

# About the Community Memory Coalition

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In a joint effort from a coalition of professionals, survivors, and the community impacted by the May 14, 2022 racist massacre, we are collecting, documenting, and preserving an intentional and authentic record of the horrific event that occurred. We come together to create an inclusive model for shared stewardship to benefit current and future generations. This work is a process of discovery to encourage awareness of systemic racism and to inspire actions to dismantle it.

This collection work will include, but is not limited to, oral history recordings and the preservation of mementos that will create a repository of collective memory. The Coalition seeks to confront the systemic impacts of white supremacy on Buffalo's Black communities both related to, and beyond, May 14th, through active and intentional documentation.

Remembering is an ongoing process, and we will demonstrate to current and future generations our commitment to creating an account of the tragedy that took the lives of ten innocent people, wounded three others, and forever changed the history of our city.

**5/14 Buffalo Massacre**  
**Community Memory Coalition**  
Confronting white supremacy

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## More information

### Get involved



[BIT.LY/514BMCMC](https://bit.ly/514BMCMC)

### Learn more



[BIT.LY/514BMCMC2](https://bit.ly/514BMCMC2)

MAY 14  
BUFFALO  
MASSACRE  
COMMUNITY  
MEMORY  
COALITION

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## Oral History: telling your story

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The Oral History Project is collecting the stories of survivors and family members of the attack, residents of the East Side of Buffalo, first responders, and others affected by this horrific event in their own words.

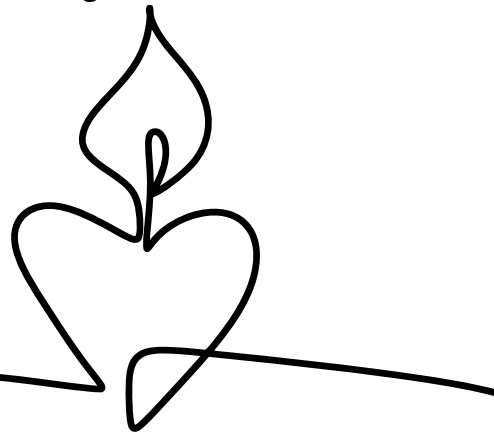
In cooperation with mindful interviewers, the Project will create a community-driven audio collection at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, ensuring that those who share their stories feel safe, empowered, and cared for throughout the experience. This project seeks to honor the memory of those lost on May 14th, while also making space for stories to be told about the larger, systemic issues about race.

This multi-faceted project will allow for stories to be shared in a variety of ways. Some interviews will be conducted in a more traditional one-on-one format, but we will also train people to conduct interviews themselves. The project's goal is to ensure that those who gather and share their stories feel safe, empowered, and cared for throughout the experience.

To that end, we have developed informed consent forms allowing for the person being interviewed to retain power over what happens to their story.

Once an interview is recorded and donated to the Library, interviews will be processed in accordance with digital collections best practices. The edit and review process will be done with input from the person being interviewed, who will give final approval before the interview is made available to the public.

A list of all available interviews will be created and added over time. Depending on the wishes of the interviewee, some interviews will be available online while others may only be available on-site in the Library. Those available online will be uploaded to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's website at [www.buffalolib.org](http://www.buffalolib.org).



## Collecting objects: tangible memories

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Objects are tangible connections to those who have been lost or taken from us. We honor them through preservation of these pieces connected to them, whether of something special to those we loved, memorials left in their honor, or photographic documentation of lives lived.

In the fall of 2022, memorial items left at the TOPS Supermarket vigil site were collected by the Buffalo PeaceKeepers and taken to be preserved at the Buffalo History Museum. That work of collecting and caring for items related to this tragedy has continued ever since, but the History Museum also welcomes donations to develop the collection further.

The Buffalo History Museum will preserve and care for many items, mementos, and objects, including:

1. Objects of personal significance to the victims
2. Newspaper clippings and articles
3. Journals
4. Photographs
5. Reflections
6. Various forms of media
7. Funeral programs or other ephemera