



SEE STORIES

BUILDING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES THROUGH
FILM & STORY

Students from UAA's TRIO Upward Bound Program film mini-documentaries for the Summer Film Elective led by See Stories.

Gaining Momentum



See Stories gained 501(c) 3 status in 2019, just before the pandemic. Like many other organizations and non-profits, we had to adapt to meet the needs of our communities throughout Alaska and to keep our mission alive and thriving. When the shut-down first occurred in Alaska, all of our workshops were canceled, leaving us adrift and wondering what the future looked like. We adapted and grew because of our virtual workshops, being able to serve students and teachers we may not otherwise had been able to serve, along with bringing in collaborators and instructors, many from out of state! Now as we move forward, the work has not slowed down and has been gaining momentum as we have been able to offer classes in person for the first time in over 2 years, while our online presence and digital workshops continue to grow!

See Stories Spring Workshops

Podcasting Production @ West High School led by Kaitlin Armstrong & Mona Grib, ELL Teacher at West

Anchored Histories PD: Utilizing Primary Sources for Digital Storytelling & Beyond

Kachemak Bay Family Planning REC Peer Ed Podcasting Workshop led by Rafael Bitanga

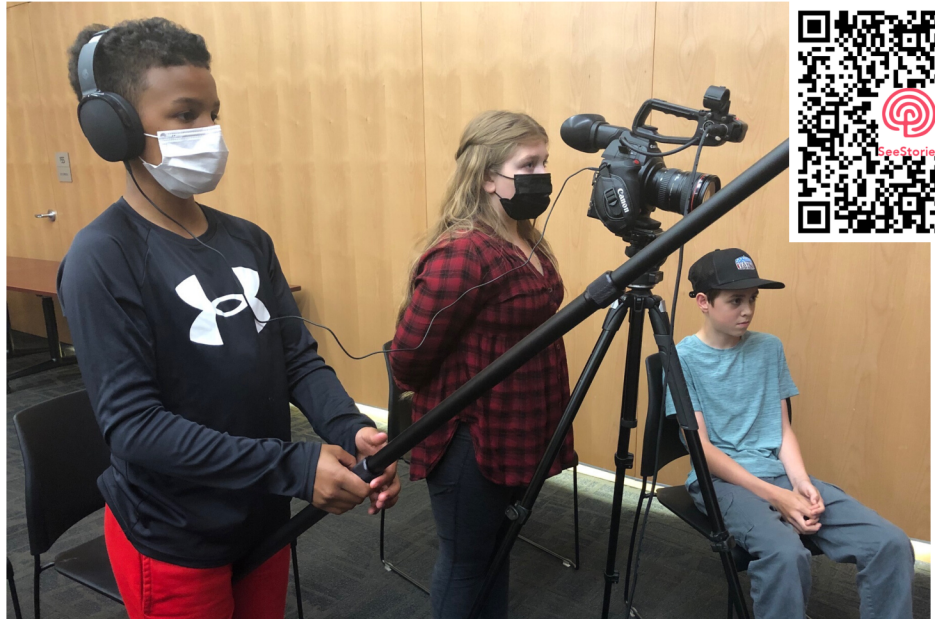
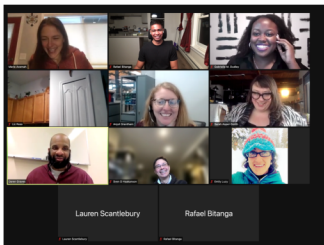
Alaska History Digital Storytelling at McLaughlin

Alaska State Museum Digital Storytelling Workshop in Juneau

TRIO Upward Bound Digital Storytelling, UA Anchorage

Past Event Photos

Did you know we feature our current projects every Friday on our socials? Check out the photos below for events you may have missed and follow along to see what we're up to!



Tchabo Acemah, Alanna Zellhumber and Hunter Schall take part at Youth Film Workshop at the Alaska State Museum. Listen to an interview about this workshop on KTOO above.

Youth Film Workshop in Juneau, AK on Tlingit Land

For one of the first times since the pandemic, See Stories director, Marie Acemah, was able to travel to Juneau to lead an in-person Youth Film Workshop at the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum. The students produced mini-documentaries on topics related to fishing and canneries inspired by the Mug-Up exhibit. Students produced stories from haunted ships to sport fishing to crabbing to salmon can labels, all within a matter of days in a class that usually takes 2 weeks! The students screened their films at the Alaska State Museum and a story was featured on KTOO Public Media.

See Stories at McLaughlin

In May, See Stories finished up the Alaska History Digital Storytelling Workshop at McLaughlin, and the students gave the workshop glowing reviews. Our student workshops not only provide educational opportunities, but they build confidence, connections, and their self-identity. We are grateful for our partnership with The McLaughlin Youth Center!

"Thank you for this wonderful, amazingly awesome experience! It really brightened my time in jail."

"I learned that there's more to a story and it doesn't stop. I learned that I have family history in Alaska. I learned about my identity. I liked that I am famous and the center of my film. You can't get much better than this."

