



## Impact

Whatever their background, and within the joy and excitement of the creative process, students learn collaboration, communication and leadership skills. Students respond to the artistic opportunities each creative experience offers, but perhaps more importantly, they appreciate being a part of a non-judgmental and accepting creative team. No matter how they tell their story, students gain enhanced artistic skills, awareness of other cultural perspectives, employability skills, and a sense of community and belonging. Consider what our students shared on surveys:

### Artistic Skills

- *There's something about StoryArk that just allows the explosion of creativity. You start with one thing, and there are five things, and then 15 things, then 500 things*
- *I loved the independence and teamwork. The chance to use my imagination and skill to its full extent to create a product.*
- *It's fun and I think it a good learning experience for teamwork, recording skills, editing skills, and it helps create new friendships.*

### Awareness of Other Cultural Perspectives

- *Everyone is different and everyone has totally different and awesome dreams, but we all come together and have one dream. Being in the podcast is really cool and fun, and I've made so many friends and people that I think will be able to go on these creative journeys with me for the rest of my life.*
- *I want to be able to use my voice so others can hear and understand my story. This program is a wonderful way to let out your creative thoughts into a interesting podcast. It involves lots of diversity which you don't see in school often. The people who are also participating are like a family and love to help each other out.*
- *Are you passionate about your message? Do you want to educate others while having fun? Do you want to surround yourself with amazing people of color? Then join StoryArk. We make podcasts, short films and stories about various real life situations and educate others and spread our message about the injustices in this country. You gain a sense of leadership, teamwork while also being surrounded with a great community of people that want to achieve the same thing as you.*

### Employability Skills

- *My involvement has taught me the importance of reliability and the consequence of not pulling your weight and how open communication and hard work lead to a successful end product.*
- *I loved everything about StoryArk! Working with everyone else, writing, seeing it all come together. The story line is really creative, and everyone involved seems to have a really good time. We all work really well together.*
- *In addition to having a creative outlet, she has gained organizational skills, the ability to plan long-term, improved teamwork skills, increased problem solving skills, and persistence toward a goal. Her motivation, leadership abilities and confidence have skyrocketed. (From a parent)*

### Sense of Community and Belonging

- *Finding a group of creative peers has been a dream come true; it's like having a second family.*
- *I had a place where I felt welcome and my ideas and creativity were valued.*
- *It's like my second home. I love the chance to explore my own creative ideas and to help others share their stories as well.*

### Online Testimony - for more on the impact, please watch the following student created videos:

- *Absent Narrative Project: Empower, Uplift Amplify* - <https://storyark.org/who-we-are/>
- *What's Your Story: The Impact* - <https://storyark.org/who-we-are/>
- *Raise Your Voice: Let Your Voice Be Heard* (in response to the protests) - <https://storyark.org/>
- *Closer at a Distance* (the creation of the new online world) - <https://storyark.org/online/>
- *Engage: StoryArk Online* (our online summer programming) - <https://storyark.org/online/>

See also a video made by Cultural Jambalaya to recognize the Carnation team when they won the Cultural Jambalaya Diversity Award - scroll down at <https://storyark.org/carnation/>