



**YOUNG
STORY
TELLERS**

**RAISING VOICES,
ONE STORY AT A TIME.**



IMPACT REPORT 2023

OUR MISSION & VISION

Young Storytellers equips young people to be the driving force of their own narratives. We're passionate about bringing people together and creating stories to raise the voices of those who don't often get heard.

We believe that when a young person understands the power of their own story—made of their unique background, culture, race, gender, sexuality, ability, immigration status, geographic location, and economic status—it creates a more empathetic and equitable future for everyone.

**WE RAISE VOICES,
ONE STORY AT A TIME.**



WE VALUE

BELONGING

We celebrate originality and individuality. Our community is made better when we can speak fully from our unique perspectives and identities.

CONNECTION

People are at the center of everything we do. Genuine connection requires empathy, sensitivity, and honesty.

EXPLORATION

Being vulnerable and inventive requires a supportive environment. We foster spaces where we can explore ourselves, the communities in which we live, and how we can impact the world.

PLAY

Play with purpose allows us to investigate the world with wonder. This is how we open the road to creativity.

EQUITY

Unique identities, backgrounds, and perspectives make the world a better place. We fight against the racism, prejudice, and bias that exist in our systems and cultures so that all people are treated with respect and dignity.

OUR VOLUNTEER-BASED PROGRAMS

SCRIPT TO STAGE

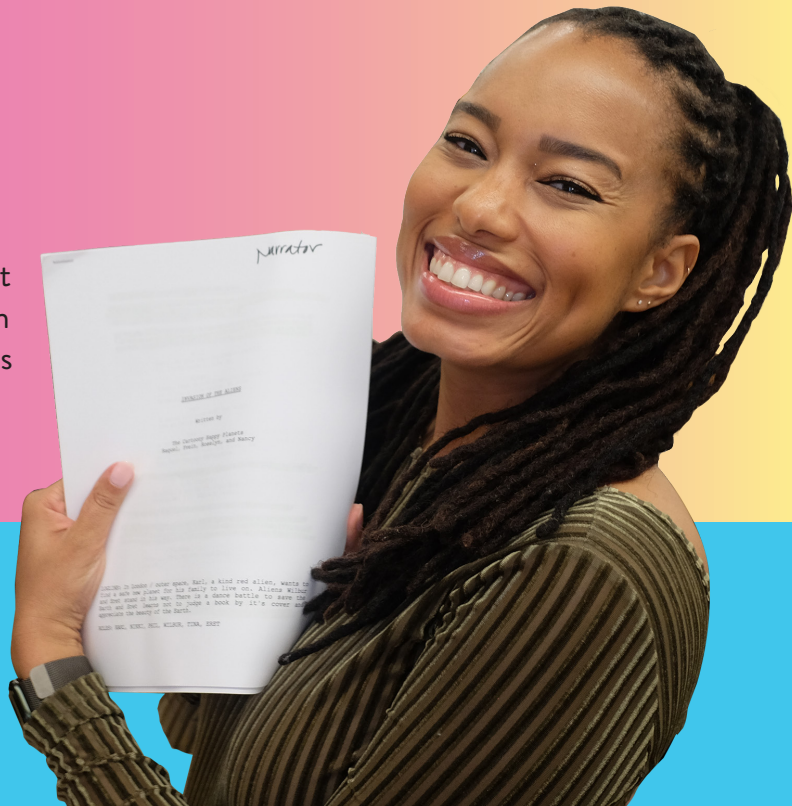
Exploring Creativity and Imagination

This nine-week, Common Core-aligned elementary school program places students with an adult mentor one-on-one to write scripts that are entirely their own, then actors perform those for the students and their peers live at a show. The Script to Stage program uplifts individual student voices as they craft stories based on important lessons from their own lives, and build characters with strong motivations by looking at the communities and circumstances that affect their behavior.

“

In Young Storytellers, I got a chance to be myself.

AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT



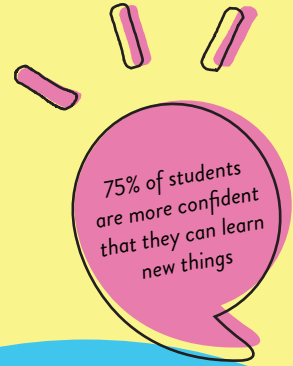
COLLABORATIVE SCRIPT TO STAGE

Building Connection and Collaboration Skills

This nine-week program is based on the foundation of Script to Stage, but facilitates more collaboration as writers work together to tell a story through large group sessions guided by one to two mentors.

When their story is complete, they watch it come to life with the help of professional actors at a Big Show. As part of this program, students reflect on challenges and unfairness they've seen or experienced in their own lives, and work with the group to find nonviolent solutions to these events through metaphor and story.

Did you know? Collaborative Stories was created to accommodate the technical challenges of online learning during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we discovered that it provides additional learning opportunities for our students, and so it's continuing on in the physical classroom.



MIDDLE SCHOOL STORIES

Understanding Goals and Navigating Obstacles

A mixture of adult mentorship and collective exploration, students in our middle school program work collaboratively with a group mentor to create monologues about moments in their lives when they felt misunderstood. Then, they work with actors who perform those pieces.

“

I enjoyed that I could feel safe and share things that are important to me and my life.

A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT



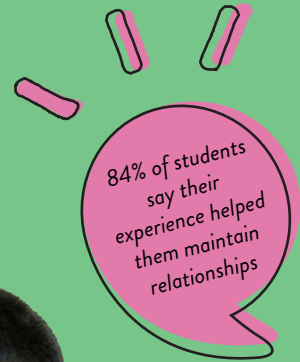
HIGH SCHOOL STORIES

Exploring Community & Representation

In this teacher-led program, high school students create stories that represent their communities.

With the help of mentor support and coaching, students identify communities that bring them a sense of belonging and unpack how they see their communities represented by various types of media.

Then, students work in groups to create stories they believe represent their self identified communities. The program culminates in a live show where actors perform student pieces.



DAY OF STORY

Growing Excitement and Connection

A condensed version of the Script to Stage program, Day of Story is a one-day, in-school workshop that pairs mentors one-on-one with 4th grade students to help them create their own story outline along with a descriptive poster. This program helps students to draw connections between characters and their own lives, and share about their personal identity within groups.

“

I was able to learn more about my classmates, and grow with them.

A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT



OUR TOOLS FOR EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY STORY LAB

Supporting Exploration of the Self

Story Lab, a Warner Bros. Discovery program developed in partnership with LAUSD's Arts Education Branch and Division of Instruction, delivers original curriculum to sixth-grade middle school students that focuses on core storytelling skills while reinforcing confidence, empathy, and personal voice through self-reflection and creativity.

With the help of DC Super Heroes as examples, students create autobiographical superheroes based on superpowers they identify through an exploration of challenges from their own lives.



THE ACHIEVERY

Engaging and Inspiring Students Everywhere

This free digital learning platform through AT&T is designed to make distance learning more engaging, entertaining, and inspiring for K-12 students.

Our fun multimedia lessons and activities draw inspiration from Warner Bros. television shows and films, as well as our own tried and true programming to teach storytelling, social emotional learning skills, and English Language Arts.

