

D.C. Communities and Their Creation of Identity – Oral History Turned Digital History

Goal:

The goal of this project was to create a database of sorts where oral histories conducted for a separate project could live on in a meaningful way. I aimed to visualize the interviewees lives, and demonstrate how interconnected the D.C. community really is.

Method:

I plotted my own life on the map, seen in yellow) to trouble shoot what I wanted each aspect of the map to represent. The black lines contain dates of movement, and connect important events and places in the narrator's life. Each color family has multiple colors to distinguish places and events – like marriage from a place of work.

Outcomes:

What began as a StoryMap project turned into a WordPress website complete with Google My Maps, links to SoundCloud and other forms of documentation. Moving forward these are given to the family to continue documenting their lives.

<https://mappingdcidentities.wordpress.com/>

Interviewee

Martha Tango

Martha is a Bolivian married to a Finnish man, Antero. They currently reside in Bethesda, Maryland where they live with their four children.

Martha's map includes the following points – Sucre, Bolivia, her home town – Helsinki, Finland, her home for 11 years – Pennsylvania, where she was an exchange student – Bethesda, Maryland, her home of the last 5 years.



Map

martha-tango_transcription-1

Download

Check out Martha's transcript for a more in depth look at her journey around the world.

Interview audio

Listen to Martha's interview here!