

# See Stories

## See Stories Workshops & Upcoming Events

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# See Stories News

## MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS



## SEE STORIES CONTINUES TO GROW!

*Meet our new culturally responsive story educator & education programs manager*

See Stories is proud to present our two new staff members, Kaneyo Hirata and Seth Bader. Kaneyo is on Dena'ina Ełnena land, while Seth is on Lingít Aaní land. Kaneyo will be

implementing podcasting programs in the Anchorage area and Seth will be managing our digital storytelling workshops in Juneau, and villages and communities throughout Alaska. We are so excited to welcome them to the See Stories team! Find out more about them on the See Stories site.

[MEET SETH](#)

[MEET KANEYO](#)

## A FAMILY AFFAIR AT BETTYE DAVIS EAST HIGH SCHOOL

As Kaneyo came on board, we shared with her that one of her first projects was to lead an after school podcasting workshops at Bettye Davis East High School. She smiled and shared that her husband, Afa, works as a security guard there, and that he could help us recruit students. Thanks to Kaneyo and Afa we now have the largest list of registered students in the history of our after-school programming at Bettye Davis East High School! The team teaching this after school class is Kim Liland (ELL Teacher), Kaneyo Hirata (Culturally Responsive Story Educator), Marie Acemah (Director) and Clara Amidon (Alaska Native Charter School teacher). This project is generously funded by the CIRI foundation and by Bettye Davis East High School.



*Pictured above: Marie, Kim, and Kaneyo*



*Kaneyo with her husband Afa.*



# SEE STORIES NEWS

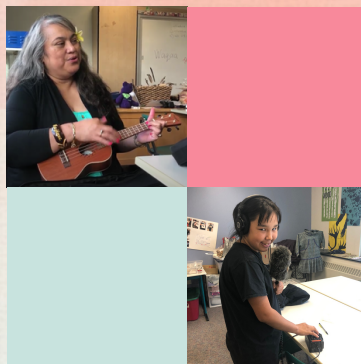
## LINKS & PRESS RELEASES

Kaneyo has kicked off our fall programs at Wendler high school with our Podcasting Afterschool Program. Recently, Kaneyo shared part of her story to the students, connecting to her Samoan heritage and her cousin from Samoa featured in this BBC News article from 2019. Read this story below.

[" THE MYSTERY SAMOAN IN MY FAMILY" BBC NEWS](#)

Did you hear? 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 and Kaneyo Hirata, our new educator, at McLaughlin.

[READ OUR PRESS RELEASE HERE](#)



Starting with our podcasting workshop at West last spring, 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. More student-produced podcasts will be released on our channel below!

[SEE STORIES PODBEAN CHANNEL](#)

A new look is coming for See Stories this fall! Social Good Studio, based in Anchorage, has been working behind the scenes to completely overhaul our website to include so many cool features like curriculum resources, access to current workshops, podcasts, and more!

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SOCIAL GOOD STUDIO HERE](#)



## A DREAM IN THE MAKING: CURRICULUM DESIGN & RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS



See Stories is collaborating with Sugpiaq artist & educator Hanna Sholl to create curricula for middle and high school teachers about Sugpiaq enslavement on Kodiak. This curriculum will pair with The Forgotten Slavery of Our Ancestors, a 12 minute film produced by See Stories on this history of enslavement of Indigenous people in what is now known as the United States. As she creates this curricula, Hanna is drawing on primary source research, her artwork, age-appropriate interactive

activities, and both honoring historical trauma and the resilience and strength of Sugpiaq people. Hanna's work will support educators on Kodiak and beyond, and serve as a template for other creators throughout Alaska to document this story in their own communities. This work is generously funded by the Dudley Dougherty Foundation, and will be launched in 2023.