Check it out online:
www.theachievemy.com



STORY TIME

Giving Young People Everywhere Storytelling Tools

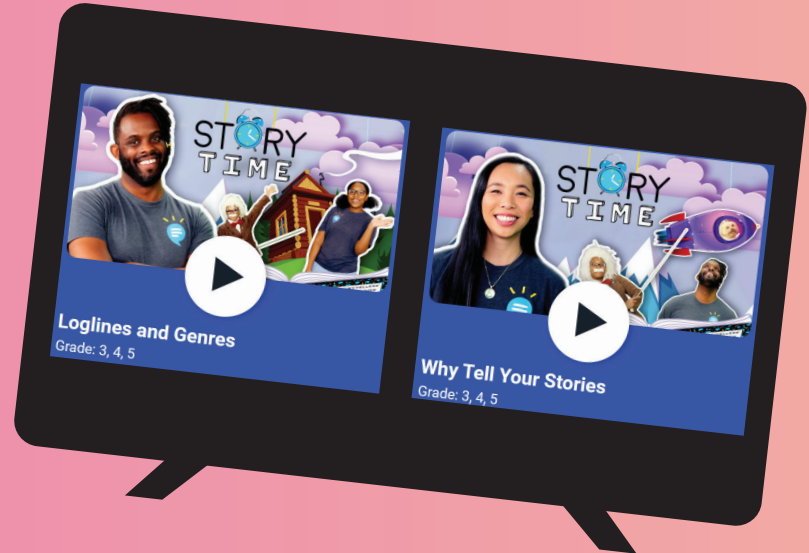
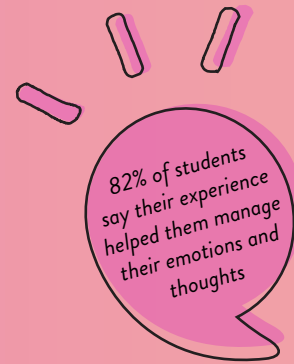
Story Time is a free digital learning tool developed in partnership with AT&T to help students learn how to tell their own stories, either independently or with the assistance of an educator or family member.

Modeled after our flagship Script to Stage program, these twelve short videos guide students as they craft stories inspired by their interests, values, and lived experiences.

Did you know? Story Time was created entirely during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic so that young people everywhere could benefit from our storytelling programs.

Check it out online:

www.youngstorytellers.com/storytime



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

In 2022, we embarked on a journey to broaden the horizons of our work beyond our local community of Los Angeles through a strategic plan informed by input from our board members, supporters, and partners. To do this, we identified 3 values-driven strategic directions:

1 Focus the number of direct service programs we provide each school year.

2 Establish comprehensive school selection criteria to drive maximum impact in our local schools.

3 Create storytelling toolkits and resources to be used by communities nationwide.



We spent the last year researching, writing, and designing written and digital materials, and now we're about to test the pilot of our toolkit with a select group of partners. We'll gather their initial feedback, and integrate any relevant changes as necessary before a broader rollout of our toolkit.

**For more information on our strategic plan, visit our website:
www.youngstorytellers.com/news/ys-strategic-plan-23**



OUR TOOLKIT

Our toolkit will empower partners to independently bring our program to their own communities. Our first partner, Big Brothers Big Sisters Los Angeles, supports our commitment to bringing impactful programming to young people outside the classroom walls.

Additionally, we're teaming up with a local Parent Teacher Association at an LAUSD school. We'll be able to observe our program in diverse environments and how it's adapted to suit the needs of different partners, all while monitoring the impact our toolkit has on young writers.



After this year, we'll launch our toolkits and resources on a broader scale with a broader group of partners, gathering data and feedback along the way. Then, our learnings will inform our next strategic plan!

To stay in the know, sign up for toolkit updates on our website:

www.youngstorytellers.com/toolkit



OUR IMPACT

VOLUNTEER MENTORS



1,375

13,853 All-Time

VOLUNTEER PERFORMERS



440

12,379 All-Time

PROGRAMS



55

1,289 All-Time

STORIES



1,631

12,468 All-Time

STUDENTS SERVED



2,675

18,078 All-Time

AUDIENCE



14,000+

120,000 All-Time

“

Each of my participating students became more trusting and relaxed about sharing their ‘true’ selves.

A PARTNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER

100%

of Young Storytellers complete their script and see it brought to life on stage

97%

of Young Storytellers felt better able to work and play with others even when they differ or disagree

99%

of family members said their child’s experience met or exceeded their expectations

95%

of Young Storytellers became more confident that they could learn new things

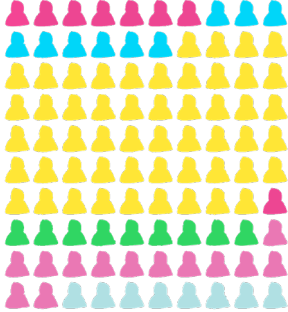
94%

of families saw increased confidence in their young people sharing their creative ideas

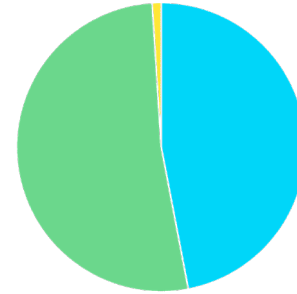
90%

of teachers reported that their students became more confident in their ability to share

OUR DEMOGRAPHICS



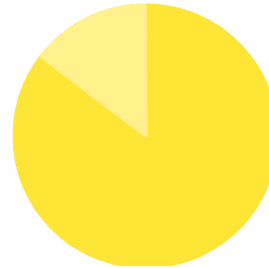
7% Asian
9% Black or African American
53% Hispanic, Latinx, or Spanish Origin
1% Middle Eastern or North African
0.5% Native American or Alaska Native
0.5% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
9% White
12% Two or More Races
8% Other Race or Ethnicity



47% Male
52% Female
1% Other



18
different languages
are spoken as a first or
second language in our
students' homes



85%
of schools where we
deliver programs are
Title 1, an important
economic indicator

WHY STUDENTS ARE SELECTED FOR OUR PROGRAMS:



19%
Shy



18%
Struggling in
English Language Arts



13%
Natural Disposition for
The Arts



13%
Low Self-Confidence



10%
Introverted



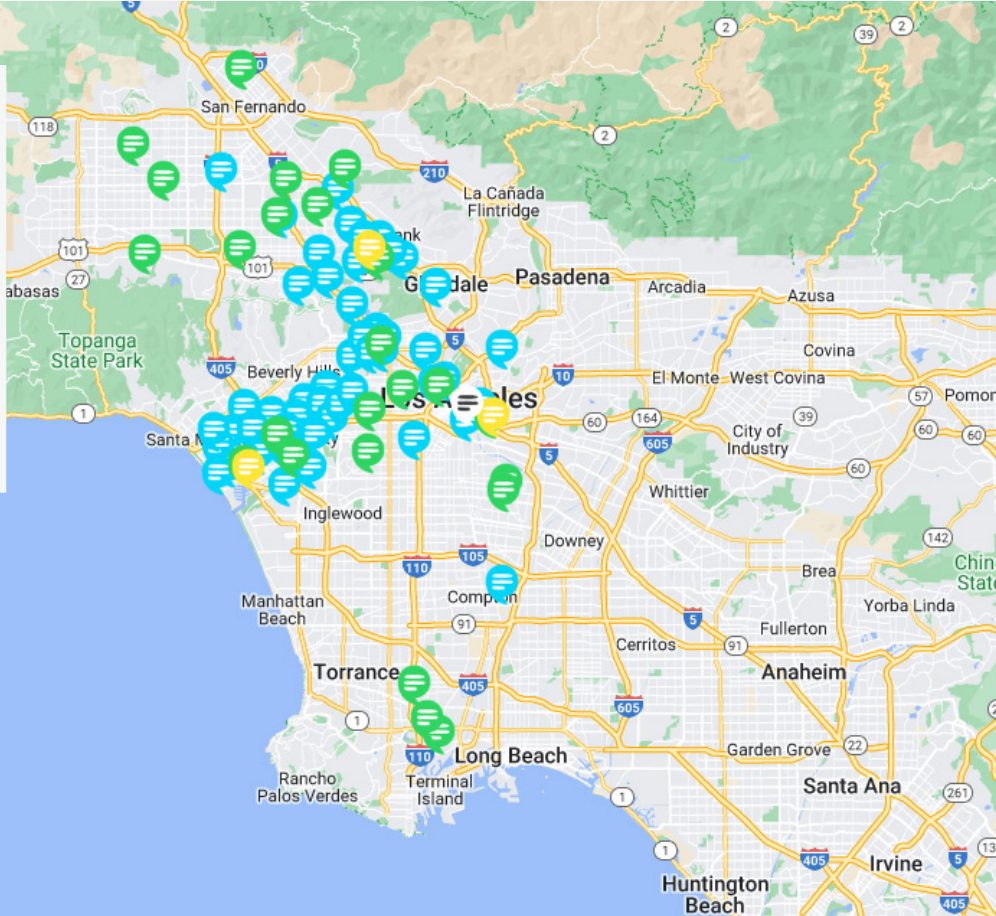
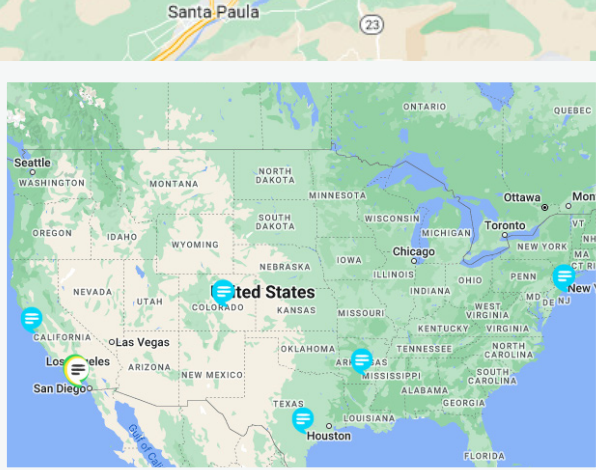
9%
English Language Learner




