

Are you a survivor of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita? If so, consider participating in the following project.

Hurricane survivors who were displaced to the Houston area: do you want to tell your story? Do you want to share your thoughts on your new home and your old community?

We are looking for survivors who want to tell their stories or who want to interview and record other survivors.

We are interested in learning about the community where you lived before Katrina forced you to move away. What was it like? What do you miss about it?

We also want to learn about what happened during the disaster. Were you able to stick together with family and friends, or were you separated from loved ones? Did you form bonds with strangers during the disaster?

We also want to know about your new life. Who are your new friends and neighbors? How are you getting along? Are you planning to return to your old home or stay here? What do you want for your future?

These interviews are being organized through a project involving representatives of the American Folklife Center and the University of Houston. We are hoping to learn about the impact of Katrina through the words of the survivors themselves. The stories recorded in Houston will go to the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and the University of Houston, where they will be made available to researchers and survivors.

We realize that many of these topics are likely to be painful to talk about. If you don't feel like sharing your thoughts and feelings in a public interview, or making your words part of the public record, please do not participate in this project. If you decide to take part in an interview, but change your mind as the interview is in progress, please feel welcome to end the interview on the spot and withdraw from the project. If, during the interview you say something that, on second thought, you would rather not share with the public for any reason, please inform the interviewer before signing the permission form, and we will see to it that that particular part of the interview is erased.

If you are interested in being interviewed, please fill out and sign the form below. If you are interested in serving as an interviewer, you will be asked to take part in a week long field school during which you will acquire and use skills that could help you in future jobs. Then you will conduct interviews and process the interviews by making logs and transcriptions. Later, you may also be involved in editing the interviews or helping to make programs based on the interviews.

Name _____

Current Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone number _____

I am interested in sharing my stories and thoughts about my experiences before, during, and since the hurricane emergencies. Please contact me for an interview.

Signature _____ Date _____

Return to Carl Lindahl, Department of English, University of Houston, Houston, TX 77204-3013

