



HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of* WASHINGTON, D.C.

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IN REAL TIME Initiative Invites Public to Collect COVID-19 History

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., invites the public to reflect on this moment of pandemic and disruption and help record it for the future.

Collecting documentation of daily life in Washington is the on-going job of the Historical Society. The media and official government repositories will document each public step in this crisis. But it is up to D.C. residents and those who work here to help future historians and students of the past understand what it was like to live each day through this unprecedented disruption of modern life.

"The Historical Society's collections are an invaluable record of our past," said Executive Director Laura Brower Hagood. "We're constantly adding new material, but we've never put out a specific call like **In Real Time**. We all sense that COVID-19 will change how we experience our daily lives and understand our community. While we are in the thick of this moment and can't see the full picture yet, **In Real Time** will help us document this shift and take stock of what it means."

The public can participate via www.dchistory.org/in-real-time in a variety of activities. Many submissions will eventually be added to the permanent collections of the Historical Society.

At the moment, the public can:

- Respond to short surveys designed to capture specific experiences. Each week the Historical Society will release a new set of questions or prompts. These will be posted regularly on dchistory.org and via social media.
- Photograph experiences and evidence of the disruptions, and share via Instagram ([#washingtoniansathome](https://www.instagram.com/washingtoniansathome), tag [@dchistory](https://www.instagram.com/dchistory)).
- Submit original high-resolution photos and copies of artworks via email to collections@dchistory.org, including caption, ward location, and date.

In the longer run, the public can:

- Maintain a journal, either pen on paper or in a digital form.
- Designate a space at home or at work to collect physical materials appropriate for a Covid-19 time capsule, including, for example, an empty, labelled hand sanitizer bottle produced by a local distillery or warning signs on social distancing (signs that are not in current use).

The Historical Society will continue **In Real Time** for the duration of the pandemic. The physical materials can be given to the Historical Society to assess once it is open again to the public.

The public is invited to send questions and ideas to collections@dchistory.org. To stay in touch, please sign up for our regular newsletter at <https://bit.ly/2XyVluu> and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram ([@dchistory](https://www.instagram.com/dchistory)).

ABOUT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), community-supported educational and research organization that collects, interprets, and shares the history of our nation's capital in order to promote a sense of identity, place and pride in our city and preserve its heritage for future generations. Founded in 1894, the Historical Society serves a diverse audience through its collections, public programs, exhibitions, and publications. It welcomes visitors to its new home, the DC History Center, on the second floor of the historic Carnegie Library.

ABOUT THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY at Mount Vernon Square

The Carnegie Library building remains the property of the D.C. government, and is managed by Events DC, the city's convention and sports authority. The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. holds a 99-year lease on its space and shares the beautifully restored building with its co-tenant, Apple, which generously provided for the restoration. For more information, see dchistory.org