FILE / LIFE

Each person at Pennhurst had a File.

Each person at Pennhurst had a Life.

File/Life: We Remember Stories of Pennhurst

a community-led exploration of the Pennhurst archives

Arch Street Meeting House 320 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

April 20–23, 2023 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thursday–Saturday 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday



Admission is free but ticket reservations are strongly encouraged.



Reserve your FILE/LIFE tickets now.

Over nearly eight decades, more than 10,000 people lived at the Pennhurst State School and Hospital. Their lives contain its history. Who are they? What do their stories have to say to us today?

FILE/LIFE is a community-led exploration of the Pennhurst archives. Seven archivists (all people with disabilities and/or family members) share stories from the archives that made them listen, feel, imagine, and remember. In doing so, they ask the question: Can a file ever contain a life?

Viewer advisory: This installation includes potentially challenging historical content. (See details on the Institute's File/Life webpage)

Access: File/Life is ASL interpreted, open captioned, and audio described. Community conversations will be CART captioned. An ASL interpreter will be on site every day. Relaxed viewing hours Thursday-Saturday, 9am-10am.





File/Life: We Remember Stories of Pennhurst has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage.