

Together Apart: Exploring African American History, Place, and Cultural Heritage in Springfield, MO

Educational Outreach Curriculum:

Audience:

- Middle school through adult learners (adaptable by grade level)
- Local schools, community centers, museums, libraries, churches, and youth programs

Curriculum Objectives:

By the end of this curriculum, participants will be able to:

- Understand the historical significance of Silver Springs Park and the ParkDay Reunion.
- Identify the role of segregation and community resilience in shaping public spaces.
- Examine the power of oral history and storytelling in preserving African American culture.
- Explore civic engagement and advocacy through the lens of community-led restoration and preservation efforts.
- Reflect on personal and collective connections to place, heritage, and identity.

Curriculum Structure (5-Session Format):

Session 1: Introduction – Uncovering Local History

Topic: Overview of African American history in Springfield, Missouri.

Activities:

- Watch selected clips from *Together Apart*.
- Timeline creation: Major milestones in local Black history.
- Discussion: Why does local history matter?

Session 2: Silver Springs Park – A Place of Gathering

Topic: The significance of Silver Springs Park during segregation.

Activities:

- Analyze maps and photos from before and after the park's integration
- Guest speaker or recorded oral history from a longtime ParkDay attendee.
- Journal reflection: What role does public space play in your life?

Session 3: Storytelling and Oral Histories

Topic: Documenting lived experience as historical record.

Activities:

- Watch excerpts focused on interviews from *Together Apart*
- Oral history workshop: Interview a classmate, elder, or family member.
- Creative writing: Turn interviews into short narratives or skits.

Session 4: Civic Engagement and Preservation

Topic: The role of community leadership and advocacy in preserving cultural landmarks.

Activities:

- Case study: Relocation and restoration of Timmons Hall.
- Research the work of the Neighborhood Coalition and Park Board partnerships.
- Action project: Identify a site in need of preservation in your own neighborhood.

Session 5: Looking Forward – Continuing the Story

Topic: Connecting the past to the future.

Activities:

- Additional screenings of the full documentary *Together Apart*.
- Group reflection: What does it mean to “come together” today?
- Presentation of oral history projects or “Mini ParkDay” plans.

Supplementary Materials:

Together Apart: ParkDay Reunion Documentary (full film and selected excerpts)

- Archival photos, newspaper articles, and maps
- Interview guides and oral history toolkits
- Articles on the WPA, Timmons Hall, and ARPA-funded renovations
- List of community partners (Friends of Timmons Temple, Park Board, UniteNews Magazine)

Assessment & Engagement Options:

- Portfolio of written reflections, interview transcripts, and creative work
- Public presentation or exhibit
- Social media storytelling campaign (#MyParkDayStory)
- Collaborative mural or memory wall project at local schools or organizations

Partnership Opportunities:

- **Local schools:** Field trips to Silver Springs Park and Timmons Hall
- **Churches:** Hosting oral history days
- **Libraries & Museums:** Facilitating workshops and exhibits
- **Media outlets:** Featuring student or participant stories
- **Civic orgs:** Involving students in community development and preservation projects

Format Options:

- 5-week series (1–1.5 hour sessions)
- One-day intensive workshop
- Virtual or hybrid learning model
- Can be integrated into MLK Holiday, Black History Month, Juneteenth, or ParkDay community events, and other times of the year unrelated to African American celebrations