



YOUNG<sup>TM</sup>  
STORY  
TELLERS

*ANNUAL REPORT*

2018 - 2019

# OUR STORY


## HISTORY

**BUILDING COMMUNITY IS AS SIMPLE AS  
SHOWING UP - CONSISTENTLY.**

In 1997, a group of young film students learned that Los Angeles public schools were cutting creative arts programs from their budgets. Knowing the value that arts education held in their own lives, they created a volunteer-based creative arts program they could take directly into public schools at no cost to the school. Today, Young Storytellers offers a variety of programs designed to engage the creativity of students at several points in their education experience.

## MISSION

Young Storytellers engages creativity through the art of storytelling. Using the timeless techniques of mentoring, collaboration, and performance, we provide public school students with an opportunity to write stories and see them brought to life on stage. Our mission is to inspire young people to discover the power of their own voice.

The image is a collage of three scenes related to education and storytelling, all overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The top-left scene shows a young girl with glasses and her hand raised in a classroom. The top-right scene shows a boy sitting at a desk with a teacher leaning over him. The bottom scene shows a group of people, including children and adults, with their hands raised in a large room. A banner in the background of the bottom scene reads 'YOUNG STORY TELLERS'.

EVERY  
CHILD HAS A  
STORY  
WORTH  
TELLING.

YOUNG  
STORY  
TELLERS

# OUR PROGRAMS

Young Storytellers develops creative learning behaviors through the art of storytelling. These include curiosity, open-mindedness, imaginative thinking, the ability to identify and solve problems, collaborative problem solving, and confidence in students' right and ability to influence change. Using group exercises and volunteer mentors, we provide underserved young people in the public school system an opportunity to write stories and see them brought to life through performance. At the core of our programming are thousands of adult volunteers who donate their time to mentor individual students and perform their works on stage.

When looking for how this program impacts young people, one statistic stands out: 100% of Young Storytellers participants complete their project. Put another way, every student that begins to write a script completes it. For young people who may not see themselves reflected in the current offerings on TV and film, the one-on-one mentorship provided by Young Storytellers offers support as they develop their confidence and agency.

Students leave the program with the knowledge that their stories matter and that their unique voices can be the ones telling them.



### SCRIPT TO STAGE

A semester-long common core aligned elementary school program where students write their own original short script, then see it performed live by professional actors.



### STORY LAB

A semester-long writing and storytelling program for 6th graders that uses superheroes to support self-exploration. This program is a partnership with Warner Bros., D.C. Comics, & L.A.U.S.D.



### DAY OF STORY

A one-day, in-school program that pairs adult mentors one-on-one with a 4th grade student to get them excited about creative storytelling.



### COLLEGE CHAPTERS

A college-based opportunity for community engagement around Young Storytellers Programming.

