

ART AND COMMUNITY: STORY CIRCLE GATHERING

CALLING ALL ARTISTS AND NEIGHBORS!

Saturday, December 9, 2:00-5:00 pm

Hill Street Baptist Church (111 Madison Ave NW Roanoke, VA 24016)

Join us in this gathering to learn about Story Circles and explore the role of the Arts in our community. We will learn the history and practice of Story Circles as a tool for community engagement and will engage in Story Circles to reflect on our learnings from the past three years of community engagement and development through the Arts. Through the gathering, you will learn how to lead a Story Circle and explore ways to apply this tool in our community. Insights from our story sharing will serve as a starting point for the planning process for the Roanoke Arts and Culture Plan! Light refreshments will be provided.

The gathering will be facilitated by Bob Leonard, Professor of Theatre in the Virginia Tech School of Performing Arts Theatre and Cinema and Senior Fellow with the Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance. Katie Trozzo, Roanoke Artist Resident, is hosting this gathering and she along with fellow Roanoke Artist Residents will be supporting with facilitation!

REGISTER TO ATTEND

<https://tinyurl.com/storycirclesDec9>

WHAT IS A STORY CIRCLE?

Story Circles are essentially a small group of people sitting in a circle telling their stories, led by a Story Circle facilitator. This tool was developed by John O'Neal in 1963 as a way to build trust between volunteers and communities in Mississippi to support the voter registration work of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. Story Circles have since been applied in a variety of community contexts as a way for people to get to know one another "on an even playing field," learn new perspectives, build trust, and grow relationships. We invite you to watch this short video to learn more about story circles from John.

INFO ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

roanokearts.org/story

FACILIAATOR BIO

Bob Leonard is a theatre maker, writer, teacher, and arts organizer at Virginia Tech, where he advises the MFA program in Applied Theatre and Public Dialogue. He has directed numerous productions and led community projects, including Building Home with the New River Valley Regional Commission and the historic Christiansburg Institute. From 1975 to 1998, Leonard founded and directed The Road Company, creating over 20 original plays. He co-authored Performing Communities and co-founded the Community Arts Network. Leonard is also a founding board member of Alternate ROOTS and the Network of Ensemble Theaters (NET).

