



Department of Records
& Information Services



Who inspires you?

#shareherstory



WomensActivism.NYC

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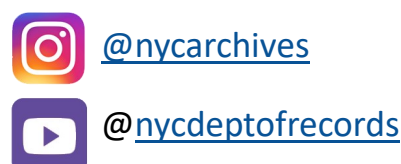
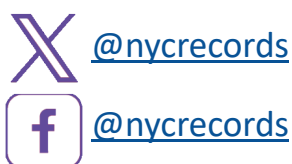
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ABOUT US

The mission of the NYC Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) is to foster civic life by preserving and providing public access to historical and contemporary records and information about New York City government. The agency ensures that City records are properly maintained following professional archival and record management practices. Materials are available to diverse communities, both online and in person.

For more information about how DORIS can work with your school, please contact us via email: education@records.nyc.gov or visit our [website](#).

Follow us on social media!



LINKS

[WomensActivism.NYC](#)

[WomensActivism.NYC Handout](#)

[How to Add a Photo](#)

[New York Times Series: Overlooked No More](#)

[NYC Curriculum Standard: Hidden Voices](#)

OVERVIEW

What is the WomensActivism.NYC project?

- It is a crowd-sourced digital archive of inspiring women's stories.
- The goal is to gather 10,000 stories for a permanent online archive.
- Women have often been omitted from history; we aim to write women INTO history.

WomensActivism.NYC aims to create a permanent archive of stories about women from around the globe who have made a difference. The women may be famous or largely unknown. They may have lived in the past or may still be working today. The only requirements are: they must be woman-identified and they must have contributed to making change in some way.

Anyone, of any age, from anywhere on the globe can add a story. You don't have to be a professional writer. Your story doesn't have to be perfect. We want to hear what you have to say and read about who inspired you. You can write in any language.

We're writing everyday extraordinary women into #herstory. Share a story and write her into history. She'll be glad you did.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

The New York City Department of Records and Information Services – home to the City's Municipal Archives and Library – has crafted an engaging and enlightening activity designed to captivate and educate students. Our project-based learning activity will produce a relevant final product. The activity can be used in researching and writing biographical essays. It could also be a Women's History Month project.

Your students will embark on their journey by delving into [WomensActivism.NYC](https://www.womensactivism.nyc.gov/), a permanent digital archive honoring the invaluable contributions of women from across the globe to our society and culture. This project collects narratives of inspirational women who have left a lasting impact on our lives. The stories are preserved within the Municipal Archives and will inspire future generations.

Within the archive, you'll find an array of notable figures, but our focus extends beyond the prominent names. We are committed to capturing the narratives of the remarkable women who shape our personal spheres – they can be family members, friends, mentors, or overlooked historical figures. Despite their profound influence, these stories often remain untold. Engaging in this project empowers students to preserve these often-sidelined narratives within the Municipal Archives, ensuring their enduring legacy.

Following their interaction with the [WomensActivism.NYC](https://www.womensactivism.nyc.gov/) platform, students will gather in small groups to engage in discussion and collaborative analysis. Adopting a historian's mindset, they will compare and contextualize their observations, exploring similarities and differences among the featured women, related events, and associated issues. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to document their thought processes for future references and follow-up work.

To conclude the exercise each student will write a story highlighting an inspiring woman who holds significance in their own lives, to be added to [WomensActivism.NYC](https://www.womensactivism.nyc.gov/). Through this innovative project, your students will actively contribute to the preservation of women's stories in history, ensuring that often overlooked narratives endure within the Municipal Archives.

Moreover, this project aligns seamlessly with the NYC Department of Education's [Hidden Voices](#) curriculum, which emphasizes the untold stories of individuals who have profoundly influenced our history and identity. By complementing this curriculum, our project endeavors to honor the women who have been marginalized in historical records, validating their invaluable contributions to society.



[Meghan Farina](#)

1995-2008

Meghan's amazing sense of humor is the first thing you'll notice about her, next to her warm smile. Although she only was given 13 years with us, in those 13 years she filled everyday with laughs and love. Even after she was diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG), a rare childhood brain tumor located on the brainstem, her personality was unchanged. Meghan joked with all the nurses and doctors, and kept my family positive in a time that was not. Her perseverance in the difficulty that was thrown at her was and is truly inspiring, refusing to give up.

One memory that paints a picture of her wonderful sense of humor and tremendous heart was when she was asked by the Make a Wish Foundation if she had a wish. She could ask for anything in the world, but asked for a dozen Krispy Kreme donuts. My dad asked her if that was all she wanted, and she responded, "Okay... TWO dozen donuts". She ended up asking to go to the filming of High School Musical 3, but they didn't have room. When told that she wouldn't be able to go, my sister apologized for taking too long to decide. This is how my sister was; genuine, giving, hilarious, and strong; and she refused to let this terrible disease change that.



Jasilyn Charger
1998-Today

"It doesn't take an extraordinary person to do extraordinary things." Jasilyn Charger was 19 when she decided to take action and spent months on the frontlines of the Standing Rock protests. She is a Lakota Sioux activist who was against the Dakota Access Pipeline. Although Trump has passed an executive order to advance the pipeline which will go through two Native American reservations, her activism still remains strong and will never be forgotten. After months of protesting the DAPL, Charger decided to start the International Indigenous Youth Council at Standing Rock. The organization empowers indigenous youth to be leaders of their communities and protectors of their sacred land and resources. Charger and other DAPL activists remain on the frontlines despite the use of force by police officers. "We forget, as the people, that we have the power, that we have the power to change the system if we don't like it."

