



StoryArk

ANNUAL REPORT

2020
EDITION

Contact Us:

651-417-6223

www.storyark.org

640 Main Street N, Suite 34, Stillwater, MN 55082

PROGRAMMING

Summer Programming

100% of participants surveyed said they felt a part of an artistic team, could be their authentic selves and share their stories.

Podcast Camp

19 students

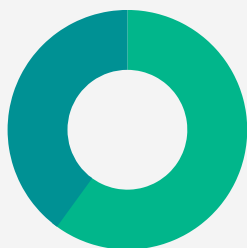
Film Camp

22 students

Creative Writing Intensive

18 students

Caucasian
40%



BIPOC Students
60%

StoryArk Festival

Funded by the St Croix Valley Foundation, Kowalski's Markets, and Stillwater Schools, the StoryArk Festival went online in August via Zoom. Emerging professional Peyton Zignego and a celebrity host Austene Van engaged the audience and celebrated student stories. Podcast, film, poetry, prose, and visual arts created in camps and classes over the summer were represented via video. NUNNABOVE, a local sibling band, played live from their basement during the event.

HUSH Jr - Podcast

Stillwater Junior High

Broad Spectrum - Podcast and Film

Stillwater Area High School

Boomsite Staff and Submitters

Multi-District and Homeschool

Newsletter, Magazine and Virtual Gallery

Non Profit Collaborations:

Family Means: podcast with Latinx middle schoolers telling a story of COVID, poverty and prejudice

Youth Advantage: commercials class with LA professionals to create promotional videos for Youth Advantage

MN Youth Council: promotional video to support the "Youth Act Up" education series in support of equity and inclusion

MN Alliance with Youth - Youth in Educational Leadership Summit: podcast coverage through the StoryArk Network

Stillwater Schools "Push-in" Model

The AVID classroom

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a nonprofit that changes lives by helping schools shift to a more equitable, student-centered approach in order to close the opportunity gap and prepare all students for college, careers, and life. This fall, StoryArk worked with Stillwater High School's 12th grade AVID class and Oakland Middle School's 8th grade program to provide storytelling opportunities inside the classroom during the school day. Stillwater Schools hopes to continue to use this "push-in" model to offer StoryArk opportunities to AVID students

178 Students Served in 2020

Absent Narratives Project

Podcast, Film, Literary Arts made available to all students

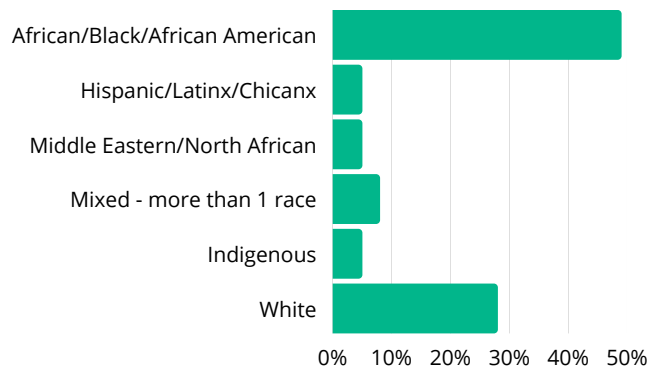
For the past three years, Stillwater Area Public Schools' Office of Equity and Integration has worked with StoryArk to support storytelling that explores identity and promotes understanding. Through our on-going Absent Narratives Project, we strive to elevate student voice and leadership in order to improve and ensure inclusiveness in our schools and our community. This year, the project expanded to include Stillwater Area Public Schools, Hastings, Mankato, St Peter and Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school districts.

My Story, Your Story, Our Story

Absent Narratives Project - A pilot

Mankato, Hastings, St. Peter and Janesville-Waldorf Pemberton school districts joined Stillwater Schools in this endeavor. Twenty-six students from the five school districts joined each other online via zoom during the 2020-2021 academic school year. Students collaborate with each other to create stories through podcast, film and the literary arts while learning to work with a diverse group of peers.

My Story, Your Story, Our Story Participants



OUR MISSION

StoryArk empowers student voices and equips young artists to thrive

Organizational Overview

StoryArk helps students in middle school and high school initiate creative teams in which they communicate, collaborate and connect with each other to imagine and produce narrative podcasts, short films, and a literary magazine that publishes prose, poetry and visual arts. We ask youth, "What's your story? How do you want to tell it?" They respond in ways that transform not only themselves, but also the audience who gains empathy and understanding of the student experience.

The Heart

Student initiated, student led, our creative process focuses on building life skills through a passion for storytelling and the desire to communicate and be in relationship with each other. In our creative process, students lead students and professional writers, actors, directors, filmmakers and editors serve as mentors who share their skills and wisdom as needed with youth. As we work together and support each other individually as artists, quality content naturally emerges. Ultimately, our artistic success is determined by how well we develop students as individuals and as team members.

