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### **Pop-up Museum Planned for North Wheeling**

WHEELING, W.Va. – Sept. 16, 2019 – Wheeling Heritage is asking North Wheeling residents to share their stories as part of the Wheeling Heritage Center project. The organization is hosting a pop-up museum, which encourages residents to bring items they'd like to share with the community, on Oct. 2. The event will take place from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Empress Emporium at 700 Main Street.

A "pop-up museum" is an informal and temporary one-day exhibit created by the community that seeks to bring people together in conversation. Participants bring items, write labels and put them out for display and discussion.

"Any object that tells a story can be displayed. It does not need to be a relic of a long-ago era; it can be something more contemporary that speaks to some aspect of the Wheeling experience, both personal and community-wide experiences," said Travis Henline, museum project manager. "These can be everyday objects with personal connections, not necessarily museum quality pieces."

These pop-up programs are being planned for all of Wheeling's communities as part of the Wheeling Heritage Center project, an ongoing effort to create a community center and museum. They empower people and communities to share the stories that are important to them, and help make connections across all ages and lifestyles.

"Learning from the community's stories and bringing people in at the concept phase of our processes will help inform our thoughts and considerations for the Wheeling Heritage Center project," Henline said.

"It enables us learn their stories and to explore and share the diversity of our community. The Wheeling Heritage Center must be relevant and responsive to the wants and needs of the community to be successful. It must be a space for everyone, and it should be engaged in the issues important to the community. These pop-up programs are one way to discover what those stories, wants and needs are," he said.

The Wheeling Heritage Center project began in January 2019, when Wheeling Heritage and the Wheeling-Ohio County Convention and Visitors Bureau funded the museum project manager position. Stakeholders had discussed the idea of a museum for years, and to give the concept the resources it deserves, the organizations created a position dedicated to its development. The museum is currently in the concept stage, and the hope is that these pop-up programs, along with other planned public meetings, will help inform the project.



All north Wheeling residents are invited to bring items and to share in conversations with their community. The event is free and open to the public.

**About Wheeling Heritage:**

[Wheeling Heritage](#) is a catalyst for the revitalization of Wheeling. Through historic preservation, community development, and the arts, we help to tell Wheeling's story and shape its future. We seek to improve the quality of life in Wheeling by preserving and investing in our city, collaborating with others, and engaging the citizens of Wheeling in our work.