

# SeeStories

Building inclusive communities with film and story.



## Thank You for Being Part of the Story

If you have been a part of See Stories or following our work for the past 4 years, you likely know me as the Youth Programs Manager- which I still am, in addition to being the current Interim Executive Director. As you may have heard, Marie is on a sabbatical until September. As the See Stories ED and Founder, Marie has poured her heart and soul into this organization for years, and I am so thrilled to step into this role to support this opportunity for her. We look forward to Marie returning this fall re-energized and re-inspired to continue this amazing work!

In the meantime, See Stories is taking this opportunity to reflect and lean into an opportunity for new leadership. I have been so grateful for my role with See Stories, and recently had time to really feel the meaning of the work. In May I attended a graduation at Angoon High School- so many of the graduating seniors were freshman in the first See Stories workshop I facilitated after stepping into this work 4 years ago. Several of the seniors I have travelled to film festivals with to showcase their work, written letters of recommendation, supervised internships, taught classes, or attended conferences and cultural gatherings. It reflected to me the deep and meaningful relationships that are created through See Stories, and showcased the capacity for transformation and growth our programs can have for youth.

As always, thank you for supporting, guiding, participating, and learning alongside us. We could not do this work without the amazing See Stories community you are a part of.

Warmly,  
Seth Bader  
Interim Executive Director and Youth Programs Manager



A WORD FROM OUR  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

# STORIES TAKING ROOT ACROSS ALASKA

## SEE STORIES WORKSHOPS

See Stories has spent the past several months partnering with communities across Alaska to help young people tell their own stories.



Every workshop is shaped by the people, places, and priorities of the community itself, but they all share a common purpose: empowering youth to preserve culture, strengthen relationships, and share the stories only they can tell.

This spring, our team traveled to four remarkable communities: Nunam Iqua, Brevig Mission, Angoon, and Naknek. Students explored filmmaking as a way to connect with Elders, document local knowledge, and celebrate the places they call home.

### NUNAM IQUA

Our journey to Nunam Iqua, the last village at the mouth of the Yukon River, reminded us why relationships are at the heart of everything we do. Working alongside longtime educator Solomon and an incredible group of students, youth interviewed Elders and created films celebrating their community. One unforgettable moment came when student Shaylen realized English couldn't fully capture an Elder's story and asked to conduct the interview again in Yupik. Encouraged to "keep trying" and "keep going," she reminded all of us that storytelling is about creating space for language, culture, and identity to thrive.



# STORIES TAKING ROOT ACROSS ALASKA

## SEE STORIES SPRING WORKSHOPS

### 📍 BREVIG MISSION: STORIES OF PLACE



After weather delayed our arrival by several days, students quickly got to work creating films about hunting, berry picking, climate change, and community perspectives on the proposed graphite mine. Their stories reflected a deep connection to the land and the people who care for it, and it was an honor to spend time learning alongside such a welcoming community.

A special thanks to Alaska Pacific University for funding these projects.



### 📍 ANGOON: RAVEN'S EYE

Through Raven's Eye: GeoCultural Mapping, students combined drone technology, filmmaking, and cultural preservation to document places important to their community. Along the way, students earned drone certifications and college credit, two traveled to Hawai'i for the Kōlea Institute, and their final films premiered during a community screening in May, showcasing how emerging technology can help preserve stories for future generations.

Thank you to the Chatham School District and the University of Alaska Southeast for this incredible partnership and collaboration.



### 📍 NAKNEK: CURRENTS OF CONNECTION

In partnership with filmmaker Nels Ure and Native Movement, six young adults explored their personal connections to wild salmon through documentary filmmaking. Their films reflected stories of family, stewardship, identity, and place, celebrating the enduring relationship between Bristol Bay communities and the salmon that have sustained them for generations.