PROFESSIONALS

Stephani Atkins
Executive Director

Jenna Yaron
Content Manager,
Recording Engineer and Editor

Crista Walsh
Director of Operations

Cassidy Hall
Boomsite Advisor

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

Cadence Nunn (Programming Director - Literary Arts)
Emma Halleen (Programming Director - Film)
Peyton Zigneo (Programming Director - Podcast)
Ivy Lariviere (Editor-in-Chief, Boomsite Magazine/ Newsletter)
Leslee Menjivar (Executive Assistant)
Emily Tamrat
Fatima Menwa
Flora Sherr-Nelson
Margaret Odumuyiwa
Lee Menzel
Sommerdai Kier
Mattie Nunn
Cadence Nunn
Chinwenwa Anyamele
Talisha Garcia

GUEST ARTIST

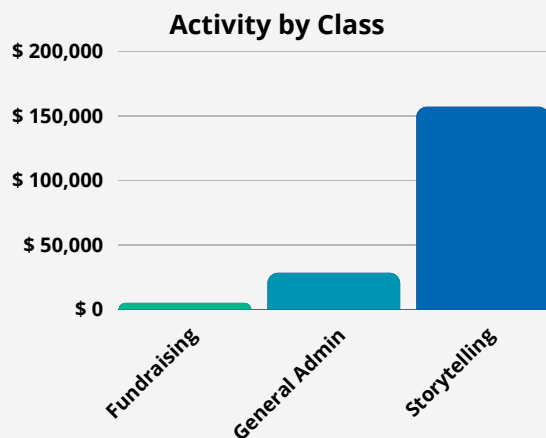
Charles Carpenter (Film/Novel)
Ski-ter Jones (Film/Novel)
Ken Levine (TV, Film, Podcast, Novel)
Ryan North (Novel, Graphic novel)
Jennifer Mathieu (Novel)
Jaqueline West (Novel, Poetry)
Todd Boss (Poetry)
Jonathan Sims (Podcast)
Sophie Takagi Kaner (Podcast)
Kevin Vibert (Podcast)
Austere Van (Actor, Playwright)
Kevin Hearne (Novel)
Adam Levy (Film)
Cassidy Hall (Mentor)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Smith, Director Huntington Learning Center (Chair)
Renee Cveykus, Executive Medtronic (Secretary)
Beverly Petrie, Retired ED Partnership Plan (Treasurer)
Julie Finch, Trademark and Copyright Lawyer

Steve Forseth, Retired Coach, Teacher, Sales Exec
Jim Link, Founder of the IdeaPad and author
Dan Ajak, MFA student and professional actor

FUNDING

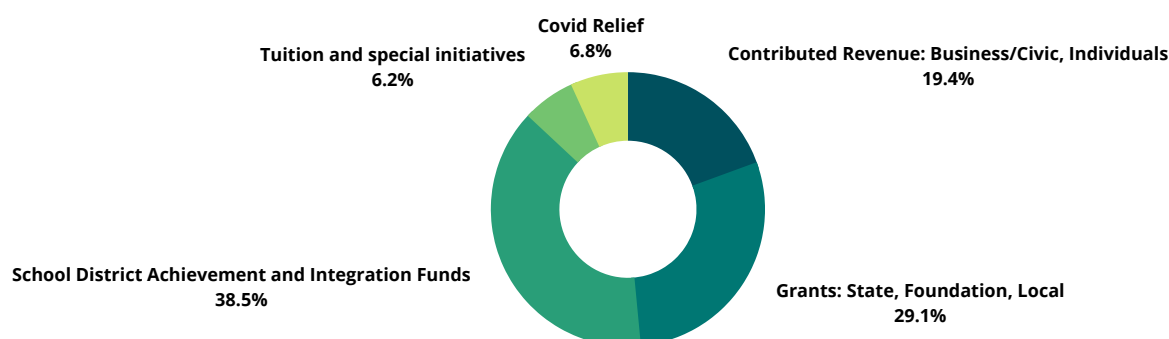


Activity by Class Expenses Percentage

Fundraising	\$ 5,035.43	3%
General Admin.	\$ 28,291.98	15%
Storytelling.	\$156,718.46	82%
Total	\$190,045.87	

*Reflects expenses for grant activities completed in 2020 but awarded at the end of 2019

*82 cents of every dollar goes to programming



Revenue Mix Income Percentage

Contributed Revenue: Business/Civic, Individuals	\$ 34,105.70	19%
Grants: State, Foundation, Local	\$ 51,050.00	29%
School District Achievement and Integration Funds	\$ 67,545.00	38%
Tuition and special initiatives	\$ 10,939.31	
Covid Relief	\$ 11,976.00	
Total	\$175,616.01	

Braided Funding

We want all students regardless of background, socio-economic status, political leanings, and religious views to have their stories uplifted, amplified and heard. To that end, we use a "braided" funding approach where each "strand" allows us to weave a strong fabric from which to support youth. This funding includes:

- Government grants: Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, Minnesota State Arts Board
- Private grants: Hugh J Andersen Foundation, Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation, St. Croix Valley Foundation (SCVF), Kemp
- School District Achievement and Integration Dollars
- Individual Contributions (this year it included a \$10,000 donation to help bridge digital divide and provide iPads for students who lacked technology)
- Fundraisers: original Murder Mystery Zoom event raised money and was created by StoryArk and LA artists
- Misc. Income: Ticket sales (StoryArk Festival), tuition, and sponsorship

Each strand of our braided funding approach supports different constituencies. School districts, through integration and achievement dollars as well as transportation funds, can help us reach underrepresented youth whose stories are absent from the mainstream narrative. StoryArk, through donations and grants, can support students that do not meet the school district's criteria including homeschooling, out of district and more affluent mainstream youth. By uplifting all student stories, we can interconnect diverse youth to each other and within the broader community.