

**Let's Create
Together:
Better Practices
in Community
History**

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Mrs. Flonzie Brown Wright, Jackson, MS, interviewed by Akánké Mason-Hogans, Ajamu Dillahunt-Holloway, Nsé Ufot 2021

Consent not release

Your interview is yours. Your copyright. Your context. Your control. Filmmakers or journalists or scholars not willing to give you that copyright will give you a “release form” not a “consent form.” Think carefully before signing a “release.”

money talks

Fanny Garcia's article findings

Labor of love project example:	Funded projects example:
Family member is doing interview of you	Everyone else on the project is getting paid or getting course credit, and your story is central to the work
You and a friend are working together on a project and interview others in a similar situation	You have to spend your time, transport funds, cell phone/computer costs to share your story
Your compensation: creating community, lineage	Your compensation: Somewhere between \$50-\$125/hr.

How a project usually gets started

University-process, filmmaker process

1. Individual filmmaker or scholar comes up with an idea, pitches it to funders;
 2. Asks other people if they want to participate;
 3. Decides on deliverables (Is it a film or docu-series? Is it interviews? Is it a book or website?)
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INSTEAD: How to treat people like I'd like to be treated in a university setting:

- **Money:** Invite everyone key to the project **at the beginning**. Who is invited to the table to write the budget? Who provides the funding and what are their rules? Who gets paid and who decides this?
- **Consent:** Who writes the consent agreement? Can we change our minds? **Yes**. If yes, when?
- **Ownership:** Who owns these stories? Who can use them? How can they be used? Who profits from this work? **Those most impacted decide these questions. Full Stop.**

Memory Work: Budget

- Who **writes** the budget?
 - Who knows how to write it up in specific form?
 - Who is around the table making sure everyone is included, and compensated for their time and knowledge?
- Who **provides** the funding?
 - Government funding has restrictions (no food, no alcohol, limited travel)
 - Foundation funding has different restrictions that change with each funder
- Who **administers** the funds?
 - Are they accountable to someone on your team?
 - Do they have the relationships with the business office structure to get people the funds they need, and on time?
- Who gets **paid**?
 - Paid as a consultant? Paid as staff with no benefits? Or paid as staff with benefits?
 - What are the university rules about who gets paid? Can they be changed?

Memory Work: Consent

- Who writes the consent agreement?
- What are the keys to a good agreement?
 - Copyright owned by **narrator**
 - Creative Commons license
- Can we change our minds? If yes, when? **You should be always able to do this**
- Who maintains consent over long time - how to hold organizations accountable?
 - Write it into the consent form
 - Keep copies of the consent form **findable** for you and your heirs

Memory Work: Ownership

- Who owns these stories?
- Who presents these stories, and to what audiences?
- Who can use them?
- How can they be used?
- Who profits from this work?

University, journalist, and film people's work:

Give Up Control

- Share values, end goal, vision
- Move with integrity
- **Overshare** information (build trust through transparency)
- **Explain** how the systems work/don't work
- Be open to other people's ways to get to vision + end goal
- Be open to learning other **methods** to embody values

Community-based people's work:

Work on Trust

- Is this university-based person acting with the **golden rule** in mind? How can I tell?
- Am I seeing this university-based person **act** consistently trustable over time? Are they consistently **transparent**?
- Is this university-based person **open** to other ways of working?

recap

Consent forms, not “release” forms	Money Talk (budget, payment for narrator)
Ownership: who controls the story	Trust: am i acting as a trustworthy partner? Trust: is the filmmaker or scholar acting as a trustworthy + transparent partner

Thank you to the Women of the Civil Rights Movement in Chapel Hill for making the way for us and for inviting us today.