

**March 8, 2023**

## **Reframe: Memory Work Today - select resources**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reframe-city-hall-mural-memory-work-today-tickets-505857963787>

### ***Southern California Projects***

#### **DIY Memory Lab - Los Angeles Public Library**

Located in the Octavia Lab on LL2 at Central Library, the DIY Memory Lab contains archival-grade equipment for digitizing personal archival collections.

- <https://www.lapl.org/memorylab/diy>

#### **Past Due: Report and Recommendations of the Los Angeles Mayor's Office Civic Memory Working Group**

The Los Angeles Mayor's Office Civic Memory Working Group, convened for its first meeting by Mayor Eric Garcetti in November of 2019 in City Hall, consists of 40 historians, indigenous elders and scholars, architects, artists, curators, designers, and other civic and cultural leaders. Its main charge as it worked across 2020 and into 2021 was to produce a series of recommendations to help Los Angeles, so long in thrall to its reputation as a city of the future, engage more productively and honestly with its past—especially where that past is fraught or has been buried or whitewashed. The Working Group's report, including a print volume and this website, was released on April 15, 2021, with 18 key recommendations complemented by subcommittee reports; essays and photo essays; and interviews and roundtable discussions on significant topics.

- <https://civicmemory.la>

#### **Memorial for 1871 Chinese Massacre**

The City of Los Angeles is commissioning a permanent physical memorial to the victims of the 1871 Chinese Massacre, the largest mass killing in Los Angeles history. The shortlisted teams' presentations can be viewed [here](#).

- <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2021-10-22/how-a-planned-monument-marking-the-chinese-massacre-of-1871-begins-to-fill-historical-gaps>

### **Veteranas & Rucas // Guadalupe Rosales**

Guadalupe Rosales (b.1980 Los Angeles) is a multidisciplinary artist best known for her archival projects, “Veteranas and Rucas” and “Map Pointz,” found on social media. The projects manifested in 2015 from the under/misrepresentation and historical erasure of Latinx communities in Southern California. These community-generated projects begin with an open invitation to various Latino communities to share personal images and memories that create visual narratives that celebrate identities and historicize subcultures. The archives explore ideas about how history and culture are framed and who does the framing. As a counterpoint, the archive celebrates, humanizes and reflects the positive and honest attributes of our shared culture. It creates a space for collective healing and storytelling and finds ways for new dialogue to emerge about youth culture in Southern California that would not exist otherwise.

- [https://www.instagram.com/veteranas\\_and\\_rucas](https://www.instagram.com/veteranas_and_rucas)
- <https://www.veteranasandrucas.com>

### **Rosten Woo // Takachizu**

Takachizu = Treasure Map. In 2017, Rosten Woo worked with Little Tokyo Service Center to open a museum with nothing in it. Over the following year, Little Tokyo residents brought objects of personal or communal significance from Little Tokyo to be documented and described. Community show and tell events created spaces for intergenerational conversations about the neighborhood, its history of forced displacement and hard-won return, and strategies for surviving and thriving into the future. As the year progressed the space filled with community treasures. Takachizu events included screenings of narrated home movies curated by Visual Communications, performances by Hirokazu, and community show-and-tells on themes of economy, food, spirituality, political history, theater, sports, housing, and aging in place.

This project was commissioned by Little Tokyo Service Center and Sustainable Little Tokyo in the service of grounding a long-term political and cultural strategy for a thriving neighborhood, one of the United States’ last remaining Japantowns in the midst of a downtown real estate boom.

- <http://www.takachizu.org>
- <http://rostenwoo.biz/index.php/takachizu>

## ***National Project Examples***

### **Monument Lab Philadelphia (Citywide Exhibition, 2017)**

*What is an appropriate monument for the current city of Philadelphia?* This line of inquiry was aimed at building civic dialogue and stoking historical imagination as forces for social change. From September 16–November 19, 2017, the Monument Lab curatorial team and Mural Arts Philadelphia installed temporary prototype monuments by 20 artists across 10 sites in Philadelphia’s iconic public squares and neighborhood parks. These site-specific, socially engaged artworks were presented together with research labs. Over 250,000 people engaged with the labs and project sites at the Barnes Foundation and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and close to 4,500 creative monument proposals were collected from Philadelphians and visitors. The proposals operate as a creative dataset of public speculation: they were transcribed and presented in a searchable interface on Monument Lab and are uploaded to [OpenDataPhilly](#); are presented in a final [Report to the City](#) that was given to the Mayor of Philadelphia and the city commissioners; and are included in [Monument Lab: Creative Speculations for Philadelphia](#) co-edited by Paul M. Farber and Ken Lum (Temple University Press, 2019).