# OUR IMPACT



1.443

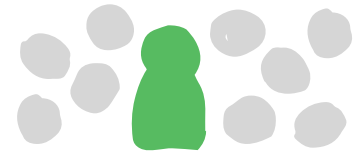
Volunteer Mentors

10,805 ALL-TIME

10.000+

Audience

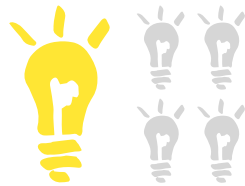
98,000+ ALL-TIME



2.443

Students Served

12,336 ALL-TIME



149

Programs

1,070 ALL-TIME



1.201

Volunteer Performers

10,720 ALL-TIME

1.070

Scripts

10,235 ALL-TIME



**96%** of Young Storytellers felt more creative

**95%** of parents saw increased confidence in their children sharing their creative ideas

**92%** of Young Storytellers felt more confident in their writing abilities and used what they learned in English class

**92%** of teachers noticed an improvement in classroom participation and academic confidence

**\$689.258**

Volunteer Instruction Value



Every **\$1** we raise provides **\$2** worth of Script to Stage programming

# OUR DEMOGRAPHICS



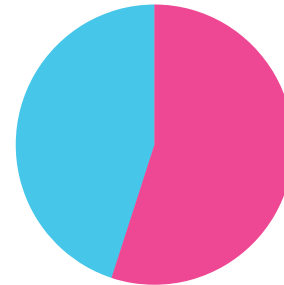
7%  
Asian

13%  
Black

61%  
Latinx

12%  
White

7%  
Bi / Multi-Racial /  
Other



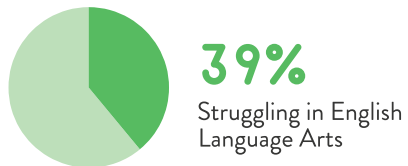
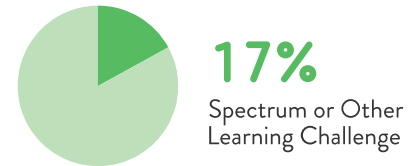
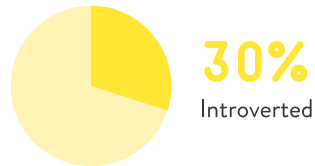
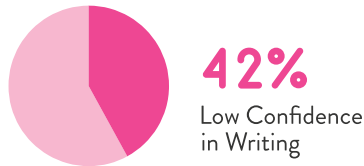
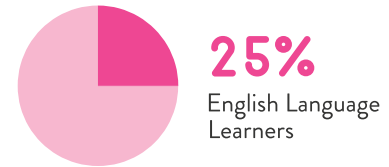
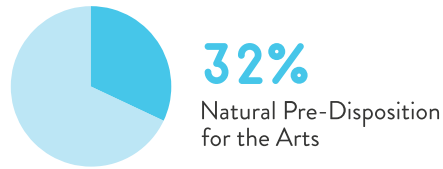
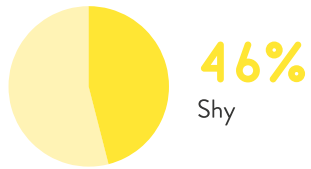
55%  
Female  
45%  
Male



91%  
of schools where we deliver  
programs are Title 1  
AN IMPORTANT LOW INCOME  
ECONOMIC INDICATOR



# WHY ARE STUDENTS HAND SELECTED BY THEIR TEACHERS FOR YOUNG STORYTELLERS?



\*some students meet multiple selection criteria



## ELEMENTARY

Beethoven Street Elementary  
Benjamin Franklin Elementary School  
Betty Plasencia Elementary School  
Bridges Academy  
Broadway Elementary School  
Canfield Avenue Elementary  
Carthay Center Elementary School  
Castle Heights Elementary School  
Cheremoya Avenue Elementary School  
Coldwater Canyon Elementary School  
Crescent Heights Boulevard School  
Daniel Webster Elementary (San Francisco)  
Dawson Elementary School (Austin, TX)  
Disney Elementary School  
Dolores Mission School  
Edison Elementary School  
Edison Language Academy  
El Rincon Elementary School  
Farragut Elementary School  
Foster Elementary School  
Glenwood Elementary School  
Grant 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 Ave Elementary School  
Micheltorena Street Elementary  
New Roads Elementary School  
Nora Sterry Elementary School  
Overland Avenue Elementary School  
P.S. 63 William McKinley (NYC)  
P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs (NYC)  
P.S. 125 Ralph Bunche (NYC)  
Palms Elementary School  
Para Los Ninos  
Playa Del Rey Elementary  
Providencia Elementary School  
Richland Avenue Elementary School  
Rio Vista Elementary  
Saturn St Elementary School  
Santa Monica Boulevard Community Charter School  
Saint Anne Elementary School  
Selma Avenue Elementary School  
Stevenson Elementary  
Thomas Edison Elementary  
Union Avenue Elementary School  
USC/32nd Street School  
Valley View Elementary  
Vine Street Elementary School  
Westminster Avenue Elementary School  
Willows Community School  
Wilshire Crest Elementary School

## MIDDLE

Audubon Middle School  
Salvador B. Castro Middle School  
Culver City Middle School  
Dolores Mission School  
Hollenbeck Middle School  
Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. Middle School  
Jordan Middle School  
Le Conte Middle School  
Mark Twain Middle School  
NOW Academy  
Para Los Ninos Middle School  
Palms Middle School  
Saint Anne Middle School  
Sun Valley Magnet School  
Van Nuys Middle School  
Whaley Middle School  
Stephen M White Middle School

## HIGH SCHOOL

Alexander Hamilton High School  
Dominguez High School  
John Burroughs High School  
Venice High School

# OUR VISION

Our vision of success is a world where there is a shared understanding that all people have the right to express themselves freely and be met with dignity. We view stories as the access point to our shared humanity; they are a tool that offers people a way to reconcile their experiences with their feelings. What can simultaneously inspire, educate, and connect people? Stories can.

