

HUI MO'OLELO FIELD GUIDE

Talk Story With Someone Who Knows Lāhainā

Hui Mo'olelo means “gathering of stories.” In this project, students help record stories connected to Lāhainā that become part of a growing community archive and may help inspire future public art, memorials, and places of reflection. Your role is simple but important: Listen carefully. Record respectfully. Help carry a story forward.

Step 1. Choose Your Talk–Story Partner

Invite someone who has a meaningful connection to Lāhainā. This could be a grandparent or kūpuna; a parent, aunty, or uncle; a longtime friend of your family; a neighbor or community member. The goal is to talk with someone who can share memories, experiences, or hopes for Lāhainā. Schedule a time when you can sit together without rushing.

Step 2. Prepare Your Questions

Before your meeting:

Choose 4–5 questions from the list

Write them down or save them on your phone

Be ready to ask follow-up questions if something interesting comes up. Remember: Good storytelling grows from good listening.

Step 3. Set Up a Good Recording Space

Find a quiet and comfortable place. **Best environments** may be rooms with rugs, couches, or curtains; calm indoor spaces with little background noise. **Avoid:** wind, loud appliances or fans, music or TV interruptions. **Helpful tip:** Some students place a “Recording in Progress” note on the door.

Step 4. Start Recording

Open the Voice Memos or a Voice Recorder app on your phone. At the beginning of the recording, say: Your **name** Your **age or grade** The **date** The **place** where you are. Then ask your partner to introduce themselves the **same way**. Example: *"My name is Kai. I'm in 10th grade. Today is April 14, and we are in Kahului. I'm here with my uncle David."*

Step 5. Record Your Talk Story

Use your selected **prompts** to guide the conversation. Let stories unfold naturally. Ask follow-up questions if something is interesting. Listen without interrupting. Aim for about **40 minutes** of conversation. This length helps people relax into storytelling while keeping the recording focused.

Step 6. When You Are Pau

When the conversation ends:

Thank your talk-story partner

Take a **photo** of the two of you together

Make sure the consent **form** is signed

Submit all to taskforce@mauipublicart.org

Sample Questions

Choose 4–5 or create your own.

Memories of Lāhainā

- When you think about Lāhainā when you were younger, what sounds, smells, or images come to mind?
- Are there places in Lāhainā that hold special meaning for you or your family?
- What did a perfect day in Lāhainā feel like?

Community and Change

- What traditions or everyday gatherings make Lāhainā feel unique?
- Were there changes over the years that made it harder for the community to stay connected?
- What lessons from the past could guide the future?

Remembering and Moving Forward

- When you think about what was lost, what do you feel still lives on in spirit?
- If there were a place for remembrance in Lāhainā, what would make it feel safe and comforting?
- When people gather in Lāhainā again someday, what do you hope it will feel like?

Permissions

Hui Mo‘olelo Interview Permission

The Hui Mo‘olelo Project is a storytelling initiative created by Maui Public Art Corps and the County of Maui. Its purpose is to help preserve the stories, memories, and cultural knowledge of Maui communities so they can be shared, remembered, and passed forward. These recordings may help inspire future public art, memorial spaces, exhibitions, or educational programs.

What Participation Means

During this project: The conversation will be audio recorded. The recording may be archived and shared online as a free educational resource. Artists may listen to excerpts as inspiration for future public art or memorial projects. The story may be shared in community events, educational materials, or exhibitions

Participation is Voluntary

Participants may: skip any question, pause or stop recording at any time, request their story be shared anonymously.

Stories collected through Hui Mo‘olelo are used only for cultural, educational, and community purposes and never for commercial use.

By signing below, the participant gives Maui Public Art Corps and the County of Maui permission to: archive the interview, share it publicly for educational purposes, share excerpts with artists creating public artwork, use the participant’s voice, name, photograph, and story in connection with this project. Participants will be credited when their stories are shared. This permission supports the preservation of Maui’s stories for the community and future generations.

Participant Name & Date _____ **Signature** _____

Contact (Mailing or Phone or Email) _____

Student Name _____

Parent/ Guardian Name & Date _____ **Signature** _____

Contact (Mailing or Phone or Email) _____