

The Peale Stories: Terms of Use

Mission

The Peale is home to a large collection of Baltimore stories. We have spent several years renovating first museum building in the United States, established by artist Rembrandt Peale in 1814, to provide a showcase for the city's storytellers that honors their importance and historical value. Our mission is to ensure the whole story of the city is told. We listen to and hear from people of all walks of life to produce and share narratives of the city, its places, and the diverse residents who have made Baltimore what it is today. By amplifying community voices, we're helping people everywhere see Baltimore in a new light.

Our Archive

The Peale is building a multi-platform archive of Baltimore stories, using the current technology to document and search digital assets. Once recorded, all stories—regardless of length, “quality,” or storyteller background—are given identifying numbers and added to a queue to be entered into our digital assessment management system. The archive is currently under construction and will continue to be refined as time, resources, and technology allows. As The Peale's archive grows, we make reasonable efforts to adhere to museum best practices to ensure the long-term survival of the story collection.

Platforms for Distribution

The Peale regularly publishes and posts stories to a variety of platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, SoundCloud, YouTube, and TikTok. We occasionally post to Vimeo and LinkedIn, though not on a regular basis. We also publish stories to the Be Here Stories iOS app and webApp, both easily clickable from our website at <https://www.thepeale.org>. As future cloud-based platforms become available—either as social media or with web-based, searchable archives like Aviary or the Internet Archive, The Peale reserves the right to share story content in the attempt to further amplify Baltimore voices. To that end, in some cases, we also share stories with trusted educational partners such as Maryland Humanities, the Smithsonian, the Baltimore Museum of Industry, or others. Storytelling partners are established as program and funding needs dictate.

Removing Your Story

If at any point, a storyteller wishes to remove their story from digital circulation, they need only email us at online@thePealeCenter.org to delete their story from the archive. A storyteller will need to know roughly when they recorded their story and what the story was about for us to retrieve it from the archive, especially in the absence of a named/cited storyteller.

Rights and Permissions

The Peale's interviewers and digital platforms for recording include terms of use or rights and permissions forms which storytellers should agree to before recording. Unfortunately, stories without proper rights and permissions may not always be included in our archive. A summary of those rights and permissions is included below:

- I am responsible for the content of my story and any consequences of the said content.
- I own the copyright to my story, but I give the Peale and its educational partners freedom to use my story for any educational, promotional, or other standard museum-related purpose, in any media now known or later developed, including sharing on social media platforms.
- By submitting content, I waive any privacy expectations I may have with regard to the submitted content. Do not submit any content or personally identifiable information that you do not want made public.
- My story will be IN COPYRIGHT, with Educational Use Permitted. This rights statement can be used only for copyrighted items for which the organization has been explicitly authorized by the rights-holder to allow third parties to use their works for educational purposes. More information: <https://rightsstatements.org/page/InC-EDU/1.0/?language=en>
- If I am under 18 years old, I have the consent of my parent or guardian to participate. Please include the name and signature of guardian.
- Unless otherwise agreed, I understand that there will be no residual or any other type of payment, royalty or fee due in connection with the rights granted herein.
- I give the Peale permission to archive my story in their own archive or in an educational archive yet determined in the future.
- The Peale is not liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, special consequential or punitive damages that arise out of a story or the use of a story.
- I agree that any recordings, photos, or text I upload will become part of the Be Here Stories/Baltimore Stories project.
- I authorize and provide a free license to the Peale for my contributions to be used by the project and its partners for this and related educational purposes in perpetuity.

For other platforms and storytelling programs, release forms can be found here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfD7n2qVq3DhmQyOZoviGkW5h-s7Qpldj8WE0akDLJ54dd2XA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Copyright

Storytellers own the copyright to their story, but they give The Peale and its educational partners freedom to use the story for any educational, promotional, or other standard museum-related purpose, in any media now known or later developed, including sharing on social media platforms. What this means is that we may publish the story on Twitter (or other third-party media platforms) or post it SoundCloud without getting express permission from the storyteller.

