



LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT MUSEUM 103 ORCHARD STREET NEW YORK (212) 982-8420



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**The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation Will Fund Tenement Museum Digital Interpretation Program on Race and American Identity at Historic Sites in NYC And Long Island**

**01/04/2022, New York, NY – The Tenement Museum has been awarded a \$100,000 grant by the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. The funds will support the redevelopment of the Museum’s *Your Story, Our Story* digital personal storytelling initiative, bringing new educational resources to museums and historic sites throughout Long Island and New York City addressing the role of race and American identity.**

*Your Story, Our Story* invites people across the country to submit personal stories through objects and traditions in an online digital storytelling exhibit and host workshops where participants can share these stories to explore themes of American identity.

The Tenement Museum will use the grant to provide training and programmatic virtual resources for a cohort of 8-12 small New York state historical societies and historic sites. Cohort members will join Tenement Museum education staff for scholar lectures and trainings on effectively interpreting race at historic sites using *Your Story, Our Story* (YSOS) in conjunction with Columbia University’s *Mapping Historical New York: A Historical Atlas*. The project also includes individualized trainings and consultations focused on adapting these resources to specific sites. In addition, funds will be used for design and technical updates to the Museum’s YSOS website and creating additional curriculum that cohort members can use to host their own YSOS workshops.

“This project advances the Tenement Museum’s mission of not only sharing our stories, but sharing our unique approach with other organizations – the project’s training will give participants the tools and confidence to have challenging but essential conversations about race and New York history,” says Dr. Annie Pollard, Tenement Museum President.

The project, titled *Your Story, Our Story: Conversations and Resources about Race and American Identity*, will take place from December 2021 through November 2022.

“The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation is looking to support impactful history-focused educational offerings. *Your Story, Our Story* offers an invaluable resource to all historic stewards and will engage a new and diverse audience to participate in a larger conversation of race, immigration and cultural traditions,” says Kathryn M. Curran, Executive Director of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. “RDLGF is especially pleased that the Tenement Museum is collaborating with another of RDLGF grantees, Columbia University’s *Mapping Historical New York: A Historical Atlas*. By joining these two institutions the level of training and programs being offered to smaller organizations will be ground breaking.”

**About the Tenement Museum**

Since 1988, the museum has forged emotional connections between visitors and immigrants and migrants past and present, through educator-led tours of its historic tenement buildings at 97 and 103 Orchard and the surrounding neighborhood, enhancing appreciation for the vital role working-class migrants play in shaping America’s identity. The museum has become one of New York City’s preeminent cultural and educational

**institutions, welcoming more than 278,000 visitors, including 55,000 students. The museum also offers various digital media to extend the reach and impact of its programs about American migration and identity.**