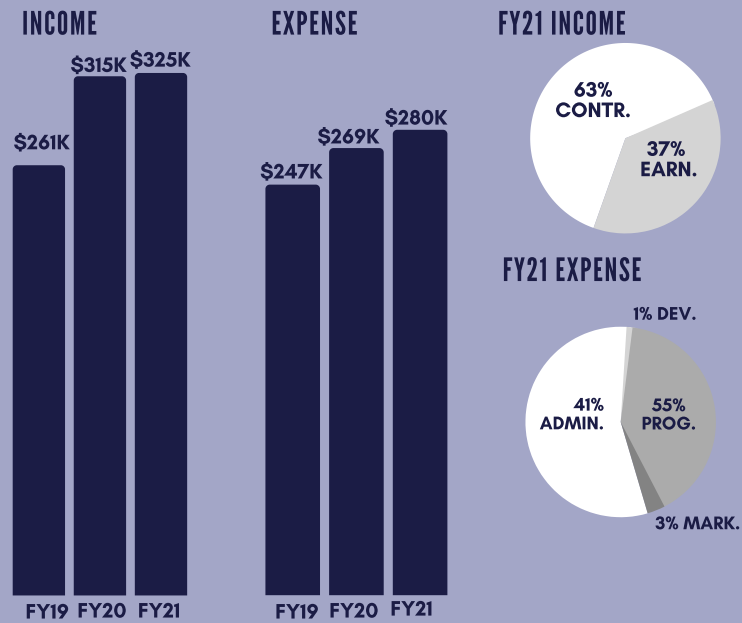


OVERVIEW:

FINANCIAL POSITION

Despite the financial uncertainty of this past year, 2nd Story concluded the fiscal year and remains financially solvent. 2nd Story currently has a cash reserve of \$70,000 and a zero balance on its line of credit.

2nd Story made some impressive strides during this fiscal year. We increased our staff size, strengthened our financial position, and starting August 1, 2021, we will be able to offer a more competitive benefits plan to all 2nd Story staff.



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*Denotes Company Representative

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 Lauren Sivak, Managing Director
 Ali Drumm, Manager of Operations
 Carolyn Aguila, Manager of Partnerships
 Jim Lupo, Strategic Initiatives Consultant
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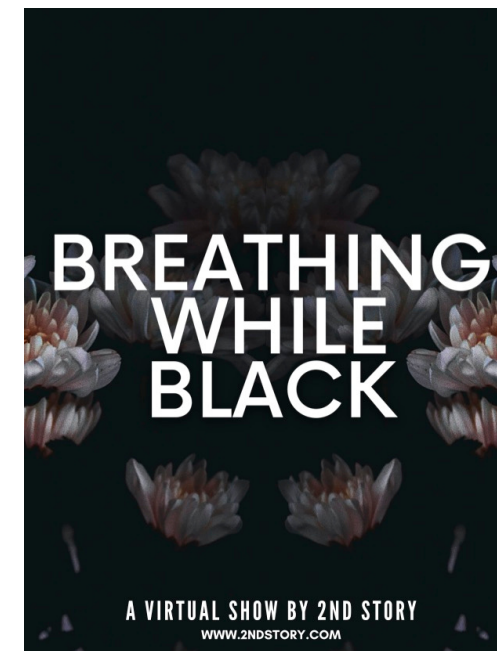


Bradley Halverson & Mariana Green in performance.

2020/21 FOUNDATION, CORPORATE, & GOVERNMENT SUPPORT



2nd Story is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.



2ND STORY

2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT

REAL STORIES BY REAL PEOPLE FOR REAL CHANGE.

While there was no deficit of challenges or surprises we encountered over the last year, there were also so many successes, and we are immensely proud of and excited to share them with you. There are three accomplishments we would like to highlight in this report: successfully launching Year One of The Leap To 15 campaign, pivoting all programming to a virtual platform, and deepening our education programming through a rich partnership with The Kedzie Center.

Without you, these successes would not have been possible.

The last year paused so many interactions we love so deeply—the hum of the bar when a teller steps away from the mic, the sounds of pencils on paper as students write their own stories at our studio in Albany Park, the gathering of family, friends, and friendly strangers in a dark room to listen to stories—but we also found ourselves excited by new delights. Who knew that Zoom chat threads could be so heartfelt and authentic and honest?

We were on a journey this past year and the only way we made it through was with you and your support. Thank you for being on this adventure with us.