The world Young Storytellers was birthed into is remarkably different than the present day. When we began our work two decades ago, we were an organization committed to remedying a wrong; to insure that we were doing our part to offer all students access to arts education. Times have changed. From Marriage Equality to Black Lives Matter to Times Up to the student activism inspired by the events in Parkland, storytelling has taken on new meaning and even greater importance in our society. At Young Storytellers, we want to capture this moment by re-defining what storytelling means for our community and focusing on how we can best equip young people to be at the center of their own narratives.

We have grown from a scrappy group of committed volunteers to an established organization with a clear strategy and the staff and Board to execute it. As we endeavor to be more specific and intentional in our work, we have identified five strategic “pillars” which, over the course of the next three years, will provide structure for our ongoing efforts to support and amplify our students as they discover the power of their own voices. This document will also offer detailed strategic aims and goals that will need to be met in order to continue fortifying and building upon the good work already underway.

# PILLAR 1 - PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY & DEVELOPMENT

## AIM 1:

Sustain current high level of programming

## AIM 2:

To expand the depth of the experiences on offer

## AIM 3:

To expand the reach of our programming





## PILLAR 2 - HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

### AIM 1:

To focus on strategically developing human capital within the Young Storytellers community

### AIM 2:

To clearly articulate an organizational culture that spans from our Board Members to the first time volunteer

### AIM 3:

To maximize effectiveness of Board of Directors by creating conditions that provide a sense of autonomy and an opportunity for self-creation of their roles as stewards for Young Storytellers

# PILLAR 3 - FUND DEVELOPMENT

## AIM 1:

To increase Board of Directors involvement in and ownership over fund development

## AIM 2:

To identify diverse funding sources

## AIM 3:

To sustain and build on existing partnerships with individuals, corporations and foundations



A woman with blonde hair, wearing a white top and a patterned cardigan, is pointing towards the left. She is holding a book titled 'Secret to Story' and a small card. In the background, there are other people, including a child with blonde hair, and a wall with various papers and a large white arrow pointing right. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

## PILLAR 4 - MARKETING & BRANDING

### AIM 1:

To use marketing to create excitement around Young Storytellers to engage our current community and attract new family (donors and volunteers) members

### AIM 2:

Continue to build internal capacity to engage in partnerships that amplify the voices of Young Storytellers participants

### AIM 3:

Build partnerships that align the programmatic and marketing aims of Young Storytellers



# PILLAR 5 - DATA & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

## AIM 1:

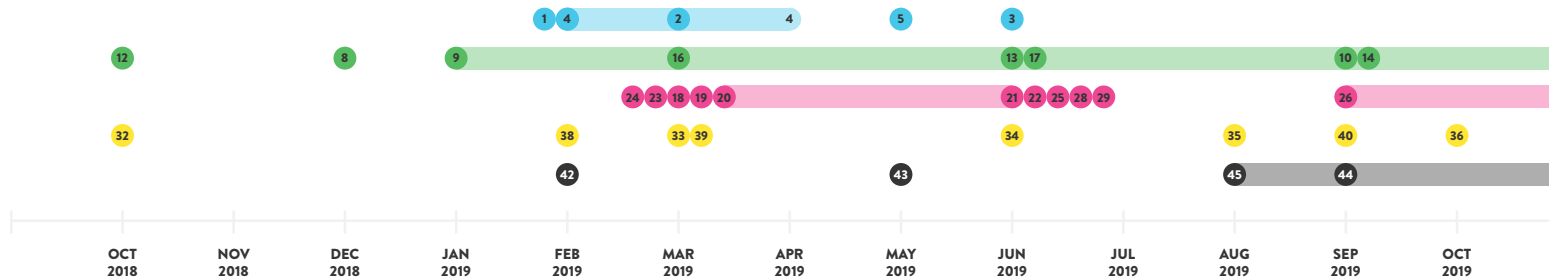
To increase efficiency of operations of Young Storytellers through the use of data