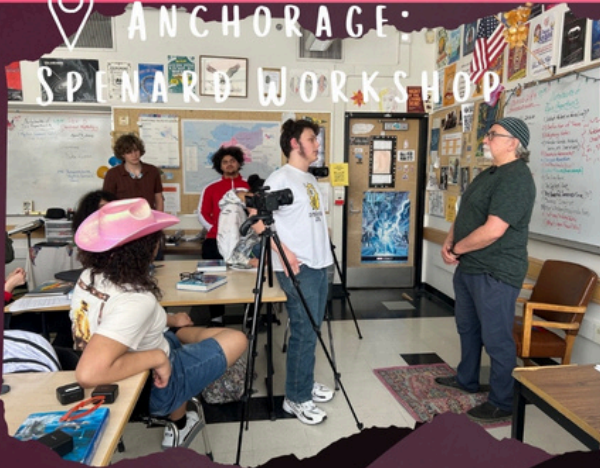
This project was funded through the World Wildlife Fund's [Arctic Community Wildlife Grants Program](#) and the [Fisheries Habitat Protection Grant](#) from the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation. A special thanks to Jeff Chen & Courtney Rose Tatellgaq Griechen of Native Movement, Nels Ure with Bristol Bay Media, The Naknek Native Village Council and The Bristol Bay Museum.

# STORIES TAKING ROOT ACROSS ALASKA

## SEE STORIES SPRING WORKSHOPS

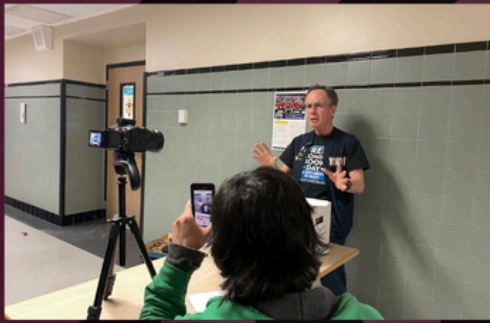
ANCHORAGE:

SPENARD WORKSHOP



This fall, See Stories will share the stories behind Spenard Histories, a project created with West High School Mythology students in Anchorage. Students explored the historic neighborhood by connecting local landmarks, people, and places to Greek gods and goddesses, bringing personal insight to a project close to home. We're grateful to the interviewees, local history pages, the Atwood Foundation, and Alaska Block Foundation for supporting the work, and to The Nave for hosting a community screening on the second Saturday in November, where 10 student films will be showcased. Updates and invites will be coming on our socials and e-mail!

A special thanks to interviewees Duke Russell, Cal Williams, Synclaire Butler, Paul Craig, John Weddleton, Sezy Gerow-Hanson, David Reamer and Mr. Whitekeys himself! Also to the generous volunteers who helped facilitate all these interviews, Iqlas, Alice, Julian Ramirez, and Brandon Lopez. And last, but not least, a huge shout out to our host teacher, the amazing Adam Mackie!



### Spotlight

## INTRODUCING CULTURAL RHYTHMS



What happens when Shakespeare meets hip hop? Our new Cultural Rhythms: Shakespeare & Hip Hop curriculum invites middle and high school students to explore timeless themes like identity, belonging, conflict, and love through literature, music, storytelling, and creative expression. Developed in collaboration with educators and teaching artists, the project blends Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, primary sources from the Library of Congress, and contemporary music into a project-based learning experience where students create original songs, performances, films, and other collaborative works.

Cultural Rhythms is designed to amplify student voice while building confidence, creativity, and meaningful classroom connections. We hope it offers educators an engaging, culturally responsive way to help students see themselves in the stories they study and discover the power of sharing their own.

Learn more, read the full story, and explore the free curriculum on our website.

