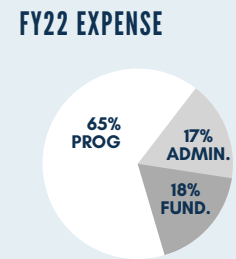
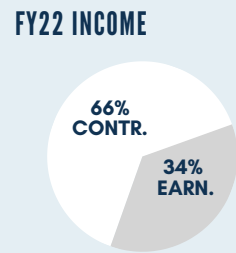
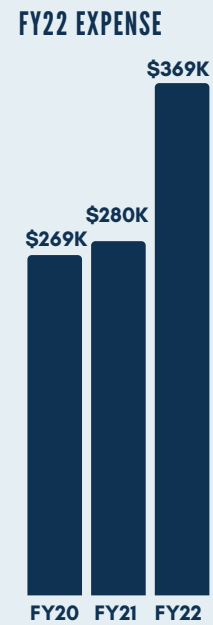


OVERVIEW:

FINANCIAL POSITION

We are happy to report, as a result of strong support in Corporate, Foundation, and Individual Giving, 2nd Story had a tremendous year. At the end Season 23, 2nd Story continued to be financially solvent. We currently have a cash reserve of \$100,000 and a zero balance on our line of credit.

We continue to increase our capacity, while being thoughtful about attracting and retaining employees. We grew our staff, strengthened our financial position, and in Season 24, will expand the benefits plan offered to all 2nd Story staff.



2021/22 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Liesl Pereira, President
Beth Canning Lupo, Vice President
Josh Weinstein, Treasurer
Jessica Wetmore, Secretary

Dalia Aragon	Sheila Chapman	Dr. S. Simmons	Aimy Tien*
Matthew Braun	Lynnette Li	Linda Sullivan	David Wagener
Dana Britto	Stacey Saunders	Brenda Strong	Nicholas Ward*
Athene Carras	Dr. Jen Schroeder	Kara Teeple	Danielle Zille

*Denotes Company Member

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Lauren Sivak, Managing Director
Carolyn Aguila, Manager of Partnerships
Ali Drumm, Manager of Operations
Liz Rice, Manager of Curriculum and Education
Jim Lupo, Strategic Initiatives Consultant
Max Spitz, Podcast Producer
Jackie Snuttjer, Accountant

2021/22 FOUNDATION, CORPORATE, & GOVERNMENT SUPPORT



2nd Story is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency and by a CityArts Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events.

MAJOR DONORS

LEADERS

The Lupo Family

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Rachel E. Kraft
Andrew Reilly
Chevy Williams

*Denotes Company Member



Making her 2nd Story debut, LeeAnn Trotter performs a world premiere story at The Birthday Bash. Photo by Layne Dixon



Making her 2nd Story debut, Alyssa Vera Ramos performs a world premiere story at 2nd Story's annual Queer Joy Show. Photo by Juli Del Prete.

2ND STORY

2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT

REAL STORIES BY REAL PEOPLE FOR REAL CHANGE.

A lot happened during our 23rd Season!

We told more stories, collaborated with new artists, grew the 2nd Story staff, welcomed new board members, built new partnerships, expanded existing programming, and launched new programming. And, we returned to in-person shows! It was a busy year, and without you, 2nd Story would not have this kind of momentum as we head into our 24th Season.

This annual report highlights 2nd Story's core programming streams: Performances, Classes & Workshops, and CultureBuilds. Every programming stream that 2nd Story executes is a true and natural extension of our Mission, Vision, and Values. Our deeply held belief that stories are the thing that can build a bolder, brighter, and kinder world is seen in every show we produce, every class that we teach, and every workshop we facilitate.

There are so many things that we are proud of - the launch of The Rising Tide Project (thanks to the Arts Work Fund), the expansion of our Point of View programming (thanks to the Walder Foundation), earning our Pay Equity Standards certification from On Our Team, staff and company member Liz Rice receiving the Youth Champion award from The Kedzie Center - but right now the thing we want to express most is gratitude.

Thank you for making all this possible.

Amanda Delheimer
Artistic Director

Lauren Sivak
Managing Director



The 2nd Story staff at The Birthday Bash. Photo by Layne Dixon.



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.

GETTING BACK AT IT:

OUR RETURN TO IN-PERSON SHOWS

On April 2, 2022, 2nd Story officially returned to in-person programming with a sold out show featuring company members Vince Pagán and Megan Stielstra, alongside frequent teller Dion with music by Michael Benedict. It was a magical evening that proved there is nothing better than gathering together in a crowded room to listen to stories. This evening was extra special as we celebrated Amanda Delheimer's 15th Anniversary as 2nd Story's Artistic Director. Although we have returned to producing shows in venues across Chicago, we continue to stream our live shows to a virtual audience across the country. In Season 23:



MEET A NEW COLLABORATOR:

CHATTING WITH NATHAN KISTLER

What was your favorite part about collaborating with 2nd Story?

My favorite part about collaborating with 2nd Story was the actual collaborative nature of the work! We all brought different strengths and perspectives to the table and worked to create something new and fun and exciting. I loved hearing everyone's stories and learning about each Teller's own experience and it was exciting to add my own music to their stories. I thought Christine Thoren (the director) did an excellent and very considerate and conscientious job pulling out the strengths of each teller and me as the musician.

