

# **COVID-19 STORYTELLING PROJECTS**

## **Where Art meets Public Health**

An innovative approach to understanding the needs of our Black and Native American Communities

# Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the worsening disparities faced by [Black](#) and [Native Americans](#), evidenced in [Vermont](#) by the disproportional rates of infection and hospitalization as compared to white non-Hispanic Vermonters.

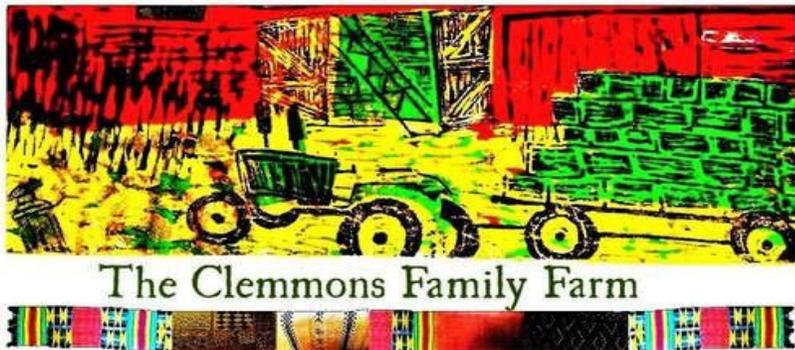
We needed more data to better understand the needs and perceptions on what will improve vaccination access and uptake among these communities.

We understood that in order to build trust with minoritized communities, we needed to acknowledge past harms and the ripple effects reverberating today.

# Organizations Identified

## Clemmons Family Farm

An African American-led Vermont nonprofit organization working in collaboration with a growing network of Vermont's artists and culture bearers of African descent to mobilize the arts for community well-being.



## Vermont Abenaki Artists Association

An Abenaki-led organization working to support and promote awareness of state-recognized Abenaki artists and their art by presenting public programs, cultural events, and museum exhibitions that educate and increase public understanding of Abenaki art and culture.



# Storytelling Project Goals

- Understand community needs and perceptions to help improve services and increase vaccination uptake to level the disparities
- Provide safe, culturally and linguistically affirming spaces for sharing stories
- Develop more insights on how race affects attitudes, perceptions and interactions both from providers and the impacted community
- Develop trustworthy relationships with Black and of African descent and Abenaki, Native American and Indigenous Peoples in our community



# Abenaki Storytelling Project Phases



## PART 1

Identify partners

Recruit team

## PART 2

Develop methodology

Train team

## PART 3

Test protocols and revise

Community gatherings

Call to artists

## PART 4

Analyze

Interpret

## PART 5

Online Exhibition

Traveling Exhibition

## PART 6

Report

Recommend

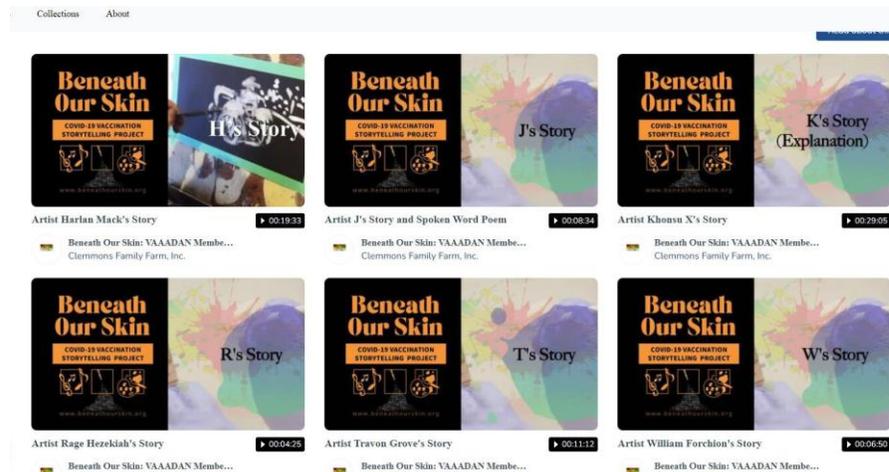
Share

# Storytelling Websites

Beneath Our Skin Storytelling Project

[BeneathOurSkin.org](http://BeneathOurSkin.org)

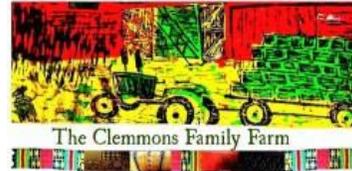
[healthvermont.gov/beneath-our-skin-storytelling-project](http://healthvermont.gov/beneath-our-skin-storytelling-project)



Abenaki Storytelling Project

[abenakiart.org/blog9/about-the-storytelling-project](http://abenakiart.org/blog9/about-the-storytelling-project)





## Contact Us

### Learn more and engage with us

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**Vermont Abenaki Artists Association** [Vera.Sheehan@abenakiart.org](mailto:Vera.Sheehan@abenakiart.org)