[READ THE FULL BLOG & DOWNLOAD THE CURRICULUM HERE](#)

[SIGN UP FOR TEACHER TOOLS AND GAIN ACCESS TO OUR LIBRARY OF RESOURCES AND CURRICULUM](#)



## A COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER



We just completed our 2nd annual “See Stories Live” youth film event and fundraiser in Juneau. Reflecting on the event, our community in Juneau really showed up to support See Stories in a massive way! Walking around in the lobby of the Aurora Grand theatre, you could feel the support and care. Over 25 artisans, small business owners, etc. supplied auction items, there was live music, donuts, and family and friends to share it all with.

It was an incredible atmosphere! The

Aurora Grand theatre is currently in the process of being renovated, from the historic Gross-Alaska Theatre. The new team at the Aurora Grand was so generous in opening their doors to us, even amidst the remodel; even still, it was a beautiful setting! A dozen youth films, mostly created within See Stories last year of programming, were shown created by youth from the Southeast Alaska region. Represented were films by students from Wrangell, Angoon, Kake, Yakutat, and Juneau.

You could feel the awe those in attendance had for the passion and heart youth put into their films, representing stories ranging from finding land stewardship through the Tlingit Language, documenting a historic totem pole raising event in Wrangell, learning about the Angoon Bombardment, and even taking time to appreciate the poetry of the Southeast Alaskan weather. We are so proud of our youth for their hard work, and admire their excitement for sharing their messages with a wider audience!

Without the hard work of our planning committee, especially Connor Meyer, Josh Orem, Andres Camacho, and Chloey Cavanaugh, the event could not have been possible. More thanks go out to Quinton Woolman-Morgan for playing live music and all of our silent auction donors for their kind donations! The event could not have been possible without the support from our Main Event Sponsors: The Aurora Grand Theatre, KTOO, The Nature Conservancy, Goldbelt Heritage, and Working Films.

If you missed the event, keep an eye out for our next annual Juneau film fest, coming in March 2027!

**THANKS TO ALL OF YOU, WE RAISED \$5,000 TOWARDS OUR FILMMAKING PROGRAMS!**



Read the article from Juneau Independent



**THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS!!!**





# Spotlight

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



Spirit of Youth



Mazelle Joseph and Angel Jack were recognized at this year's Spirit of Youth Awards.

Mazelle was awarded the Dreamer Award for her work uplifting culture, language, and community through storytelling. Angel has been named runner-up, recognized for her leadership in cultural preservation, storytelling, and healing.

Both Mazelle and Angel have worked alongside See Stories in Angoon, using film and storytelling to reflect their communities and carry knowledge forward.



This past May, Seth attended the Angoon High School Graduation. So many of the graduating It was great to celebrate so many of our students that we've been able to work with through over the years! Congrats grads!



**Congrats to our 2026 See Stories graduates!**

## CONTRACTOR SPOTLIGHT



We're grateful to have Alyson Kenney partnering with See Stories again this summer! A photographer, videographer, and master's student in Arctic Climate Change and Indigenous Studies at the University of Helsinki, Alyson brings both creative expertise and a deep commitment to community-centered storytelling. This summer, she's supporting youth storytelling with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society's Summer Youth Practicum, the Alaska Youth Stewards program in Kake, and the Angoon Community Association's new subsistence resource monitoring project. Thank you, Alyson, for sharing your talent, thoughtfulness, and the gift of your lens with See Stories and the communities we serve.

# SEE STORIES LOOKING AHEAD



Although the school year is over, See Stories Youth Programs are still going strong! We are working on several projects this summer that are taking us digital storytelling throughout the state.

## NATIVE AMERICAN FISH AND WILDLIFE SOCIETY SUMMER YOUTH PRACTICUM

For the first time, See Stories will be partnering with NAFWS to support their Summer Youth Practicum. For a full week in July, Native youth will come from all around Alaska to a camp in Chugiak to learn about land stewardship, take part in hands-on learning, and create a Tribal Resource Plan that considers resource management from a tribal perspective. See Stories will help youth transform their plans into short video stories to be shared.



