

# THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY PROJECT



## The Autobiography Project Fact Sheet

- *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* is the most widely published of all time. In honor of Franklin's 300<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary and *One Book, One Philadelphia* (a project of the Mayor's Office and the Free Library of Philadelphia) invited Philadelphians to submit a memoir of their own, using no more than 300 words.
- The Autobiography Project was open to residents of Greater Philadelphia (defined as Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties in Pennsylvania; Camden County, New Jersey and New Castle County, Delaware). The Autobiography Project launched on April 5, 2006, and final submissions were due May 17, 2006.
- During the six weeks of The Autobiography Project, participants received writing support at free drop-in writing center locations on-campus at Drexel University and Free Library of Philadelphia branches; online, with interactive feedback; or by attending a writing workshop.
- Autobiography Project workshops were held at:

West Philadelphia Cultural Alliance	People's Emergency Center
Harding Middle School (Northeast Philadelphia)	OPTIONS, at Philadelphia Industrial
Lanning Square School (Camden, NJ)	Correctional Center
Camden County College	Squash Smarts
Montgomery County Youth Center	Project H.O.M.E.
Veterans Upward Bound	Mastery Charter High School (Society Hill)
Center for Literacy, Project Move-Up!	
- At the conclusion of the six-week citywide writing workshop, twenty (20) submissions were chosen for publication on bus shelter posters throughout the city of Philadelphia. Bus shelter posters will be up June 26 – July 23, 2006; at which time map of locations will be available for download at [www.theautobiographyproject.com](http://www.theautobiographyproject.com).
- Entries were reviewed by a selection panel made up of a diverse group of writers, many with teaching experience. Panelists included *Inquirer* staff writer, Paul Nussbaum; Director of the Greater Philadelphia Wordshop Studio, Alison Hicks; and Director of the Drexel University Writing Program, Harriet Levin Millan; Director of the Kelly Writers House at the University of Pennsylvania, Jennifer Snead; and retired English Department Head from the School District of Philadelphia, Mimi Barton.
- The Autobiography Project is presented by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary and *One Book, One Philadelphia*, with the support of Drexel University and the Greater Philadelphia Wordshop Studio.
- The Autobiography Project is sponsored by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Daily News*, Philly.com and SEPTA.
- The Autobiography Project campaign was designed by Stack Design, with photography by Michael Ahearn.

### Contact:

Kaitlin Ackerman, Alta Communications  
215.790.7800, [kaitlin@alta247.com](mailto:kaitlin@alta247.com)