Historical Memory Project for Segundo Montes Community Project Proposal

Location

Segundo Montes, Morazan, El Salvador, Central America

General Objective

To reconstruct the historical memory of the Segundo Montes community, and create a book, a documentary and a digital library.

Beneficiaries and Participants

Population of Segundo Montes, those affected as a consequence of the civil war
Public that desire to learn more

About the Community

Segundo Montes, Morazán (also called Community Segundo Montes or Segundo Montes City) is a rural community in Morazán Department, El Salvador, formed in 1990 by 10,000 repatriated refugees who had fled the country’s civil war. The refugee camp that they lived in was in Colomoncagua, Honduras and they spent almost 10 years there. This part of Morazán was very active during the war and many atrocities happened to the inhabitants and between military and guerrillas. Most families were severely affected by the numerous massacres and devastation of the land, but since then the community has been dedicated to development and progress.
Social Impact

This is not just a project for the production of media. The impact of memory work can have a variety of effects on survivors when they choose to remember and publicly document, assess and recognize the past and the particularly violent acts that have violated international humanitarian law and human rights.

The acts of political violence are intentional events caused by others who pursue specific interests, and are usually very painful and frightening sudden events. To reconstruct the history of the facts and allow for different voices to describe and explain what happened is a valuable resource that can help identify the responsibilities of the facts: who did what, how and why. The identification of the responsible party contributes to understanding what happened and prevent violence. Ultimately, this can help to reduce or eliminate survivor's guilt.

The reconstruction of the historical memory of traumatic events has the potential to rebuild social networks and facilitate the grieving process through contributing to the psychosocial well-being of the community. Giving collective sense of the past can potentially rebuild the social fabric and help rebuild a sense of purpose as members of a community and help rebuild personal life projects. Recognizing one's own history within the history of others is directly related to the task of rebuilding trust.

Lastly, rebuilding history allows recovery of the biographies of the dead and rescuing their dignities.
Goals and Objectives

Collective Memory Work
The collective memory workshops will be organized into groups in community spaces and filmed with permission. The point of these workshops are to brainstorm what memories to tell, how to tell them and then how to reconstruct the collective past. Each group will have the opportunity to meet and share their personal travel between their peers and decided what part of that journey is worthy of being put in this. This is also a collection of facts and figures, remembered by survivors.

Stories and Media Collection
The survivors will have the opportunity to record their own accounts through audio interviews, video interviews, and/or written statements.

Old video footage, old photographs, old audio interviews and old music will be copied and used with permission.

Production and Presentation
Community members are very much involved in the managment of the project and the post-production process in order to assist in the authentication of the collective past.

The book of collective and personal history and a documentary of the project will be ready to be presented in November 2014.

A digital library will begin with this collection to help store, organize and spread the history of the community for it’s members, it’s next generation, academics and truth seekers.
Community Participation

The community itself will manage the process in the following trained teams:

**Facilitators:**
- 2 facilitators will be in charge of one collective memory workshop at a time.
- They will be responsible for registering the information collected in workshops.

**Interviewers:**
- They will spend no more than 2 hours with each person.
- They will use a voice recorder, a notebook or a computer to record the personal stories of the people.
- They will register every interview.

**Archive Team:**
- El Barreal and San Luis will each have its own dedicated archive box.
- They will collect, review, catalog and scan each piece of material.
- The team will then return the material to the contributors.

**Emotional Support:**
- One will be present at each workshop.
- They will be available to provide emotional support for the community.

**Apoyo Juventud:**
- They will give constant support to all the teams.
- They will help type up the testimonials and organize the data.
Professional Emotional Support

More than anything, this project is an emotional process. Because of this, I have invited four women from San Salvador to provide emotional support workshops to all the teams.

Irma Estrada, Salvadoran from Santa Tecla:
Masage Therapist, ChromaTherapy

Nis Odeim, Chilena from Puerto Cisnes Chile:
Theatre of the Oppressed Facilitator, Drama Therapist

Vane Ti Ti, Salvadoran from San Salvador:
Holistic Oils and Plants Healer, Therapist

Rocío Sánchez, Spaniard from Madrid
Art Therapist

Solidarity

1. A Delegation to Segundo Montes in the month of November 2014
   • Visit the site of the Refugee camp and other historical sites related to the war.
   • Get to know the culture and people of Segundo Montes
   • Participate in the events in November that commemorate the repatriation.

2. Invite community members to the USA to share their stories.
   • Book presentations and documentary screenings followed by discussion panels as well as book readings.
   • Hold conversations in relevant spaces about collective memory work.
Total Budget = $951*

1. **(5) Collective Memory Workshops: $340.00**
   30 Participants, 2 Facilitators, 1 Emotional Support
   Instructional Materials (paper, markers, pens, 6 notebooks) =$10
   Lunches and Snacks ($2.00 x 33 people x 5 taller) =$330

2. **(1) Preparation Workshop: $65**
   Materials (photocopies) =$5
   Lunches ($2.00 x 30 x 1 workshop) =$60

3. **(4) Self-Help Workshops: $451**
   Materials (photocopies) =$20
   Cost for the facilitators = $175 (work y transportation)
   Lunches and Snack ($2.00 x 32 x 4 workshops) =$256

4. **Archive Collection: $55**
   UA large plastic box, folders, sticky notes, pens and pencils = $15
   Money to photocopy and scan documents = $40

5. **Interviewers: $40**
   Voice recorder =$25
   Materials (paper, pens, notebooks) =$15

* DOES NOT INCLUDE THE BOOK PUBLISHING.