

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

It is important to us that we maintain financial solvency and financial integrity. We are happy to report that this past season we underwent our first-ever audit and received an unqualified opinion (the most desirable rating a nonprofit can receive). We also ended the year with \$100,000 in our cash reserve.

In Season 24, we doubled down on our commitment to financial transparency. Our audits, IRS Form 990s, and Annual Reports can be viewed at www.2ndstory.com/financials.

We know there are countless organizations that you could support, and we are thankful that you trust us with your donations.

2022/23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Matthew Braun, President
Stacey Saunders, Vice President
Dana Britto, Treasurer
Dalia Aragon, Secretary

Athene Carras	Liesl Pereira	Brenda Strong	Nicholas Ward*
Beth Canning Lupo	Dr. Jen Schroeder	Kara Teeple	Josh Weinstein
Sheila Chapman	Dr. S. Simmons	Aimy Tien*	Jessica Wetmore
Lynnette Li	Linda Sullivan	David Wagener	Danielle Zille
Lilian Matsuda			

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Amanda Delheimer*, Artistic Director
Lauren Sivak, Managing Director
Carolyn Aguila, Manager of Partnerships
Ali Drumm*, Manager of Operations
Liz Rice*, Manager of Curriculum and Education
Max Spitz, Podcast Producer
Jackie Snuttjer, Accountant

2022/23 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.

*Denotes Company Member

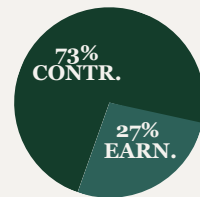
FY23 INCOME



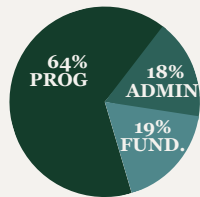
FY23 EXPENSE



FY23 INCOME



FY23 EXPENSE



MAJOR DONORS

LEADERS

The Lupu Family

DIRECTORS

Eric Rothstein & Gina Wammock
David Wagener & Erika Nelson

AMBASSADORS

Athene Carras & Thomas Applegate
James Lupo

CURATORS

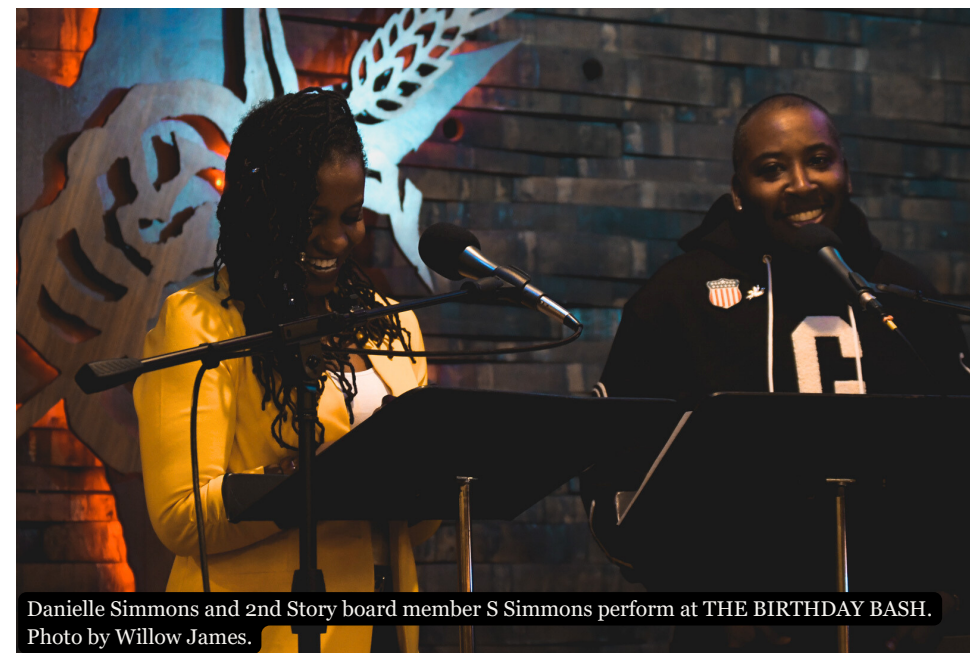
Matthew Braun & Dr. Jennifer Schroeder
Hannah & George Stowe
Lilian Matsuda & Nick Gehlfuss
Jessica Wetmore