- <https://monumentlab.com/projects/monument-lab-philadelphia-citywide-exhibition-2017>

### **Monument Lab: ReGeneration**

Which stories belong in public? Re:Generation is a nationwide participatory public art and history project organized by Monument Lab. The project elevates people shaping the next generation of monuments reckoning with and reimagining public memory. Monument Lab curated Re:Generation through an open call and distributed a total of \$1 Million across ten project sites (each team received a total of \$100,000 toward its local commemorative campaign) led by local collaborative teams of artists, educators, storytellers, and organizers. Each team pursued a commemorative campaign rooted in the living history of a neighborhood, city, or region. In the Spring and Fall of 2022, Monument Lab’s Re:Generation kicked off with nationwide conversations, exhibitions, and special events. Re:Generation is supported by the Mellon Foundation’s Monuments Project.

#### **1. The More Up Campus (Montgomery, Alabama)**

In a city that both claims status as the “Cradle of the Confederacy” and “Birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement,” The More Up Campus created a holistic space where art, history, and health come together and conversations take place around the legacy of slavery, Black women’s maternal health, and reproductive justice.

- a. <https://www.instagram.com/anarchalucybetsey/>

- b. <https://people.com/health/artist-michelle-browder-is-reclaiming-history-for-the-mothers-of-gynecology/>
2. **La Doce** (Tucson, Arizona)

To contest gentrification in a major urban center within the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, La Doce envisions flipping notions of who gets honored with monuments from heroic mythical figures to local residents through the creation of “altars to barrio workers” and “sites of memory and resiliency” for a new blueprint of recognition.
3. **The Land Under the Plinth** (Los Angeles, California)

The Land Under the Plinth recovers the spaces on which monuments to colonial figures once stood and dedicate an emergent place for engagement with the Tongva community and City of Los Angeles, including a learning center, research opportunities, and new markers to uplift visions for how L.A.’s First Peoples want to project themselves into the future of this metropolis.

  - a. <https://monumentlab.com/projects/regeneration-the-land-under-the-plinth>
  - b. <https://theurbanactivist.com/idea/discovering-the-land-under-the-plinth/>
4. **The Black HerStory Initiative** (St. Louis, Missouri)

The Black HerStory Initiative of The Griot Museum uses the names of St. Louis streets to implement a commemorative reckoning movement that honors the political, social, and cultural legacies of Black women. A series of community-rich “sign shops” (aka, workshops) and community-engaged public research have culminated in co-curated public programming and herstory memory markers.

  - a. <https://news.stlpublicradio.org/culture-history/2022-10-17/black-herstory-celebrates-the-legacy-of-black-women-with-monuments-across-st-louis>
5. **Tandang Sora** (Queens, New York)

Tandang Sora spotlights the stories and lineage of care labor and immigration in Queens, the most ethnically diverse urban area in the world. The work is inspired by the legacy of Filipina revolutionary Tandang Sora and will serve as a monument to transnational care workers in the diaspora located in the heart of the New York City Filipino community.

  - a. <https://www.instagram.com/littlemanilaqueens/>
  - b. <https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/queens-community-known-for-filipino-businesses-and-culture-soon-to-be-renamed-little-manila/>
6. **ConsensIS** (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

ConsensIS summons “sisterly history” to preserve the past and present literary legacy of

Black women and femme poets in Philadelphia. By gathering stories through a survey, hosting a reunion, and prototyping historic markers, the project aims to spark new traditions that commemorate a vital creative community in a city where Black women's contributions to history are often buried under cobblestones and colonial landmarks.

