



# STORYTELLING EVENT HOST GUIDE



The Green Book Projek

A Tuskegee CommunityVersity Initiative

Storytelling as a means of cultural self-expression

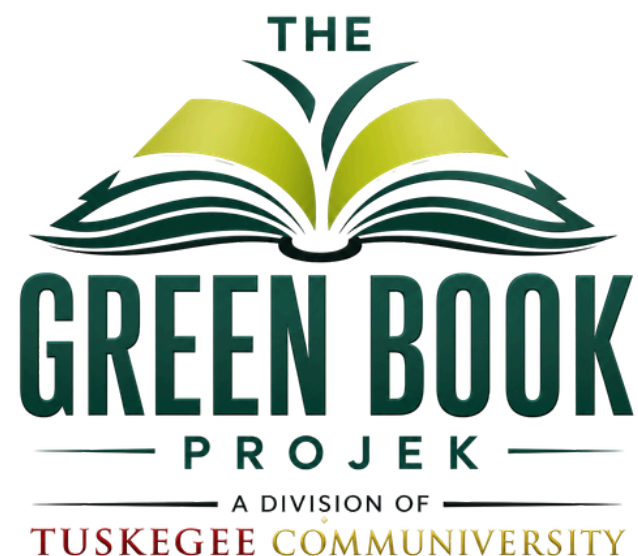


# PURPOSE OF A STORYTELLING EVENT

A storytelling event is more than a gathering. It is a way to preserve memory, honor lived experience, build community, and make sure local stories are not forgotten.

Through The Green Book Projek, storytelling events help us document the people, places, businesses, traditions, and community spaces that have shaped Tuskegee, Macon County, and surrounding communities.

These events are designed to create space for elders, business owners, families, artists, educators, students, and community members to share what they know, what they remember, and what they hope future generations will carry forward.



# WHAT MAKES THIS EVENT DIFFERENT

This is not just an open mic or a history lecture. This is a community memory experience.

The goal is to gather stories that connect:

Black-owned businesses | Local landmarks | Family traditions

Schools and churches | Barbershops and beauty salons

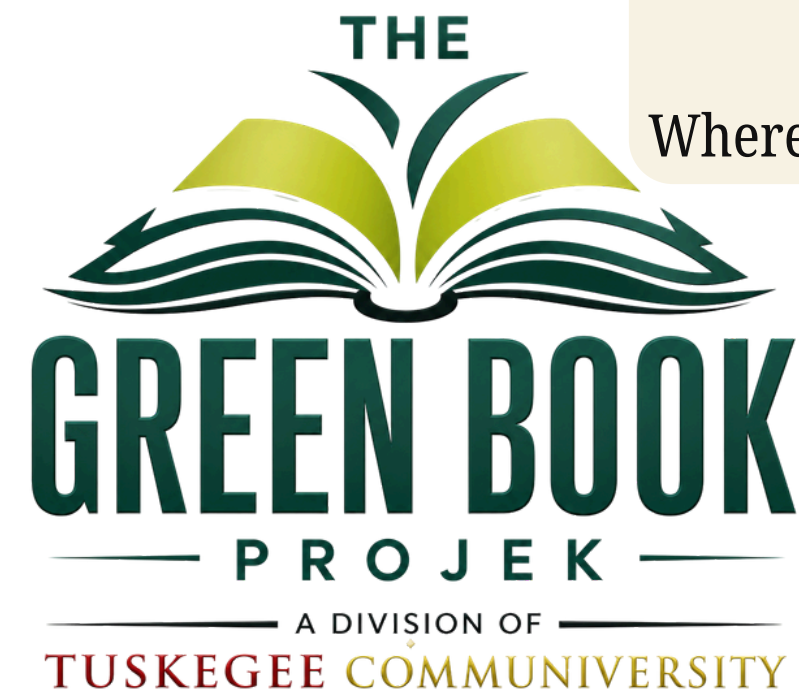
Restaurants and gathering spaces | Community leaders

Cultural memory | Economic history | Safe spaces

Places that helped people feel seen, protected, and connected

The Green Book Projek is inspired by the legacy of the original Negro Motorist Green Book, but it also asks a modern question:

Where do we go now to find safety, culture, belonging, support, and community power?



# WHO CAN HOST

A storytelling event can be hosted by anyone with care, organization, and a willingness to hold space for people's stories. You do not have to be a professional historian.