## AIM 2:

To have a data management system capable of supporting expansion



# VISION TIMELINE



1. Pillar 1 / Aim 1 - Create a comprehensive staffing strategy for current program sustainability.
2. Pillar 1 / Aim 1 - Identify, cultivate, and approve a Board Member with education experience.
3. Pillar 1 / Aim 1 - Develop a Volunteer outreach and management strategy. Must include tactics to increase diversity of volunteers.
4. Pillar 1 / Aim 2 - Pilot new middle and high school programs in participating classrooms.
5. Pillar 1 / Aim 3 - Develop a set of program expansion goals for existing programs within Los Angeles for the next 3 years, with a clear budget for head mentors and volunteer management process taken into account. This is inclusive of Script to Stage, Day of Story, StoryLab, and College Chapters.
6. Pillar 1 / Aim 3 - Update the set of program

- expansion goals for existing programs within Los Angeles for the next 3 years to be inclusive of the new middle & high school programs.
7. Pillar 1 / Aim 3 - Conduct a research and feasibility study around models for expansion, which must include timelines for expansion and definition of what is a "Young Storytellers" program and what isn't. Plan for geographic expansion must include international growth and define if we are a direct service organization or an organization that equips other people to provide our programs. This project should also include research around feasibility of expanding to populations outside of low-income youth.
  8. Pillar 2 / Aim 1 - Develop a strategy for team and peer coaching to be implemented by staff, including identifying a consultant who can train staff to be multi-level coaches.
  9. Pillar 2 / Aim 1 - Create a system for the "YS Way" of doing things and enacting processes to

- make that real. This plan will be inclusive of bias training for staff and setting explicit work expectations for all staff members.
10. Pillar 2 / Aim 1 - Create an HR systems compliance plan that includes an outside consultant to assess and validate that policies are in compliance with all local and federal employment laws. This plan will include new systems for creation of job descriptions, organizational chart reflective of our values, updated interview & on-boarding process, and a revised employee handbook.
  11. Pillar 2 / Aim 1 - Provide coaching best practices to all of the human capital populations within YS inclusive of Board and Volunteers.
  12. Pillar 2 / Aim 2 - Adopt a diversity and inclusion statement by the YS Board that will guide our recruitment of volunteers, Board, and staff.
  13. Pillar 2 / Aim 2 - Have a system for identifying

- and engaging people around their wants and goals within the context of our community. This system will be applied to the development of Staff, Board, Volunteers, and Donors.
14. Pillar 2 / Aim 2 - Create a convening plan for cultivating each of our constituencies including staff, board, volunteers, school partners, and donors.
  15. Pillar 2 / Aim 2 - Have a diversity and inclusion policy and plan in place which also expands the definition of diversity to include socio-economic background, areas of expertise, etc.
  16. Pillar 2 / Aim 3 - Develop a Board Recruitment Plan that includes strategies for recruiting board members capable of aiding in the successful execution of the strategic plan (including education policy, HR, marketing, fund development).

17. Pillar 2 / Aim 3 - Assess the effectiveness of Board governance and impact. This evaluation may lead a plan that encourages a Board-directed, Board-driven process to achieve the ultimate goal of a Board that has full ownership of their actions and influence within YS. This could include the creation of a Board mission statement, board training, re-imagining of board meeting structure and content, etc.
18. Pillar 3 / Aim 1 - Recruit, cultivate, and elect a Board Member that is a fund development professional or possesses extensive fundraising experience.
19. Pillar 3 / Aim 1 - Enlist the support of a Board Coach focused on fundraising.
20. Pillar 3 / Aim 1 - Review effectiveness of current approach to Board Giving and Fundraising.
21. Pillar 3 / Aim 1 - Create an Individual Donor Cultivation Strategy for the Board inclusive of