CHANGE MAKERS

Sheila Chapman
Carol Delheimer
Katie & Peter Hauser
Burt Fujishima
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CP* & Jessica Young Chang*
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Rob Constantine
Seth & Dorothy Hemming
Lauren Sivak & Erin Barlow



Danielle Simmons and 2nd Story board member S Simmons perform at THE BIRTHDAY BASH. Photo by Willow James.



Frequent Collaborator Lexi Saunders performs at THE STORY BATTLE. Photo by Layne Dixon.

2ND STORY

2022/23 ANNUAL REPORT

REAL STORIES BY REAL PEOPLE FOR REAL CHANGE.

As we look back on Season 24, we find ourselves reflecting on the thoughtful, dynamic, and fierce community that surrounds us. We would not be celebrating 24 miraculous years without this community, without you.

This past season, we had A LOT of conversations as we sought to cultivate new supporters, funders, and enthusiasts. In those conversations we were repeatedly asked some variation of the question, "Who is 2nd Story's community?" And this question has been and still is difficult to answer because 2nd Story's community is hard to define. We see our community as humans interconnected by the shared belief that true, well-crafted stories can change the world. We believe that stories connect us to each other and to the capacity within each of us for empathy.

This past season, we worked with:

- Over 100 artists through our various programs
- Students, parents & guardians, and teachers at five schools in the Chicago Public Schools network
- Formerly incarcerated individuals through a multi-year partnership with the Illinois Prison Project
- Jewish educators and leaders through partnerships with the Covenant Foundation, Ideal18, and Matan
- New associates at a global law firm
- Entrepreneurs and young professionals in Tulsa, OK
- Kidney donors around the globe through a collaboration on a documentary film, *Abundance*, with Maitri River Productions
- Writers with disabilities and caregivers of people with disabilities through a collaboration with Spork!, a nonprofit for people with cognitive, physical, and non-apparent disabilities and differences.

We know our community is as powerful and varied as the stories we tell. Thank you for being part of our community and for making all this possible.

Amanda Delheimer
Artistic Director

Lauren Sivak
Managing Director



2nd Story, a nonprofit storytelling organization, believes true stories can change the world. 2nd Story uses well-crafted, first-person stories told by the people who lived them to inspire change by producing storytelling events, facilitating classes and workshops, and leading professional development training. Founded as Serendipity Theatre in 1999, we continue to create spaces where people can share and listen to each other's stories. Visit us at www.2ndStory.com.

440+ Curation Hours

330+ Rehearsal Hours

70 Artistic Collaborations

25 World Premiere Stories

\$17.5 Minimum Hourly Rate

A LOOK BACK AT SEASON 24:

A NEW MODEL FOR PRODUCING

Even as we prepared to return to in-person programming, we remained committed to the virtual audience that had supported us over the past few seasons. We wanted to prioritize flexibility, and audiences could choose to attend our shows in person, tune in online, or purchase a stream later pass. In the spirit of our Core Value of Inclusion, we also removed ticketing fees for online viewers.

Season 24 was our first full hybrid season and we could not be more thrilled with the results. Every live show was streamed to an online audience across the country. Fun fact: In addition to reaching folks from coast to coast (20 states in total), we had folks tuning in from Canada, Germany, and Singapore!

WEARING ALL THE HATS:

CHATTING WITH RJ SILVA

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

You've never really collaborated until you've collaborated with 2nd Story. Each production and experience fits like a glove. And you never feel like you're out of place or lacking in your own skills or craft, always at ease with everyone who is eager to help you and make you shine.

How is 2nd Story different from other organizations?

2nd Story has created a really inviting space where artists and tellers can connect with the audience with their authentic selves that I don't get with any other arts organization. Collaborating with 2nd Story never feels like a production, but a genuine communal experience.