Local businesses

Churches

Schools

Community organizations

Libraries

Museums

Families

Student groups

Civic groups

Cultural workers

Neighborhood leaders

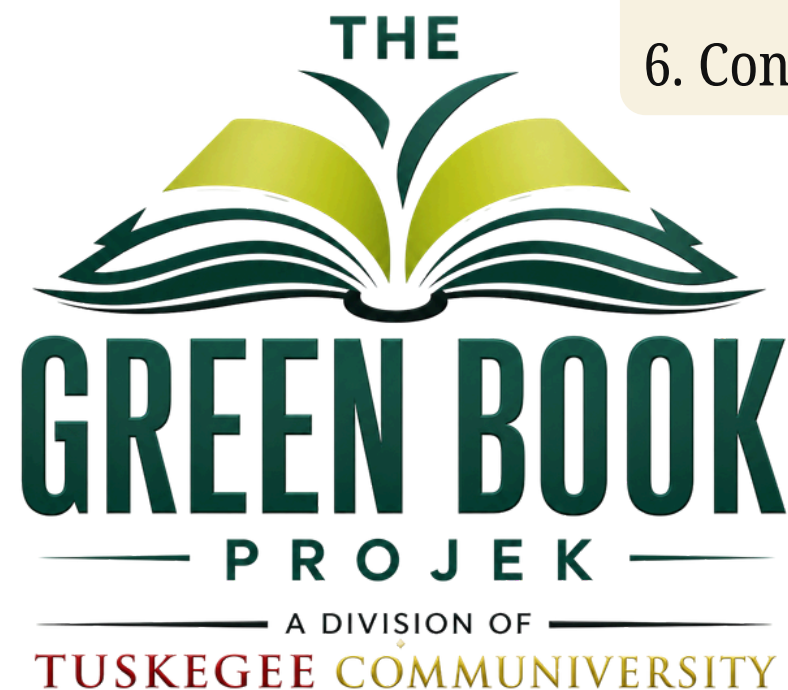
Community members



# EVENT GOALS

A strong storytelling event should aim to:

1. Create a welcoming space for people to share memories and experiences.
2. Document stories connected to local history, culture, and community life.
3. Highlight businesses, landmarks, and community spaces that deserve visibility.
4. Encourage intergenerational conversation.
5. Preserve stories that may not be found in textbooks, archives, or official records.
6. Connect storytelling to community pride, economic support, and cultural preservation.



# SUGGESTED EVENT FORMAT

1. Welcome and Purpose
2. Community Grounding
3. Storytelling Prompt Round
4. Featured Storytellers (2-4 people, 5-7 min each)
5. Open Community Sharing
6. Documentation Station
7. Closing Reflection



*Remember,  
Remember.*

“ One of the oldest forms of storytelling, oral tradition involves passing down stories through spoken word from generation to generation. This method often includes embellishments, gestures, and vocal variations to captivate listeners. ”

”



# WELCOME SCRIPT

"Thank you for being here. Today, we are gathering to honor the stories that live in our community. The Green Book Projek believes that our businesses, churches, schools, porches, kitchens, barbershops, beauty salons, and gathering spaces all hold history. This event is about listening, remembering, and preserving what makes our community powerful."

## Remind guests:

Every story matters.

Listen with respect.

Some memories may be joyful, painful, funny, or emotional.

Storytellers should only share what they feel comfortable sharing.

The goal is not perfection; the goal is preservation.



# STORYTELLING PROMPTS

## Community Memory

What place in this community holds a special memory for you?

Where did people gather when you were growing up?

What business, church, school, or community space shaped your life?

What is a place that no longer exists but should never be forgotten?

Who are the people whose stories deserve to be told?

Storytelling performances combine elements of theater, spoken word, and improvisation to engage audiences. Performers may use props, costumes, and music to enhance the storytelling experience.

In a narrative monologue, a single character recounts a story from their perspective. This can be an effective way to immerse the audience in the protagonist's thoughts and emotions.

# STORYTELLING PROMPTS

## Black Business and Local Economy

What Black-owned business do you remember supporting growing up?

What business made people feel safe, seen, or respected?

Who were the entrepreneurs, makers, cooks, builders, stylists, farmers, or shop owners people trusted?

What business today deserves more visibility and support?





# STORYTELLING PROMPTS

## Culture and Belonging



Where did people go to celebrate?

Where did people go when they needed help?

What traditions did families or neighborhoods carry?

What songs, foods, sayings, or customs remind you of this community?

What made this place feel like home?



# STORYTELLING PROMPTS

Green Book Connection



When you think about the original Green Book, what comes to mind?

What places today serve as safe spaces for our community?

Where can people go now to find culture, care, and connection?

What places should be included in a modern Green Book for this area?



# STORYTELLING PROMPTS

## Future Generations



What do you want young people to know about this community?

What story should never be erased?

What places should future generations protect?

What does community power look like to you?



# HOST TIPS



A good host should:

Welcome people warmly

Keep the event moving without rushing people

Make elders feel honored

Make young people feel invited

Listen more than they talk

Repeat important names or places so they are documented clearly

Be gentle with emotional stories

Thank every person who shares

Protect the dignity of the community

# AFTER THE EVENT

After the storytelling event, hosts should:

Collect sign-in sheets and story cards

Save photos, notes, and recordings

Follow up with people who want to be interviewed

Submit business or community space recommendations

Share a thank-you message with attendees

Identify stories that could become features, interviews, or archive entries

Reflect on what themes came up during the event



# MEMORY INTO LEGACY

The most powerful stories are often the ones that were never written down.

The Green Book Projek exists to make sure our community is seen, remembered, supported, and preserved.

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A Tuskegee CommuniVersity Initiative



We can't wait to see & hear your stories!

