



# DEMOCRACY IN DIALOGUE



# Virtual Exchange Summer Semester 2025

***Burlington Public Library  
TICOS***



Smithsonian

# What is Democracy in Dialogue?



An immersive, hands-on project investigating the question: *How has your community shaped the American story over the past 250 years, and what role do you play in its ongoing narrative?* To explore this, we will:

1. Examine our community's unique stories, both historical and contemporary, using photography and oral histories as our primary tools.
2. Reflect on our personal and collective connections to our community and how these ties shape our identities.
3. Develop a project that showcases our community, highlights our roles within it, and broadens our understanding of civic engagement and life in a democracy.
4. Engage with students from another area to discuss topics of personal and societal importance.



*Image Above:*  
"Preamble" by Mike Wilkens (1987)



# How will the exchange work?

## Community Connections

These are the activities that we will do together to investigate and document the stories of our community through objects, photography, oral history, and the creative arts.



## Exchange Activities

In addition to the activities that will help us build connections with our community, we will engage in conversations with our peers from other places about our discoveries and invite their perspectives.



## Public Showcase

To tell our community stories, we will create projects that creatively spotlight individuals, landmarks, and places. These projects will be celebrated at a showcase in which the audience will be invited to contemplate + interact with the content.

**When will all  
this happen?**



## **Our Calendar**



**Mondays 2-4PM**

**June 9, 16, 23, & 30**

**July 7, 14, 21, & 28**



## Why should I participate in Democracy in Dialogue?

You'll share your story with others to help build stronger civic connections within our own community.

You'll learn important research & communication skills and get to work creatively.

You'll add to your list of accomplishments, "Project with the Smithsonian."

You'll learn about new places and connect with new people.

You'll work with local historians, meet local leaders, and interview community members.