Editing Content

The Peale retains absolute editorial control over a submitted story, though The Peale makes reasonable efforts to ensure that the original intent of the conversation or statement is preserved. Storytellers do not receive a copy of the edited material for approval before publication, but they may request a final copy of their interview or statement along with a transcript, if desired.

Timing, Publication, and Moderation

When storytellers record their narratives on the free Be Here Stories webapp or on The Peale's website, audio recordings go directly to our database and are considered live and retrievable by the public. It may take up to 72 hours for content to be moderated by Peale staff. Recordings of a questionable nature (those which might be deemed as inappropriate or hateful) will be "unpublished" from the public record though they may be retained for legal purposes in our institutional archive. Recordings which are submitted by other means (sent by email, recorded with an interviewer, etc.) are immediately assessed for their content.

Protecting your Identity: Why We Ask for Your name and Contact Information

A story can be a very personal extension of ourselves, and while we encourage complete honesty and authenticity, we ask people not to share details that they would not feel comfortable posting publicly, that might harm or otherwise endanger storytellers or related parties. Our general philosophy, in accordance with the Oral History Association, is "do no harm." Details for storytellers consider include personally identifiable information (PII) like your address, the names and ages of minors in your household, your religious or political party affiliation, etc. For sensitive content, we ask that storytellers only share what they deem appropriate. Please do not include personal information in your recording or written submission. This includes sensitive financial, legal, or medical data.

At the same time, we encourage storytellers—particularly those who may record testimonials on their own through our app and video platform—to include viable contact information so that we may confirm with you that we have received your story and add essential details to the archive. Such details will not be made public but will greatly enhance the value of the historical record and our archive. For example, if you were looking for a recording your grandmother made in 2003, it would be very difficult to retrieve it if she had never shared her name. This content—the biographical details, date of recording, keywords, etc.—make up what is known as item's "metadata." This data is crucial for the long-term preservation of recordings.

Historical Accuracy and Opinions

The Peale does not corroborate details provided by storytellers, nor do we verify or affirm that stories are historically accurate. Our storytelling platforms provide an opportunity for individuals to share their thoughts, opinions, and anecdotes. However, the opinions and ideas expressed by individual storytellers may not necessarily be those maintained by The Peale. Individual storytellers and their collaborators are solely responsible for the content of their narratives and stories. The Peale reserves the right to remove content that violates copyright, trademark, or intellectual property, or promotes impersonation, unlawful conduct, harassment, or hate speech. In the event that information in a published story is contested, The Peale reserves the right to temporarily remove the story from public view, but it cannot guarantee that digital copies of a story have not been distributed by others. Claims should be sent to online@ThePeale.org with an explanation as to the reasoning of the dispute. We can arbitrate conflicts between parties.

Verbal Consent

Occasionally, visitors to the Peale share a story or offer a testimonial on the spot. If verbal consent is offered, our storytelling ambassadors and staff may record the story for future social media, web, and archival use. In this case, there may be limited paper or digital records of the storyteller's consent. If a storyteller wishes to remove their story from the archive, they need only email us at online@thePealeCenter.org to delete their story from the archive. A storyteller will need to know roughly when they recorded their story and what the story was about for us to retrieve it from the archive.

Public Programs and Recordings

Artists, storytellers, and others are often featured in public programs at The Peale. Those participating in public programs should be aware that events are often recorded and published online on platforms such as YouTube and Facebook, among others. Participants—those being featured (storytellers, artists, historians, etc.) and registrants in the audience—may be visible or heard in recordings. Please inform the staff at The Peale ahead of time if you wish to be omitted from any public recording. Such content—photographs, audio and video recordings—are also added to The Peale's digital archive database(s) for long-term keeping and historical reference.

Removal or Non-Publication from Archive

The Peale's storytelling platforms provide an opportunity for people to share their thoughts, opinions, and anecdotes. However, the opinions and ideas expressed by individual storytellers may not necessarily be those maintained by The Peale. Individual storytellers and their collaborators are solely responsible for the content of their narratives and stories. The Peale reserves the right to remove content that

violates copyright, trademark, or intellectual property, or promotes impersonation, unlawful conduct, harassment, or hate speech. Storytellers will not be notified in the event a story is removed from the archive or not initially published.