



For Immediate Release

New York Folklore Society

December 8, 2012

The New York Folklore Society invites interested members of the public to attend an information session and Open House for the Schenectady Community Cultural Documentation Project, a collaborative project of the New York Folklore Society and the Schoharie River Center. The Open House will take place on Sunday, December 16, 2012, from 2:00–4:30 p.m. and will include a performance and drumming workshop by Ghanaian drummer, Zorkie Nelson at 3:00 p.m. The program is scheduled to take place at the McChesney Room of the Schenectady County Public Library, downtown branch.

The Open House will showcase the work of the Environmental Study Team of the Schoharie River Center. The Environmental Study Team is a youth development program which trains youth in the skills of scientific and cultural documentation. A component of the Environmental Study Team is the Community Cultural Documentation Project which is in its second year working with youth to document their community's heritage and culture through audio and video. Through this program, teens have the opportunity to explore and document the rich physical and cultural landscape of their own communities, while gaining practical academic and career skills.

The Schoharie River Center and the New York Folklore Society invite youth to consider joining the program to begin in early January 2013. Project participants will be working towards compiling various sorts of inventories of Schenectady, documenting their findings, and then presenting their findings to the greater public. Staff of the New York Folklore Society will train youth participants in skills necessary for community documentation, including interviewing techniques; fieldwork; video, audio, and photo documentation; and presentation. The Community Cultural Documentation program will culminate in a public program created and presented by youth participants.

If you are interested in working with others in a team to learn about creating video portraits and collecting Schenectady's stories, this program is for you! The information session will be held on Sunday, December 16, 2012 from 2:00–4:30 p.m. at the McChesney Room of the Schenectady Public Library, Downtown Branch. Parents and guardians are welcome. Come meet current and former participants. Refreshments will be served.

This program is made possible through a grant from the William Gundry Broughton Charitable Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.