



MUSEUM OF SILENCED HISTORIES

providence, rhode island



While some of us debate what history is or was, others take it into their own hands.

Michel-Rolph Trouillot
Silencing the Past (1995)

Silence is not having nothing to say, but not having words for all that needs to be said.

Juana Inés de la Cruz
(d. 1695)

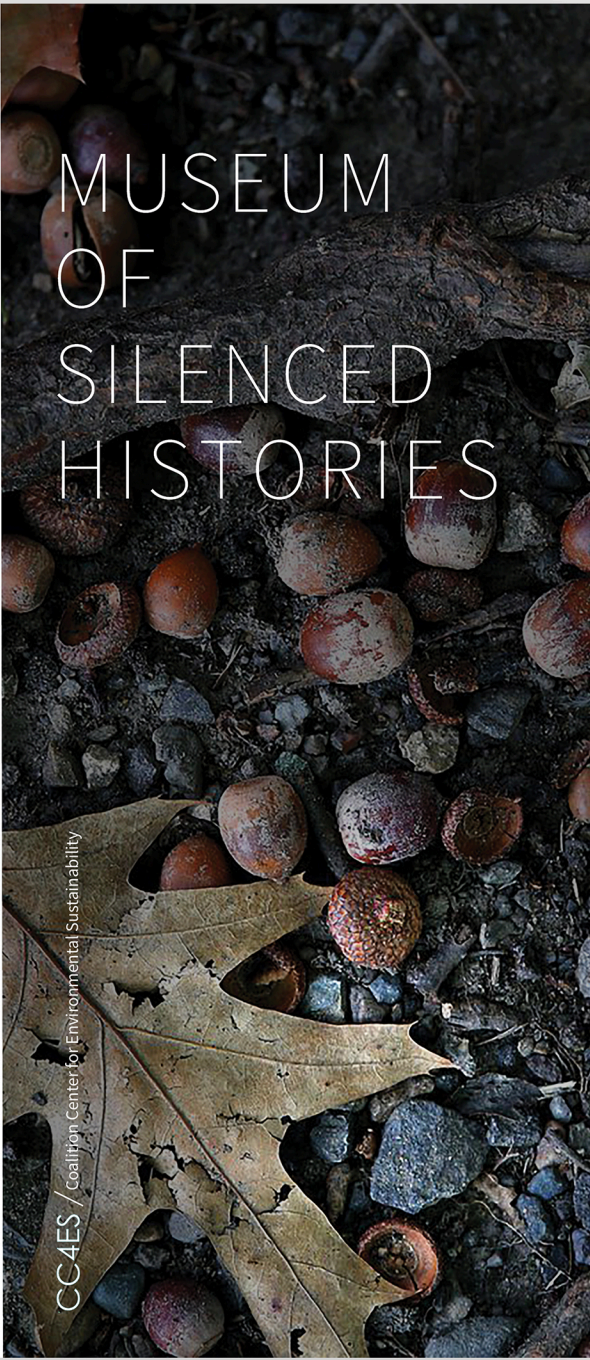
The Coalition Center for Environmental Sustainability (CC4ES) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit grassroots organization for building sustainable and resilient communities with environmental, social and economic justice and equity.

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photo: David L. Ryan/Boston Globe



MISSION

To honor the essential relationship between humans and Earth by collecting, celebrating and sharing stories of this bond as lived through those whose histories have previously been silenced.

To use an interweaving of visual, oral and written stories, alongside the ongoing tending and cultivation of Earth's sacred land, to present the diversity, richness, and collective wisdom and strength that underlies and shapes the Rhode Island identity.

PURPOSE

The land is essential for human survival and its natural designs dictate where we must anchor, if we are to live harmoniously with Earth. Yet, in the name of prosperity and progress, we have lost much of our ability to hear the voices of the land, and of each other.

It is time we re-anchor if we hope to tackle the systemic issues that threaten our survival - climate change, oppression, inequity, and racism.



OBJECTIVES

- To create a physical and digital place of storytelling, healing and reconciliation.
- To offer a place of community gathering, collection, exchange, and celebration for those whose stories should be heard.
- To provide a safe space for sharing stories articulating differences while underscoring our shared humanity.
- To seed narratives with prompts related to nature, the earth, cultivation, movement and time.
- To reframe Providence's I-95 corridor - historically, a physical disruption to our social fabric - as a commons, a collage of collected identities and cultural expression, and a place of regenerative production.
- To build, at the southern end of this corridor, a celebratory and healing Garden of Regeneration.

