

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY CELEBRATE OLDER AMERICANS MONTH BY LAUNCHING THE CALIFORNIA CHRONICLES

Community-Based Online Archive Documents Experiences of Older Californians

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[Sacramento, Calif.] To celebrate Older Americans Month, the California Department of Aging and California State Library are launching California Chronicles, a community-based online archive of stories from older Californians. California Chronicles will connect older adults, families, and communities and document the diverse experiences and perspectives of older Californians. These lived experiences will be reflections from various ages, races, genders, sexualities, and abilities that will be memorialized for future generations.

Older Californians are invited to contribute a personal account in any format, including typed or written narratives; photographs, videos and audio recordings; written or recorded interviews with family or friends; artwork and drawings; and other storytelling methods.

“Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, older Californians have demonstrated a remarkable resilience developed over years of successes, failures, joys and losses,” said Kim McCoy Wade, Director, California Department of Aging. “Sharing stories and contributions will inspire people of all ages, as we recover together and rebuild a better, stronger California.”

The California Chronicles [website](#) features story criteria, tips and tricks for older Californians interested in telling their story, as well as younger people who want to interview the older adults in their lives. The Department of Aging and the State Library worked with the Oral History Center at UC Berkeley’s Bancroft Library to develop a [toolkit](#) for recording oral histories, including equipment needs and interviewing tips.

“California Chronicles is an opportunity for our elders to share their unique experiences, but it’s much more than that,” said Greg Lucas, California State Librarian. “By documenting and preserving the struggles and triumphs of all of us, we can ensure that the historical record includes every Californian’s voice.”

The Department of Aging and the State Library are working with partners including Area Agencies on Aging and local libraries to collect stories from their communities. For more information about the California Chronicles, go to CaliforniaChronicles.com.

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About the Department of Aging:

Under the umbrella of the California Health and Human Services Agency, the California Department of Aging (CDA) administers programs that serve older adults, adults with disabilities, family caregivers, and residents in long-term care facilities throughout the State. These programs are funded through the federal Older Americans Act, the Older Californians Act, and through the Medi-Cal program. To promote the Department's goal of every Californian having the opportunity to enjoy wellness, longevity and quality of life in strong healthy communities, CDA actively collaborates with many other State departments (and other entities) on transportation, housing and accessibility, emergency preparedness and response, wellness and nutrition, falls and injury prevention, improving services to persons with dementia, reducing fraud and abuse and many other issues. To learn more, visit www.aging.ca.gov.

About the State Library: Founded in 1850, the California State Library has an extensive collection of documents from and about the state's rich history, ranging from books, maps, miners' diaries, newspapers, and periodicals to photographs, paintings and posters. The State Library also holds federal and state publications, is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library and the Braille and Talking Book Library, and serves as the lead state agency for library-related services throughout California.