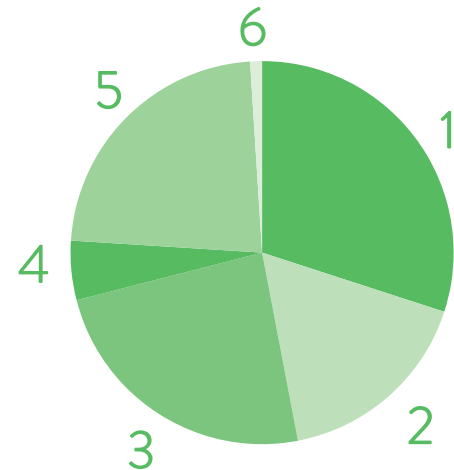


# OUR FINANCIALS

## FISCAL YEAR 2017 REVENUE & EXPENSES

### REVENUE

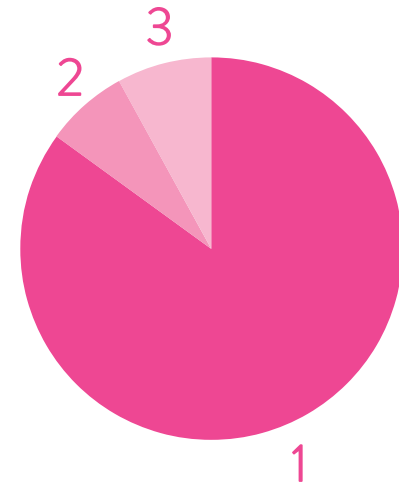
Individual Contributions (1)	\$275,294
Corporate Grants (2)	\$162,300
Foundation Grants (3)	\$225,000
Government Grants (4)	\$45,118
Special Events (5)	\$214,329
Program Revenue (6)	\$2,450
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$924,491</b>



## EXPENSES

Program (1)	\$709,215
Management & Administrative (2)	\$56,455
Fund Development (3)	\$64,505
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$830,175</b>

In-kind Value of Volunteer Instruction **\$689,258**



# OUR SUPPORTERS

## GOVERNMENT



## FOUNDATIONS



## CORPORATE



## \$50,000+

Dwight Stuart Youth Fund  
HBO  
The Walt Disney Company  
Warner Bros. Entertainment  
Wilbur May Foundation

## \$25,000-\$49,999

Acton Family Giving  
Ahmanson Foundation  
AT&T  
Herb Alpert Foundation  
Los Angeles County Arts Commission  
Team Griffin Foundation  
The Antholis Family  
The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation  
Vera Campbell  
William Morris Endeavor Entertainment (WME)

## \$15,000-\$24,999

21st Century Fox  
CAA  
Fullscreen  
Marriott International, Inc  
Netflix  
Paramount  
Sony Pictures Entertainment  
Thelma Pearl Howard Foundation

## \$10,000-\$14,999

AEG / Staples Center Foundation  
Brad Falchuk  
East West Bank  
Give Back Brands Foundation  
Gotham Group  
Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA)  
Humanitas Prize  
ICM Partners  
Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation  
Rideback  
State Farm Insurance  
The Wonderful Company  
Tongal, Inc

## \$5,000-\$9,999

Abrams Artists  
Atlas Entertainment  
Brotman Foundation of California  
City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs  
Daniel Weingarten  
David Guy Levy  
Diane Glazer  
Donna Roth  
Eric D'Arbeloff  
Final Draft  
Front & Center Theatre Collaborative  
Hanley Foundation

## \$5,000-\$9,999

### (CONT)

Hauptman Family Foundation  
Ilene Resnick  
Management 360  
Marla Lynch  
Mary Ellen Bonner  
Morgan King  
Sheldon Stone  
Snoot Entertainment  
STX Entertainment  
Terri Edda Miller & Andrew Marlowe  
The Black List  
The Buchalter Family  
The Fischman Family  
The Mission Entertainment  
U.S. Bank