5%
Spectrum or Other
Learning Difference

**Some students meet multiple selection criteria*

OUR SCHOOLS



-  ELEMENTARY
-  MIDDLE SCHOOL
-  HIGH SCHOOL
-  DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

32nd Street Elementary School
Beethoven Elementary School
Benjamin Franklin Elementary School
Betty Pascencia Elementary School
Bridges Academy
Broadway Elementary School
Canfield Avenue Elementary School
Carthay Center Elementary School
Castle Heights Elementary School
Cheremoya Avenue Elementary School
Coldwater Canyon Elementary School
Crescent Heights Elementary School
Daniel Webster Elementary School (San Francisco, CA)
Dawson Elementary School (Austin, TX)
Disney Elementary School
Dolores Mission School
Edison Elementary School
Edison Language Academy
El Rincon Elementary School
Fairmont Elementary School (Denver, CO)
Farragut Elementary School
Foster Elementary School
Glenwood Elementary School
Grant Elementary School
Hertzel Elementary School
La Ballona Elementary School
Langdon Elementary School
Lankershim Elementary School
Latona Avenue Elementary School
Linwood E. Howe Elementary School
Marvin Elementary School
McKinley Elementary School

Melrose Avenue Elementary School
Micheltorena Street Elementary School
New Roads Elementary School
Nora Sterry Elementary School
Overland Avenue Elementary School
P.S. 63 William McKinley (New York, NY)
P.S. 111 Adolph S. Oches (New York, NY)
P.S. 125 Ralph Bunche (New York, NY)
Palms Elementary School
Para Los Niños Charter Elementary School
Playa Del Rey Elementary School
Providencia Elementary School
Richland Avenue Elementary School
Rio Vista Elementary School
Saturn Street Elementary School
Santa Monica Boulevard Community Charter School
Saint Anne Elementary School
Selma Avenue Elementary School
Stevenson Elementary School
Thomas Edison Elementary School
Thomas Edison Elementary School
Thomas Jefferson Elementary School (Little Rock, AR)
Union Avenue Elementary School
Valley View Elementary School
Vine Street Elementary School
Westminster Avenue Elementary School
Willows Community School
Wilshire Crest Elementary School