SELECTIONS FROM OUR ARCHIVE

[Annie Harper](#)

[Ketriana Yvonne](#)

[Susan Zimet](#)

[Pearl Mavis Munro](#)

CULMINATING ACTIVITY

Encourage your students to join a class write-in session where they become documentarians, crafting their own narratives about a woman for [WomensActivism.NYC](#). By engaging in this initiative, you empower students to contribute to the rich tapestry of history, ensuring that women's stories are preserved in the Municipal Archives.

Process:

- First, think of a woman who has inspired you. How has she made an impact on your life? How would you, your community, or the world be without her contributions? What can others learn from her story?

TIP: Before beginning to write a story, ensure the woman you have decided to honor isn't already recognized in the archive. Begin by conducting a [search](#) using either her first **or** last name, opting for the less common of the two. This search will retrieve all stories containing that name. For instance, searching for "Ruth Sorenson" will display all stories featuring either "Ruth" or "Sorenson", regardless of whether that specific woman is being commemorated.

- Can't think of a woman you know personally? No problem! Search Google or other platforms for inspiring stories of women who may not be well-known but should be remembered. See tips on how to find strong stories on pages 11-12.

- Draft your story in a Word document. Use a storyteller’s voice to share a few short paragraphs. Who is the person? Where did she live or work? What did she accomplish? How did she impact the lives of yourself and others? If you know her personally, what is your favorite memory of her? If you don’t know her personally but have read about her, what about her story touches you? How is she an inspiration?

TIP: Check the punctuation and grammar in Word before adding it to the archive! Once the story is uploaded, you will not be able to make edits to the story yourself, so double-check everything before hitting submit.

- Go to WomensActivism.NYC and click “Share a Story.”
- If you found information about the woman you are writing about online, remember to credit the author/source and add a link to the original material.
- Add a photo of the woman you are writing about using this [guide](#). If you have any difficulty adding the photo, upload the story to the site and then email the photo to us at womensactivism@records.nyc.gov and we will add it to the website.
- Congratulations, you have written a woman into history! One of the oldest records in the Municipal Archives dates back to 1645. It is a deed naming [Lady Deborah Moody](#) as a landowner to a section of Gravesend, Brooklyn. Just as the Municipal Archives has preserved that record for nearly 400 years, we will now preserve the story of the woman you have honored today.

Student Reflection:

- What do you think of the method used to preserve history on [WomensActivism.NYC](#) ?
- What have you personally gained by working to write women into history as part of this project?

NAVIGATING THE ARCHIVE



HOME SHARE A STORY ABOUT SEARCH ARCHIVE CONTACT SUBSCRIBE VIDEOS

Celebrate Women's Activism

Help build NYC's permanent archive of inspiring and empowering women from across the globe!

Share a story that inspires you.

Collecting 10,000 stories of inspiring women.

Share Your Story



HOME: Our website address will bring you to our home page tab.

SHARE A STORY: This tab is where you can add a story about a woman who had a positive influence on your life.

ABOUT: This tab tells why, how, and when the WomensActivism.NYC project started.

SEARCH ARCHIVE: On this tab, you can enter the name of a woman to see if there is already a story about her in our archive.

CONTACT: Use this tab to email us any questions you may have.

SUBSCRIBE: On this tab, you can sign up to get news and updates about special events, exhibitions, educational programs and more via email and/or text.

VIDEOS: This tab brings you to our YouTube playlist depicting inspiring women.

IMPORTANT TIPS

- **Before you begin writing a story about an inspiring woman, confirm that the woman you have chosen to honor is not already listed.** Use the archive's [search](#) function by entering either the first or last name, opting for the less common of the two. All stories containing that name will be displayed in the results. For instance, if you search "Ruth Sorenson," all stories featuring Ruth and/or Sorenson in the text will appear, regardless of whether they pertain to the woman you intend to honor. In the provided example, it's advisable to search for "Sorenson" rather than "Ruth," as Ruth is a more common name and could generate a larger number of results to sift through.
- Go to your favorite search engine (i.e., Google, Bing, etc.).
- Select a topic that interests you and incorporate "women" into your search criteria. Additionally, enhance your search by including specific descriptors such as the name of a country or region, racial or ethnic backgrounds, and other relevant identifiers. For instance, you might search for "Thai women directors," "deaf women advocates," "Ghanaian women scientists," "Black women judges," and so forth to discover a diverse range of stories and perspectives.
- Helpful search terms:
 - first woman to
 - women firsts in (pick a field)
 - inspiring women
 - women who made history

- Check out listings of obituaries for women, such as the *New York Times* [Overlooked No More](#) series, which aims to find remarkable people whose death went unreported in the paper.
- Keep in mind that you don't need to write the woman's entire life story. Instead, give the reader a glimpse into her essence by highlighting three defining characteristics and sharing a pivotal moment in her life that continues to inspire you.