

ELMA LEWIS CENTER

Social Justice Archive Network

Interested in community-centered archiving
in an anti-racist, Black feminist social justice frame?

We are an eight-month intergenerational team launching our Social Justice Archive Network (SJAN) at Emerson College's Elma Lewis Center and Social Justice Center to build digital story archives in deep collaboration with communities who have the most to teach us about resilience and liberation.

SJAN collaborates with community and social justice leaders and their descendants to:

- hold space for authentic story sharing and radical listening, community centered archiving, and intentional circulation practices
- preserve stories in people's own words, languages, images, and vibe so the memory of their work is not dimmed or erased
- archive stories in written/spoken word, painting, photography, recipes, theatre, zines, websites, film, poetry, music, dance and more
- move beyond traditional cloisters of academic and institutional archives into spaces where people of all ages can engage with living stories
- circulate living stories that spark ongoing conversations in vibrant interactive community spaces--cafés, mural walls, schools and more

SJAN aims to work with archivist change agents and story sharers who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, immigrants of any status and those who work as accomplices. This year's SJAN will focus on [the Elma Lewis Living Stories Project](#), dedicated to one of Boston's most important Black female luminaries in the arts, education, and civil rights: Elma Ina Lewis.

Questions? Great! Contact: Tam tamera_marko@emerson.edu