# OUR TEAM

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### KARY ANTHOLIS

#### CO-CHAIR

President, HBO Miniseries and  
Cinemax Programming

### SAM BROWN

#### CO-CHAIR

Head of Production, STX Entertainment

### TERRI EDDA MILLER

#### VICE-CHAIR

Co-Founder, MilMar Pictures

### TENDO NAGENDA

#### VICE-CHAIR

Head of Production, Feature Films,  
Netflix

### DIVYA MENON

#### SECRETARY

Founder, Bad Brain

### LANI MONOS

#### TREASURER

VP, Global Corporate Social  
Responsibility, Sony Pictures  
Entertainment

### TRACY AFTERGOD

#### BOARD MEMBER

Development Executive

### SEBASTIAN BUCK

#### BOARD MEMBER

Co-Founder, Enso Collaborative

### JAY GIBSON

#### BOARD MEMBER

Writer / Producer

### FRANKLIN LEONARD

#### BOARD MEMBER

Founder, The Black List

### CHRISTOPHER MACK

#### BOARD MEMBER

SVP, Warner Brothers Television

### MAURICIO MOTA

#### BOARD MEMBER

CEO, Wise Entertainment

### PETER PRINCIPATO

#### BOARD MEMBER

President & CEO, Artists First

### ZACHARY RAYNOR

#### BOARD MEMBER

Private Wealth Advisor, Goldman  
Sachs

### GINA REYES

#### BOARD MEMBER

Vice President, Scripted Development  
for Television and Film, Mitú

### TESS SANCHEZ

#### BOARD MEMBER

EVP Casting, Fox Broadcasting

### JASMIN SAYYAH

#### BOARD MEMBER

VP, East West Investment Services

### E. JEFFREY SMITH

#### BOARD MEMBER

Writer/Producer/Director



# ADVISORY BOARD

## SUSAN ARNOLD\*

Producer, Roth-Arnold

## ANDREW BARRETT\*

Founding Member & Chair Emeritus

## DARREN BERNSTEIN

Attorney

## MIKKEL BONDESEN\*

Founding Member, President & CEO  
Fuse Entertainment

## MARIKA CAHN\*

Writer

## PAUL CUMMINS

CEO, Coalition for Engaged  
Education

## NATALIE FAIR\*

Educator

## BRAD FALCHUK\*

Founding Member, Co-Creator  
GLEE, American Horror Story,  
Scream Queens

## JOY FEHILY\*

CEO, Prime PR

## ERIC FRIEDMAN\*

Executive Producer, Disney  
Channel's Bizaardvarks

## ERIC GARCETTI

Mayor of the City of Los Angeles

## ELLEN GOLDSMITH- VEIN\*

CEO, The Gotham Group

## NESS HAMAQUI\*

Executive Managing Director,  
Studley

## GREG HODES\*

Partner, WME Entertainment

## NORMAN LEAR

Writer & Producer

## PAUL LIEBERSTEIN\*

Executive Producer, The Office &  
The Newsroom

## ROB MANDEL\*

Founding Partner, The Management  
Group

## VANESSA MORRISON\*

President, Fox Animation

## ILENE RESNICK\*

Philanthropist

## DONNA ARKOFF ROTH\*

Producer / Roth-Arnold

## JAMIE TARSES\*

Producer

## MATTHEW WEAVER

CEO, MediaWeaver

## RICHARD WEITZ\*

Partner, WME Entertainment

## TROY WILLIAMS\*

Owner, Simply Troy Events

## JAKE ZIM

SVP – Virtual Reality, Sony  
Pictures Entertainment

\*DENOTES FORMER GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER

# NEXT GEN

**AIMIE BILLON**

Consultant

**MICHELLE GONZALEZ**

Young Storytellers Alumna

**BRITTANY LITTLE**

**CO-CHAIR**  
NBC Universal

**RACHEL ROVNER**

The Gotham Group

**STEFANIE BLACK**

IAMA Theatre Company

**KENNY GOODMAN**

MGMT

**ANNA KIM**

Attorney

**SARAH STEPHENS**

Producer

**HUNTER CARLISLE**

NBC Universal Business Affairs

**PAUL GRELLONG**

Writer

**NATHAN KITADA**

YouTube

**SHERYL TIROL**

Grace Hill Media

**ANDREW COLES**

The Mission Entertainment

**MEGAN HALPERN**

**CO-CHAIR**  
The Black List

**TOMMEE MAY**

Producer

**NICOLE TOSSOU**

Spring Hill Entertainment

**STEFANIE GARDEN**

Incite PR

**HANNAH JACOBSON**

Discovery Networks

**KASEY MORRISON**

Lucasfilm

# STAFF

**PILAR ALVAREZ**  
EDUCATION DIRECTOR

**JAYLENE CHUNG**  
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

**LEXI NOTABARTOLO**  
CHIEF OF STAFF

**ANDREA BARRETO**  
AMERICORPS VISTA VOLUNTEER  
ORGANIZER

**BRIELLE CRUZ-VEGA**  
RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS ASSISTANT

**DILLY SOMAWEERA**  
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH  
ASSISTANT

**CURTIS BAXTER**  
SCRIPT TO STAGE PROGRAM  
MANAGER

**LIVIERA LEEBONG**  
INTERIM OUTREACH  
ORGANIZER


**BILL THOMPSON**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR


**MEGAN CALLEN**  
DATABASE CONSULTANT


**NETTA MOST**  
SCRIPT TO STAGE DIRECTOR



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(photos courtesy of Brandon Moningka)