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Audubon Middle School
Byrd Middle School
Salvador B. Castro Middle School
Dolores Huerta Middle School
Gaspar De Portola Middle School
George Washington Carver Middle School
Harry Bridges Span School
Hollenbeck Middle School
Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. Middle School
Le Conte Middle School
Jordan Middle School
James Madison Middle School
Mark Twain Middle School
Nimitz Middle School
Alfred Bernhard Nobel Middle School
Northridge Middle School
NOW Academy
Olive Vista Middle School
Orchard Academies
Palms Middle School
Sun Valley Magnet School
Van Nuys Middle School
Stephen M. White Middle School
Vinedale College Prep Academy
Wilmington Middle School

HIGH SCHOOLS

Central High School/Tri-C CDS
Highland Park Continuation High School
John Burroughs High School
Theodore Roosevelt High School
Venice High School

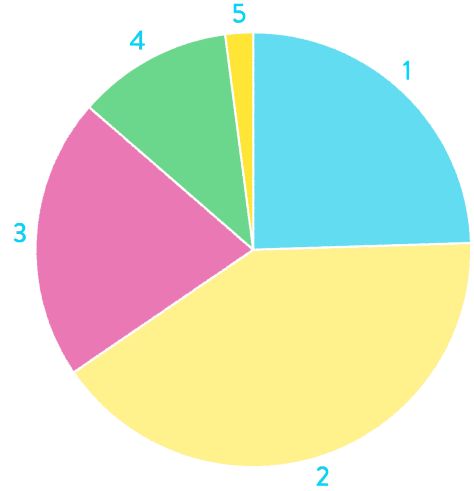
OUR FINANCIALS

FISCAL YEAR 2022 REVENUE & EXPENSES

REVENUE

Individual Contributions (1)	\$392,777
Corporate Grants (2)	\$656,304
Foundation Grants (3)	\$335,624
Special Events (4)	\$184,964
Government Grants (5)	\$33,098

TOTAL **\$1,602,767**



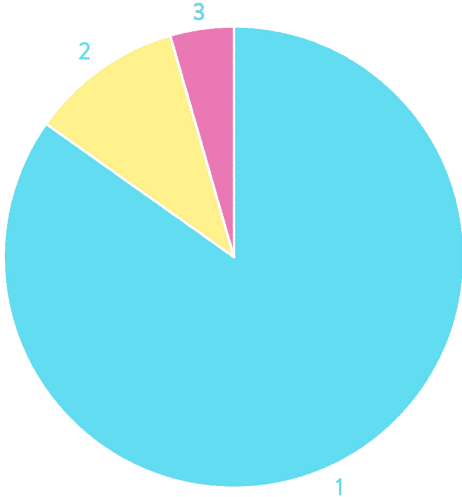
“

Through relationships with mentors and actors, our students get to expand their horizons.

A PARTNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER

EXPENSES

Program (1)	\$1,354,517
Management (2)	\$171,257
Fundraising (3)	\$71,448
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$1,597,222



“

I loved Young Storytellers because it helps me express my emotions. Also, they were very nice and kind.”

AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT

OUR SUPPORTERS

We're so grateful for all the people, organizations, foundations, and companies that are generous with their time and money! We value gifts of time and money equally, and view our volunteers, donors, staff, board, and partners as important and equal partners in furthering our work.