How is 2nd Story different from other organizations you have worked with?

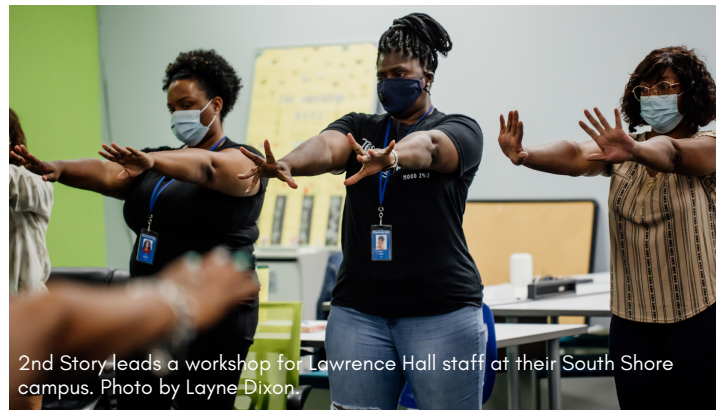
I like how community oriented this organization is. 2nd Story is putting on shows, but these aren't shows that you can see just anywhere. It's not another *Lion King* or *Our Town*. It's a show that is specific to the individuals on the stage and to the individuals in the room. I think 2nd Story does an excellent job of making everyone feel heard and a wonderful job in facilitating the listening and engagement.

What was your biggest takeaway from the experience?

It was wonderful being a part of a community of artists who were making like-minded art. The honest artistry of everyone involved has inspired me to be more honest and forthright in my own art, and to encourage honesty and play.



Nathan Kistler performs at 2nd Story's annual Queer Joy Show. Photo by Juli Del Prete.



2nd Story leads a workshop for Lawrence Hall staff at their South Shore campus. Photo by Layne Dixon.



Liz Rice, second from left, smiles with Max Spitz, Ali Drumm, and Carolyn Aguila after receiving the Youth Champion award from The Kedzie Center.

LOCAL ROOTS WITH A NATIONAL REACH:

CULTUREBUILDS HIGHLIGHTS

CultureBuilds is 2nd Story's story-centered approach to team building, skill building, and EDI training for businesses of all sizes and types. In Season 23, we worked with universities (including Adler University and Northeastern Illinois University), nonprofits (including the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance and Lawrence Hall), foundations (including AWF and the Donnelley Foundation) and global corporations (including Comcast NBCUniversal and Motorola).

As part of our CultureBuilds programming, each season we collaborate with mission-aligned organizations that do not have the budget to hire us through our Pro Bono Partnership Program. In Season 23, we partnered with Cannabis Equity IL Coalition, the Illinois Prison Project, and the Training Resource and Information Network (weTRAIN).

JUST SO THANKFUL FOR YOUR TIME, EXPERTISE, PATIENCE, AND COMMITMENT TO MAKING THIS WORK. IT REALLY MEANS THE WORLD TO SEE ANOTHER ORGANIZATION POUR INTO US WHAT WE NORMALLY POUR INTO THE COMMUNITY.

PETER CONTOS
Deputy Director, Cannabis Equity IL Coalition



A BRIEF LOOK AT 2ND STORY'S EDUCATION PROGRAMMING: SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL PARTNERS

2nd Story's education programming includes a combination of public classes and workshops for students to learn 2nd Story's approach to storytelling and narrative development, after-school programming, and in-school workshops and residencies for parents, teachers, and students. We have two highlights we want to share with you from this season!

Through Ingenuity's Creative Schools Fund grant, we completed a six-week residency with the Freshman English classes at **Roosevelt High School**, a Chicago Public School located in Albany Park. As part of their Human Rights Unit, students worked to tell their own personal stories and connect them to one of 30 rights from the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

We facilitated a four-part series for the entire staff at **Kennedy High School**, a Chicago Public School located in Garfield Ridge. In partnership with the school's Equity Team we crafted a series that explored Point Of View, Social Location, and How To Create a Culture of Care at Kennedy High School.

INVESTING IN PAY EQUITY INITIATIVES:

THE RISING TIDE PROJECT

Established as a priority in 2020, 2nd Story has fulfilled its commitment of paying every artist a stipend based on \$15/hr as part of our "Leap To 15." However, the work continues as we strive to be part of a sector where every artist is paid equitably.

In January 2022, we launched **The Rising Tide Project**, an 18-month initiative to create a framework for achieving pay equity, investigate new models of care, and imagine what it means for arts workers to thrive (as opposed to just survive). As part of this project, 2nd Story has established a cohort to support three Chicago theaters as they imagine and implement the radical changes needed to take steps towards pay equity within each organization. The three organizations in the cohort are: **A Red Orchid Theatre, Congo Square Theatre Company, and Teatro Vista.**

"PAY EQUITY FOR OUR STAFF AND ARTISTS IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR A RED ORCHID. OUR GREAT HOPE IS THAT WE CAN LEAVE THIS PROJECT WITH SOME TANGIBLE GOALS AND PLANS AROUND WAGES THAT WE CAN PUT INTO ACTION OVER THE NEXT 1-3 YEARS."

KIRSTEN FITZGERALD
Artistic Director, A Red Orchid Theatre