For the second summer in a row, we are working with the Alaska Youth Stewards (AYS) chapter in Kake. This year, 5 AYS Youth will learn about integrating media into their summer community stewardship projects which include sockeye harvesting and distributions to Elders, learning formline, community site restorations, environmental monitoring, and more. Students will have cameras all summer to document their work, and consider stories about Kake they think need to be told. We are so excited to see what they create!

## ANGOON



This summer, See Stories is so thrilled to work with the Angoon Community Association (ACA) to help document the first year of a tribally led subsistence monitoring project. ACA will be taking scientific samples of various subsistence resources like shellfish, fish, plants, etc. to understand the health of these resources. See Stories is hosting 3 internships for Angoon youth to be at the center of documenting this incredible project. They will be out on the water and in the woods all summer documenting various subsistence gathering events alongside community members.

## "VOICES FROM THE LAND" PODCAST

### WORKSHOP UPCOMING

We're honored to share that See Stories has received a Tier I grant from the Rasmuson Foundation to launch Voices from the Land, a new podcasting initiative that brings Tlingit youth and Elders together to explore cultural connections to land, environmental stewardship, and intergenerational knowledge sharing. Thank you to the Rasmuson Foundation for investing in youth voices and helping make this work possible.



*thank you!*

**RASMUSON FOUNDATION**

SEE STORIES AWARDED GRANT TOWARDS "VOICES FROM THE LAND" PODCAST WORKSHOP, A CHANCE TO WORK WITH TLINGIT YOUTH AND ELDERS TO TELL STORIES OF CULTURAL CONNECTIONS TO THE LAND AND ENVIRONMENT.



# GROWING SEE STORIES

HELP US FIND THE RIGHT PERSON!



**WE'RE HIRING** 

**THIS FALL!** **SeeStories**

**DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS MANAGER**

- ✓ FULL-TIME POSITION
- ✓ NONPROFIT DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING
- ✓ HELP GROW STORYTELLING PROGRAMS ACROSS ALASKA

KNOW SOMEONE WHO'D BE A GREAT FIT?  
SHARE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

CONTACT [INFO@SEESTORIES.ORG](mailto:INFO@SEESTORIES.ORG)

We are thrilled to announce that See Stories recently received a substantial 3 year grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust to grow our capacity for development!

In the words of Murdock Trust "This decision reflects the Trustees' recognition of See Stories important mission and the positive impact you are making on teachers and youth in Alaska."

Help us find the right person! In the coming months, we will be releasing a Job Description and Application Materials in an effort to recruit a full-time Development Programs Manager for See Stories. We hope to fill this position by the end of this year.

We will be looking for someone who has experience in the world of non-profit development; ideally with experience developing and implementing donor based development strategies and in grant writing and administration.

If you are interested and want to learn more, or think you may know someone who might be a good fit, please reach out to us!

you can contact us at [seth@seestories.org](mailto:seth@seestories.org) or [info@seestories.org](mailto:info@seestories.org)

ACROSS ALASKA, SEE STORIES WORK HAS ENGAGED:

**417 teachers engaged in workshops**

**8,450 students reached through our workshops**

**350 student films and podcast episodes released**

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS, DONORS, AND PARTNERS FOR HELPING US GROW AND SUSTAINING US!**

*thank you!*

# STORIES CONTINUE BECAUSE OF YOU



Storytelling has the power to preserve culture, strengthen relationships, and inspire the next generation of leaders. Thank you for helping make these opportunities possible for youth and communities across Alaska.

Every film, classroom, workshop, and community gathering is possible because of the incredible educators, students, Elders, partners, volunteers, donors, and funders who believe in the power of storytelling. Thank you for being part of the See Stories community.

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO SHARE WHAT COMES NEXT.**

# THANK YOU to our sponsors, donors, and supporters!

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**VOLUNTEER**

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more about getting involved.

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[SEESTORIES.ORG](https://seestories.org)

Our mission is to build inclusive community through film and story.  
Thank you for all your support!