Organization-Led Oral History Projects

Eligible organizations may:

- Develop a themed oral history project aligned with *The Power of Place*
- Identify interviewers and narrators
- Attend Heritage Village oral history training workshops
- Conduct and submit interviews under Heritage Village's TheirStory™ subscription

Projects may focus on cultural heritage, ecology, agriculture, business history, arts, recreation, or other place-based themes

Eligible entities include:

- Nonprofits
 - Schools & universities
 - Governments
 - Religious organizations
 - Legacy businesses (50+ years in Pinellas County)
-

3. Remote Interviews

Participants may:

- Record interviews virtually using TheirStory™
 - Conduct intergenerational or out-of-state interviews tied to Pinellas County
-

4. Heritage Village-Led Interviews

Participants may request:

- An interview conducted by Heritage Village staff or trained volunteers
- On-site interviews at Heritage Village

Ideal for individuals who prefer guided facilitation.

What Participants Receive

- Access to TheirStory™ oral history software
- Professional transcription (approx. 90% accurate)

- Training workshops (for project teams)
- Archival preservation in Heritage Village Archives
- Public visibility under the Heritage Village 50 / America 250 initiative

There is no participation fee

Participant Responsibilities

All participants agree to:

- Complete informed consent documentation
- Incorporate Heritage Village's core project questions
- Submit recordings, transcripts, images (if applicable), and releases

Participants retain intellectual ownership of their stories while granting Heritage Village rights for archival, educational, and research use

Terms and Conditions:

By participating in The Power of Place Oral History Initiative conducted by Heritage Village, participants agree to the following terms and conditions. These terms are designed to ensure the integrity of the project and the respectful treatment of all individuals involved. Continued participation is dependent upon adhering to these conditions.

- **Quality Control:** All organizations will incorporate pre-determined questions provided by Heritage Village Staff to ask interviewees before embarking on organizational questions.
- **Return of Deliverables:** All interviews must be delivered to Heritage Village within 24 hours of completion of the interview.
- **Informed Consent:** Participants will be provided with detailed information about the project, including its purpose, methods, and expected outcomes. Participants must provide written consent before their involvement begins. Organizations and participants have the right to remove their consent at any time during or after the project.
- **Ownership of Content:** While Pinellas County Historical Society holds the rights to use the content, the intellectual property of the oral history remains with the participant.
- **Attribution:** Whenever possible, Heritage Village will acknowledge participants who choose to have their names associated with their contributions. Participants and organizations have the option to remain anonymous or use an alias during the duration of the project.

- **Limitation of Liability:** Heritage Village is not liable for any indirect or consequential damages arising from participation in the project.
- **Right to Use:** By agreeing to use, contributors grant Heritage Village the right to use, reproduce, and share the recorded interviews for educational, research, and archival purposes. Participants have the right to redact, remove, or restrict interviews conducted during the project.

For any questions or concerns regarding these terms and conditions, please contact Heritage Village at heritagevillage@pinellas.gov

Please submit a brief proposal that answers the following:

(500 words max)

1. Project Overview

- What is your oral history project about?
- Who do you plan to interview?
- Who will conduct the interviews?
- What is your anticipated timeline?

2. Alignment & Promotion

- How does your project connect to the theme **The Power of Place**?
- How will you promote participation or share the project as part of Heritage Village's 50th Anniversary / America 250 initiative?

3. Project Team

- Identify your Project Manager (primary contact).
- List team members and their roles.
- Indicate who will attend the TWO Heritage Village training workshops. (live or on-demand)

Timeline Highlights

- Application opens: December 1, 2025
- Workshops: March–April 2026
- Recording period: May 1, 2026 – January 1, 2028
- Final deliverables due: 2027–2028 (project dependent)

Applications remain open on a rolling basis