



Image Description: (Left) Unidentified white woman in formal dress and hat, posing in a photo studio with a floral background; (Right) Portrait photo of Tom Wil-Etch-Tid, Muckleshoot.
Source: White River Valley Museum (PO-08989 and PO-00178)

Create Your Own Photo Studio

Photo studios in the 1800s and early 1900s were used to capture family and self-portraits, but these studios were usually not welcoming for everyone. Many photo studios were a privilege for white folks, especially if they were wealthy, so People of Color were often excluded from studios because of racist beliefs. In particular, pictures of Black, Native, or Japanese people would sometimes appear in Washington photo studios, but photographers did not always treat them with the same respect.

Nowadays, everyone has a right to photography, including you! It's time to create your own photo studio to capture who you and your family are. Think about how to create a space that captures your personality, identity, or culture—be creative! When your set is complete, prepare to strike a pose!

Materials:

- Camera (you can use a phone!)
- Backdrop (ex. wallpaper, colorful fabric or sheet, nature)
- Props—get creative! (ex. Furniture, plants or flowers, toys, books)
- Outfits—Fancy, silly, or just whatever you love wearing!
- Lighting—(ex. Lamps, colorful LED lights, natural daylight)
- Models! Yourself, family, and pets are welcome!