Here's a snapshot of what our community of supporters look like:

57

People have been volunteering
for 5-9 years

74

People are both donors and
volunteers

15

People have been volunteering
for 10+ years

83

People have been donating for
5-9 years

38

People donate on a monthly
basis

20

People have been donating for
10+ years

“

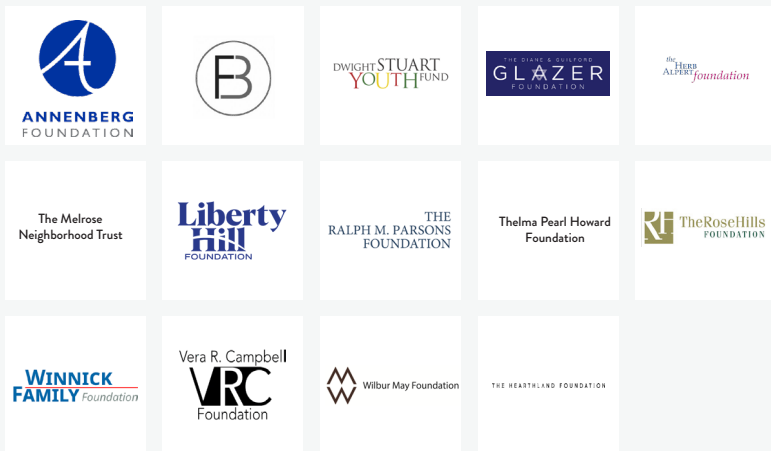
I've learned a wealth from my mentors and students. Young Storytellers has enriched and inspired my life!

A MENTOR

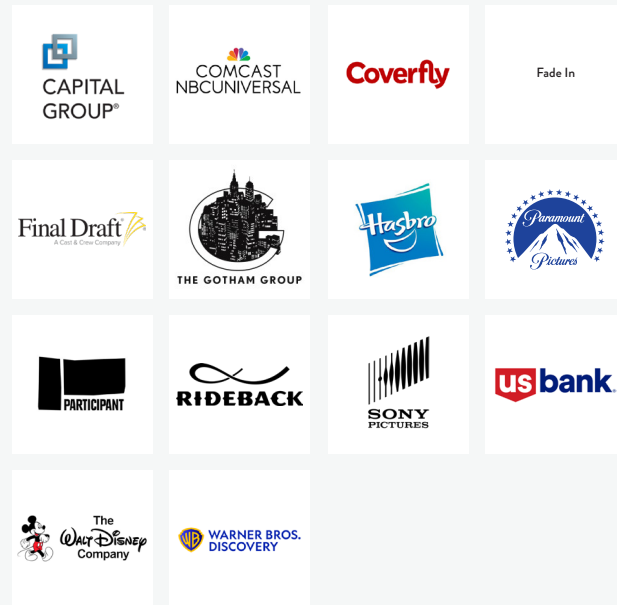
GOVERNMENT



FOUNDATIONS



CORPORATE SPONSORS



For a detailed list of our supporters, visit our website:
www.youngstorytellers.com/supporters

OUR TEAM

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Chief Transformation Officer,
International Data Group (IDG)

AJ NSEIR, *he/him*

SECRETARY

Director, Systems and Workflow, Sony
Pictures Entertainment

BRIAR DARDEN, *she/her*

BOARD MEMBER

Vice President Business Affairs, DC Comics

CAROLYN GAN, *she/her*

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Executive Director, California Partners
Project

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Entertainment Distribution

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Productions

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Brand Innovator

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Writer & Young Storytellers Alum

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
STRATEGIST

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ESPARZA**, *she/her*
DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEER
ENGAGEMENT AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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PROGRAM DIRECTOR: SCRIPT TO
STAGE, COLLABORATIVE SCRIPT
TO STAGE, DAY OF STORY

BILL THOMPSON, *he/him*
PRESIDENT

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VOLUNTEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST

ETHAN DUNNING, *he/him*
DATABASE AND SYSTEMS
SPECIALIST

**JAYLENE BENGGON
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MANAGING DIRECTOR

JESS DOSS, *they/them or he/him*
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HEAD MENTOR STRATEGIST

PILAR ALVAREZ, *she/her*
EDUCATION DIRECTOR

**RACHAEL PIERCE
JONES**, *she/her*
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SOPHIE SHAPIRO, *she/her*
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STRATEGIST



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