- a. <https://www.instagram.com/consensusphl/>
- b. <https://billypenn.com/2022/10/14/consensus-philadelphia-black-women-poets-yolanda-wisher-trapeta-mayson/>

7. **Archivos del Caribe** (Cayey, Puerto Rico)

Archivos del Caribe, a community-based and community-led archive and literary collective, will spotlight public history across rural areas of Puerto Rico through participatory methods – oral history interviews, archival digitization of family records, and architectural surveys of Cayey's historic core – to provide a greater dimensionality to the complex past and present of this region for future generations.

- a. <https://www.instagram.com/archivosdelcaribe/>

8. **Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands Project** (Rapid City, South Dakota)

Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands Project will develop an interpretive site and memorial to protect and remember the children who died at the Rapid City Indian Boarding School, a federal assimilation school that operated from 1898 to 1933, and explore how the distribution of the school's land in the 1940s contributed to ongoing tensions within their community in the Black Hills.

- a. <https://www.rememberingthechildren.org>
- b. [https://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/boarding-school-memorial-to-be-built-in-rapid-city/article\\_45bd8185-d458-519f-9df5-241d258171d4.html](https://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/boarding-school-memorial-to-be-built-in-rapid-city/article_45bd8185-d458-519f-9df5-241d258171d4.html)

9. **Courage in the Hollers** (Matewan, West Virginia)

In the heart of central Appalachian coalfields, *Courage in the Hollers: Mapping the Miners' Struggle for a Union* will commemorate the history of labor organizing by memorializing the Battle of Blair Mountain and celebrate the collective efforts of a multiethnic, multiracial working class who stood up against oppression 100 years ago in the rural landscape where it took place. In addition to the Re:Generation grant, the Mellon Foundation has granted the team \$1,500,000 to support restoration work at the Mine Wars Museum and capital improvements and expanded programming at the West Edge Factory including a new black box theater and artist residency program.

- a. <https://wvminewars.org>

- b. <https://wvpublic.org/blair-footsteps-find-permanent-place-at-new-mine-wars-monuments/>
- c. <https://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/2022/09/01/coal-miners-labor-uprising-blair-mountain/ideas/essay/>

#### 10. **Walking With Dinétah** (Dinétah, Four Corners Region)

Walking With Dinétah co-created strategies for cultural resilience and healing through spatialized oral histories, memory work, mapmaking, and participatory art—in other words, through Hózhó náhásdlíí, or “walking in beauty.”

- a. <https://www.naatsiilid.org/>
- b. [https://www.instagram.com/naatsiilid\\_initiative/](https://www.instagram.com/naatsiilid_initiative/)

#### **Monument Lab: National Monument Audit**

The National Monument Audit, produced by Monument Lab in partnership with The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, assesses the current monument landscape across the United States. Monument Lab’s research team spent a year scouring almost a half million records of historic properties created and maintained by federal, state, local, tribal, institutional, and publicly assembled sources. For our deepest investigations, we focused on a study set of approximately 50,000 conventional monuments representing data collected from every US state and territory. The National Monument Audit allows us to better understand the dynamics and trends that have shaped our monument landscape, to pose questions about common knowledge about monuments, and to debunk falsehoods and misperceptions within public memory. The National Monument Audit is meant to inform Mellon’s landmark Monuments Project, a \$250 million investment designed to “transform the way our country’s histories are told in public spaces and ensure that future generations inherit a commemorative landscape that venerates and reflects the vast, rich complexity of the American story.”

- <https://monumentlab.com/audit>

#### **Paper Monuments**

Paper Monuments is a public art and public history project designed to elevate the voices of the people of New Orleans, as a critical process towards creating new narratives and symbols of our city that represent our collective visions, and to honor the erased histories of the people, events, movements, and places that have made up the past 300 years as we look to the future.

Modeled on the work of Philadelphia’s Monument Lab, Paper Monuments combines public pedagogy and participatory design to expand our collective understanding of New Orleans, and invites our citizens to: *Imagine new monuments for New Orleans.*

- <https://www.papermonuments.org>

### **New Orleans City Council Street Renaming Commission**

On June 18, 2020, the New Orleans City Council approved Motion M-20-170 authored by Councilmembers Kristin Gisleson Palmer and Jay H. Banks to establish the City Council Street Renaming Commission, an advisory committee to consider renaming certain streets, parks, and public places in New Orleans that honor white supremacists.