*\*Artwork courtesy of Hanna Agasuuq Sholl. Find out more at [www.fineartsbyhannasholl.com](http://www.fineartsbyhannasholl.com)*



# SEE STORIES CAKE WALK & SILENT AUCTION

This past summer, our See Stories board organized a Cake Walk & Silent Auction at the Writer's Block in Anchorage. This family friendly event was a dream child of our board, honoring our Alaskan culture and a testament of what See Stories is about: harboring connections in the community. We were able to have a chat with our board Vice President, Aud Pleas, about the See Stories Fundraiser.

**What was your favorite part about doing this fundraiser? How did you all come up with this idea to host a cake walk?**

The board meets every month, and Jacquii, who is Iñupiaq, suggested a cake walk, as this really resonates with culture and life in villages. My favorite part was seeing each board member arrive and spend time together after the pandemic. To see and interact with everyone collectively, all at once, was electric and moving... especially meeting their loved ones. This was truly a family affair that was welcoming and inviting to anyone who happened to be fluttering around The Writer's Block. Everything fell in place that day and I think that is reflective of the innovative

essence this board possesses. We were also able to get our first board picture together!

**Can you speak about the roles each of you filled for this event?**

This is a new board just coming about, and each of us had been trying to find our footing. Our board came together and found their footing, each filling a unique role...without even talking among ourselves, we just leaned into things that fit. Each of our members made a cake and even got their families involved-, except for me --I don't bake! The cake that Naaq baked was so creative and to think that every item, donated by organizations and board members, received a bid in two hours is so cool.



**What was it like DJing and Emceeing the Cake Walk?**

I often found myself participating in cake walks as a child, and it is one of my fondest memories. Cake walks are inviting, inclusive, and welcoming to everyone. It was



*Pictured left to right: Ian Murakami, Adam Mackie, Synclaire Butler, Debra Naaqtuuq Robertson, Jacquii Lambert, Marie Acemah, Aud Pleas, & Jacob Tatum.*

a full circle moment to DJ the cakewalk while emceeing with my peers. The owners of The Writer's Block continue to be influential beacons of creativity in our community. This space was perfect for the intentions of the fundraiser and created space for each board to participate on their own terms. I want to give a shout out to KRUA 88.1 FM, UAA's College Station, for donating the speakers as they've continued to do as a show of support for several community organizations over the past two decades.

**What hopes does the board have in hosting this as an annual tradition?**

The board has committed to making this our annual tradition as it fuses cultural celebrations dear to members of our board while it honors the communities we come from and how we engage with each other. It is important for us to establish traditions that align with the board that serve as a milemaker to measure our growth in the future.

*Thank you to our board and the Writer's Block to hosting this event! And thank you to all of you that were able to join us and support See Stories!*





## HOW TO SUPPORT US



Find us on Youtube! See Stories is adding content to our \*new\* Youtube channel. Our Vimeo site is being congregated with all our student and professional produced films that will be easily accessible on our website coming this fall! Through our Youtube channel, our work will be more readily available for the public to find out what we all about and to feature student films. We would love to get to 100 subscribers so we can further customize and personalize our Youtube channel!

## THANK YOU FOR SERVING ON OUR BOARD, JIM LABELLE!



Jim Labelle has served on our board since 2020, when See Stories first began to grow. We are so grateful for his contributions to See Stories and are sad to see him go! It's been an honor having you serve on our board!

*We have a vacant seat on our board we are looking to fill! If anyone is interested in serving, reach out to [admin@seestories.org](mailto:admin@seestories.org) by October 19.*

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safe ALASKANS



ARCTIC SLOPE  
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Thank you to our  
current funders!



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Arts  
MIDWEST



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ALASKA STATE COUNCIL  
ON THE ARTS



## GRANT HIGHLIGHT



See Stories was recently awarded a \$254,000 grant from DEED Alaska, to be distributed over the next 2 years. This grant will go towards programs to support teachers across Alaska to lead after-school podcasting and/or digital storytelling programs for Alaska Native and English Language Learner students starting in 2023.