Podcast feature: Alaska Teen Query by KBFPC REC Room

Collaborator and See Stories Diversity and Inclusion Educator, Rafael Bitanga facilitated a podcasting workshop for The Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic REC Room Peer Education team in Homer, AK. A team of peer educators, ages 15-18, developed a podcast based on a chosen sexual health-related topic, conducting interviews with community members while weaving their personal stories and perspectives. Episodes are released every Friday and can be found theREC.podbean.com, and at homerrecroom.org



RECENT NEWS

COLLABORATOR HIGHLIGHT



Kaitlin Armstrong, See Stories Collaborator & Instructor, Podcasting Production at West High

See Stories collaborates with local artists, documentarians, and storytellers to fund professional film and podcast productions. Currently, See Stories is partnering with collaborator and sound artist, Kaitlin Armstrong, who recently taught a podcasting production workshop this spring. Students from West High School explored how their identities and Alaska's history intersects and learned the basic flow of podcasting production and interviewing. Students interviewed cultural leaders, such as Alice Qannik Glenn of Coffee & Quaq and had the chance to record their podcasts at Alaska Public Media. See Stories publicized these podcast episodes the summer of 2022, while supporting Kaitlin Armstrong in her next project, a documentary podcast that explores how settler colonial myths shape popular conceptions of Alaska's history and reframes those myths. See Stories sponsored Kaitlin on a trip to Kodiak (Sugpiaq land) to do some reporting for the documentary.

"I absolutely love See Stories mission of building inclusive communities through film and story... I had the opportunity to teach See Stories' inaugural podcasting class at West High School. It was so much fun to get to spend afternoon with a group of thoughtful and curious students, and the final pieces they made were impressive too!" - Kaitlin Armstrong, audio producer, sound artist, astrologer, and See Stories collaborator



Through the podcast, Kaitlin will explore the myths that shape how Alaskans view our histories and ourselves by taking a critical look at dominant narratives that run through Alaska's history. Each episode will revisit a different era of Alaska's history and look at how that period has been remembered and misremembered.

"Portrait of Alaska" is scheduled to be released in Fall of 2022, and we are excited to be partnering with Kaitlin for this project! To get the latest updates, you can follow Kaitlin at @kaitlin.a.jade.a on Instagram or check out her site www.kaitlinjadearmstrong.com.



NEW SEE STORIES PODCAST SERIES

Starting with our podcasting workshop at West, we are hosting new podcast episodes produced by our students. The Podcasting Production class at West was featured every Wednesday for the month of July with a bonus episode of an interview with Alice Qannik Glenn of Coffee & Quaq. Listen at seestories.podbean.com and soon you'll see all of our student produced podcasts on our new revamped website coming in 2022!

SHAKESPEARE & HIP HOP RETURNING TO MCLAUGHLIN

See Stories founder and director, Marie Acemah, had previously led the Shakespeare and Hip Hop Workshop with local hip hop artist, Tayy Tarantino, who served as co-instructor and mentor to the students at McLaughlin. This fall both Tarantino and Acemah will return, along with a new instructor, Keith McGill. McGill as the newest addition to the team will provide skill and mastery in Shakespeare and theater with the students having the opportunity to produce a theater production open to the Anchorage community.



Would you like to further support See Stories? Consider being a Patreon supporter and get early access to our content. Find out more on patreon.com/seestories, and if you missed our lyric video, "Soul of Freedom," written and produced by Marie during the last Shakespeare & Hip Hop workshop, scan the graphic above to watch now!



When I joined the See Stories team last November, I had the opportunity to come up with my job title myself. I chose “Story Coordinator” because I understood my role would require being a keeper of our story as an organization. See Stories has been helping students tell the stories of their cultures and communities for years, and I have loved watching our nonprofit turn inward and learn to tell our story: the story of the work we do and why we do it.

It is a privilege to share our vision and impact with local, state, and national funders, who in turn have been incredibly generous in their support of building inclusive communities through film and story. We are grateful to have received grants this year from the following organizations:

A note from our Story Coordinator, Lauren Scantlebury

thank you to our current funders!

- ALASKA HUMANITIES FORUM
- CENTER FOR SAFE ALASKANS
- GCI
- SEALASKA
- ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS
- ATWOOD FOUNDATION
- THE NEW YORK LIFE FOUNDATION
- RurAL CAP
- ARCTIC SLOPE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
- LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
- TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES
- MCLAUGHLIN YOUTH CENTER
- ARTS MIDWEST

DID YOU KNOW SEE STORIES IS ON TWITTER?

You may have noticed that See Stories is now on twitter! We would love to have our supporters follow us and spread the word about See Stories work! Follow us @seestoriesak ! We would love to get to 100 followers or more!



SUPPORT SEE STORIES



Become a supporter through Patreon. Check out our membership options and perks and consider becoming a supporter!



You can also donate directly to See Stories. Even the smallest donation helps!



A like, a friendly comment, or a re-share is always welcome and helps to further expose these stories that are so worth sharing! You can find our socials below!

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