- [Report](#)

### **Untold RVA // Free Egunfemi Bangura**

In 2013, Free Egunfemi founded Untold RVA: the people's choice for the creative advancement of Richmond's most powerful self-determination narratives, hidden in plain sight throughout our city's historical urban landscape. Untold RVA's mission is to reclaim deliberately submerged public history and present it as guerilla street art installations that strategically interrupt Richmond's commemorative landscape. Free works collaboratively across sectors to inspire an increased sense of cultural citizenship and belonging made possible by weaving in elements of creative placemaking, tactical urbanism, community design, public media and archival activism.

- <https://www.visitrichmondva.com/listing/untold-rva/5530>
- <https://virginiahistory.org/research/collections/unknown-no-longer-virginia-untold>

### **Cheyenne Concepcion // New Monuments Task Force**

New Monuments Taskforce is a fantastical municipal agency engaged in the dialogue, design and development of Bay Area Monuments and Memorials. Led by a collaborative team of artists, activists, designers and cultural workers, NMT strives to broaden public understanding of local monuments and advise relative civic agencies on the removal, redesign or retention of SF's statuary symbols.

“We create space for radical research, critical conversations, political engagement and monument prototyping through artistic initiatives ranging from publications, to workshops, to exhibitions, to public art interventions. We work with public art agencies and institutions to draw out potential connections, complex motifs and timely entry points for further action.”

- <https://newmonumenttaskforce.org>
- <https://www.instagram.com/newmonumenttaskforce>

### **Kinfolk // idris brewster**

idris brewster is an artist and CEO of Kinfolk Foundation (NYC), an organization that holds public teach-ins, demonstrations, and performance pieces. Kinfolk has created augmented reality (AR)

experiences that advocate for the decolonization of history with a mission to uproot oppressive systems and reimagine public spaces through art, emerging technology and storytelling.

- <https://www.kinfolktech.org>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GJ0oC7\\_u8M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GJ0oC7_u8M)

### **Christine Wong Yap // Belonging in Palo Alto and East Palo Alto**

Christine Wong Yap (she/they) is a visual artist and social practitioner working in community engagement, drawing, printmaking, publishing, and public art to explore psychological well-being, belonging, and resilience. She has developed participatory research and public art projects in partnership with Times Square Arts, the Wellcome Trust, For Freedoms, the Othering and Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley, Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco, the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, and more. She lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area, after a decade of living in New York City.

- <https://christinewongyap.com/index.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFlen3DZVic>

### ***International/North American Project Examples***

#### **Quentin VerCetty // Black Speculative Arts Movement**

Quentin VerCetty is an award-winning, multidisciplinary visual griot (storyteller), artpreneur, art educator, activist, and an ever-growing interstellar tree based in Montreal, Canada. He is also co-founder and director of the Black Speculative Arts Movement, whose foundational work with second-wave Afrofuturism provides new, inclusive, and intersectional perspectives to reimagine public spaces. His project, Missing Black Technofossil Here uses augmented reality, digital 3D art, and printing to address the absence of monuments to black bodies in Toronto and across the Canadian landscape. The project will exhibit works of digital, imaginary monuments to local Black Canadian leaders, past and present, in futuristic community spaces. The project will facilitate workshops that engage community members to create awareness around erasure.

- <https://www.instagram.com/keepgrowingq>
- <https://www.instagram.com/bsamcanada>

#### **Sergio Beltrán-García // New's Divine Memorial**

Sergio Beltrán-García is an architect, activist, and researcher from Mexico City, Mexico. Beltrán-García engages with the aesthetic and political practices of truth elucidation,



judicialization, and non-repetition of human rights violations by using memory as an entry point. His work focuses on the design and construction of memorial processes, emphasizing memory's power to mitigate historic violences. His project, The Dispersed Memorial, responds to artificially heightened political and economic costs of memorial-building in Mexico for victims of human rights violations, the organizations which accompany them, and governments who support or oppose them. The project proposes a low-cost, modular and self-constructing memorial prototype which, assisted by mixed reality technologies, will bridge the gaps between attended and forgotten victims.

- <https://ssbeltran.com>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRNdQ5d32C0>