Amanda Delheimer
 Artistic Director

Lauren Sivak
 Managing Director



2nd Story exists to fulfill its vision of living in a world driven by empathy. We believe that sharing our true stories with each other binds us to one another. Our mission is to create spaces where people can share and deeply listen to one another's stories. Our Core Values are Craft, Courage, and Inclusion. Visit us at www.2ndStory.com.

GOING BEYOND CHICAGO:

CULTIVATING A GLOBAL AUDIENCE

We successfully pivoted our in-person programming to a virtual platform in a way that maintained the spirit and energy of a 2nd Story experience, and were voted Best Virtual Storytelling Series in the Chicago Reader's Best of 2020. We produced our virtual events, from our performances and classes to our CultureBuilds workshops, via Zoom and experimented with the medium to deepen, rather than compromise, the 2nd Story experience. As a result, we cultivated a national and international audience. In order to highlight the success of our virtual programming, here is a favorite quote of ours from an audience member: "When I think back on the pandemic, I will remember 2nd Story."



INVESTING IN PAY EQUITY INITIATIVES:

THE LEAP TO 15

At the top of this season, 2nd Story committed to adopting a transparent pay model and paying every artist a minimum of \$10/hour. This is part of a multi-year effort, dubbed "The Leap To 15", to which 2nd Story committed: to pay every artist a minimum of \$15/hour by Season 23. In Year One, this increase in artist stipends meant that (depending on their role/former stipend), individual artist compensation grew from 150% to 750%. 2nd Story is proud to join organizations across the country by committing to an hourly wage for artists and implementing wage transparency.

IN SEASON 21, A TELLER MADE:

\$30

(or \$1.20/hr)

IN SEASON 22, A TELLER MADE:

\$250

(or \$10/hr)

IN SEASON 23, A TELLER WILL MAKE:

\$375

(or \$15/hr)

"THE TEAM AT CULTUREBUILDS BY 2ND STORY DID AN EXCELLENT JOB OF CREATING A FUNDAMENTALLY HUMAN EXPERIENCE IN A YEAR WHERE WE'VE SPENT NEARLY ALL OUR TIME ONLINE, AT HOME. THANK YOU FOR CREATING THIS MOMENT FOR US TO SHARE TOGETHER AS A GLOBAL TEAM, AND FOR THE SPACE TO SIMPLY CONNECT TO ONE ANOTHER."

ISABEL FIRPO
DESIGN OPERATIONS AT MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS

NEW PROGRAMMING:

CLAIMING OUR SPACE

We deepened our education programming to more directly serve the Albany Park community. In partnership with The Kedzie Center (a local mental health facility funded by and serving our community), we created a multi-week storytelling and emotional processing program specifically for DACA and undocumented students, with the goal of enhancing participant's ability to express themselves, take ownership of their story, and increase their confidence and sense of belonging.

Designed to respond to the increased stress and isolation reported by immigrant students due to ongoing uncertainty and changes in immigration policy, Claiming Our Space offered a space for healing, community, and storytelling for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and undocumented students in the Chicago area.

Over the course of ten weeks, students learned how to tell and shape their own personal stories in an empowering and healing way. They also learned to cope with their status through social support, storytelling and writing, and other forms of expression.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Enhance the participant's ability to express their feelings and create and tell their own story
- Increase their confidence, sense of belonging/connectedness, and perceived social support
- Increase their access to additional supports and resources

"SOMETHING I LEARNED FROM THE PROGRAM WAS THAT MY STATUS IS AN ACT OF RESISTANCE AND TO CONTINUE TO DO GREATNESS AND GIVE MYSELF THE CREDIT THAT I DESERVE FOR ALL THAT I HAVE ACHIEVED AND WHO I HAVE BECOME AND AM YET TO BECOME."

VALERIA
CLAIMING OUR SPACE STUDENT PARTICIPANT



CHANGES TO THE 2ND STORY STAFF:

INCREASING OUR CAPACITY

Over the past couple of years you have likely heard us say some version of the statement, "2nd Story is on the verge of explosive growth." We have been producing content—performances, classes, workshops, and study guides—at a rapid rate. During our 22nd Season we produced 30+ public events, 24 individual podcasts, 3 multi-week classes, and 2 study guides that were downloaded by teachers across the city.

We have big visions for our future, and in order to get there we need to increase our capacity. This season we took a major step and made some incredible changes to our staffing structure. At the start of our 22nd Season, we had 2 FT, 1 PT, and 3 1099-freelance contractors making up 2nd Story's tiny (but very mighty) staff. We closed out this season with 4 FT employees and plans to add another staff member in Season 23. More than ever before, we are ready to do more.