The Visiting Room Project is a digital experience that invites the public to sit face-to-face with people serving life without the possibility of parole to hear them tell their stories, in their own words. More than five years in the making, the site is the only collection of its kind, containing over 100 filmed interviews with people currently serving life without parole. The interviews were filmed at Angola, the Louisiana State Penitentiary, which is, in many ways, the epicenter of life without parole sentences worldwide.

As of 2022, more than 55,000 Americans are living in prisons serving life without parole, their lives largely hidden from public view. This is a living project that didn’t conclude when the last interview was filmed. Instead, the project team and the men who were interviewed together created The Visiting Room Collaborative to share and document the continuing impact of these life stories. The Visiting Room Collaborative has two missions. First, to ensure that the participants’ loved ones and communities have access to their interviews. Secondly, to create opportunities for public audiences to engage with the project material through exhibits, screenings, and collaborations with artists.

For more information about the Symposium agenda, please go to tinyurl.com/FacingLife