**Family History Project**

Many of you may think of your family history as a tree of people with branches connected to different people who are connected to even more people and so on. Although these names are an important part of this project, your family history is so much more than names on a paper. Each of these people has a life story. It is these stories that tell your family history.

Where did you get your attitude? Where did you get your nose? What happened throughout time that made you into the person you are today? When you learn more about your family history, you will find answers to questions about yourself that you didn’t even know you were curious about. You may also uncover some really interesting information about connections to events and people in history.

How do you uncover these stories?

1. Tell your family about the project.
2. Ask your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and any other relatives about the people who came before them. If you were adopted, ask your guardians what they are comfortable sharing and decide if you are ready to explore that part of your life. If not, start your story with those who care for you now and those who came before them.
3. Ask what these people did. Ask about the hardships and successes in their lives. Look for the stories that were shared as an oral tradition over the years.
4. Record or take notes as people tell you stories. You don’t need every word… Just create bulleted notes.
5. See how far back you can record your family history. Where did your name originate? How long has your family been American? Remember that every story is a new vein of information that can help shed light on what makes you the person you are today.
6. Find out when and why your family ended up in San Antonio and what keeps you here today.

Even the smallest and simplest of stories can be the most important pieces of information about your family history. Knowing who you are is just as important as knowing who you want to be. I hope you approach this project not just as an assignment, but as a mission to uncover a great mystery. If you pour yourself into uncovering this information, you will love the process of discovery and learn so much about yourself in the process.

The stories that you collect are going to be used as inspiration for the creation of a large scale ceramic sculpture. Your story and your art piece will become a part of San Antonio’s shared history. A collection of stories that come together as a 40’ tree of life. A collection of stories that make up the community of San Antonio.