



UNSUNG HEROES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

EXHIBITION
EDUCATOR
GUIDE

Susan Maria McKinney Steward / 1847-1918
New York's first African American female doctor

2023 PHOTOVILLE EDUCATION

We are excited to welcome you and your students to the exhibition:

Unsung Heroes of Public Health!

This educator guide includes the exhibition description as well as pre and post-visit prompts to help your students prepare for and reflect on the exhibition. They may be taught as a classroom discussion, writing exercise or research project.

Exhibition Description

“Unsung Heroes of Public Health” aims to reframe and widen the historical narrative of public health, by spotlighting individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to public health milestones in New York City. For a city of 8 million, public health requires a multitude of approaches working together – community activism, research & innovation, information sharing and mentorship. These are stories of perseverance and dedication to shaping a healthier future for those to come.



PRE-TRIP PROMPTS

Choose one or both of the prompts for your students to respond to. Discuss these responses as a class or in small groups to come up with a working definition of ‘public health.’ This discussion will prepare your students with a basic understanding of the concept of public health, which the exhibition will expand and clarify with historic and contemporary examples.

PROMPT #1

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, who did you see helping the health of our communities?
- What were highly visible roles (i.e. front-line hospital staff)?
- What are behind-the-scenes roles (i.e. workers processing test samples)?

PROMPT #2

Defining public health:

- What do you need to be healthy?
- What does your family need to be healthy?
- What does your school need to be healthy?
- What does your community need to be healthy?

EXHIBITION 'DO NOW'



As a city of 8 million people, New York City requires many organizations and a multitude of approaches to public health. Read through the stories in the exhibition and fill in the blanks.

Who is someone who approaches public health.....

Through local community service and activism

Through research and innovation

Through expanding access to information and services

Through organizing young people to act

Through advocating for change within the system

Through data and technology

Write down a pull quote that stands out to you.

What are some adjectives to describe the people pictured in this exhibition? (i.e. curious, passionate etc)

Who is someone who has had a direct impact on the health of you and your loved ones?

Who was the most memorable topic or person in the exhibition? What interests you about them?

POST-TRIP PROMPTS



These prompts are for students to further research their notes and observations from visiting the exhibition. Choose one or a few of the prompts for students to respond to.

Please have them refer to their 'Do Now' exhibition activity.

PROMPT #1

Introduce a public health hero:

- Refer to questions 4 & 5 on your 'Do Now' exhibition activity (person who impacted your community, most memorable public health hero).
- Write a one paragraph bio introducing this person to your classmates.
- Why did this person stand out to you?
- How did they impact the field of public health? You may do further research on this individual.

PROMPT #2

Interview Questions:

- Refer to questions 2 on your 'Do Now' exhibition activity.
- Why did this quote stand out to you?
- What did it reveal about the public health hero and their work?
- If you were able to meet and continue the conversation with this person, what are 3 more questions you would ask them.

PROMPT #3

Write a letter:

- Refer to question 1 & 5 on your 'Do Now' exhibition activity about the qualities of public health heroes and the different ways they work.
- Who is so that you would nominate as an unsung hero, and why?
- Write a letter thanking them for their work. Include how they help the health of your community and what you admire about them.

PROMPT #4

Recommend Actions:

- What recommendations do you have to improve your personal health?
- The health of your family?
- The health of your school?
- The health of your neighborhood?
- Write a one-paragraph memo with your ideas and recommendations.



Asenhat Gomez (left)
Deputy Director of Programs, El Puente

Dr. Frances Lucerna (right)
Co-Founder and President of El Puente



Huge Ma
Engineer who invented COVID vaccine tracker



Lorena Kourousias, (right)
Executive Director, Mixteca

Diana Perez, (left)
Associate Director, Mixteca



Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, MPH, PhD
Physician and epidemiologist who has dedicated her career to addressing the impact of racism on public health



Mental H

Former members of the Young Lords Party

Denise Oliver-Velez (left), Miguel "Mickey" Melendez (middle), Minerva Solla (right)



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