What was your biggest takeaway?

I've learned so much, but the biggest takeaway has definitely been finding strength and confidence in myself. I often feel that urge to think or say, "my story isn't important" or "nothing really exciting has happened to me" but the 2nd Story process has helped me appreciate the magic in the ordinary, the special moments embedded in the every day.

You've produced and directed with us. How has telling a story changed your relationship to 2nd Story?

It's given me a full understanding of what goes into a production, from the first curation meeting to the conversations at the bar after the show. I've also never realized how open and vulnerable you need to be to tell a story. I have the utmost respect and appreciation for anyone who tells.



RJ Silva makes his 2nd Story storytelling debut at UNDERGROUND HORIZONS. Photo by Ali Drumm.



The cast and crew of UBUNTU: STORIES OF FINDING AND MAKING COMMUNITY.



Frequent collaborator Nestor Gomez shares his story as part our residency program at Roosevelt High School. Photo by Liz Rice.

2ND STORY'S EDUCATION PROGRAMMING:

THE YEAR OF GROWTH

Our education program grew leaps and bounds in Season 24. We delivered programming to parents and guardians at Albany Park Multicultural Academy and Hibbard Elementary. We led a multi-part professional development series in partnership with the North River Commission. We facilitated our sixth Claiming Our Space cohort (for DACA and undocumented students) with longtime collaborator The Kedzie Center. Most notably, and for the first time in organization history, we taught three in-school residency programs simultaneously at Roosevelt High School, Schubert Elementary, and Von Steuben High School.

PRAISE FROM OUR PARTNER:

When I first met 2nd Story's Managing and Artistic Directors, they asked me about the celebrations and challenges of teaching at Roosevelt High School. With our school located in a Refugee Settlement Area, I mentioned diversity as a major point of celebration—we have students who speak over 30 languages and literally come from all over the world. As a challenge, I felt like empathy for others' lived-experiences was something I was trying hard to model and foster, but it wasn't quite working. Their eyes lit up, and our partnership was born.

This year we had four Roosevelt 9th grade English teachers, four 2nd Story teaching artists, and support from a 3.5 year Creative Schools Fund grant from Ingenuity. Next year, this partnership will include English 3 and English 4, and this year's 9th graders will cycle back into the magic as juniors and seniors. 2nd Story has provided us with fantastic professional development—not often stated by teachers—that has allowed us to learn their writing and performing process by drafting our own stories which we perform to our students. After teachers model, students act as the storytellers and engage in a Critical Response Process.

I'll never forget one of my shyest, quietest students from 7th period last year having the most animated recording, with different voices for each character and so much rich imagery—I felt like she let me in to see her true personality, which then deepened our rapport.

I feel so privileged to get to work with such talented artists who really know how to work a room of 9th graders...which is no small feat!

- Betsy Ferrell, Roosevelt High School Freshman English Teacher

BY THE NUMBERS:

750+ LEARNERS

10 EDUCATION PARTNERS

5 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

3 IN-SCHOOL RESIDENCIES

2 PARENT/GUARDIAN PROGRAMS

1 AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

A BRIEF LOOK AT CULTUREBUILDS:

ART WITH A PURPOSE

CultureBuilds is 2nd Story's story-centered approach to team building, skill building, and EDI learning sessions for businesses of all sizes and types. In Season 24, we partnered with 24 clients, 12 of which were returning partners. Most notably, we once again found ourselves partnering with mission-aligned organizations who, like us, are working towards a world driven by empathy. We would like to highlight two of those partnerships.

With support from the Illinois Humanities, we expanded our partnership, Every Story Matters, with the **Illinois Prison Project**. Through this partnership, we work with formerly incarcerated individuals in their Ambassador Fellowship Program to craft and share personal stories as they advocate for policy change within the carceral system. Ambassadors explore themes like Perpetual Punishment, Criminalized Survivors, and Exoneration and Innocence. Our partnership with Illinois Prison Project supports their mission of bringing hope to and fighting in community with incarcerated people and their loved ones for a brighter, more humane, more just system for all.

In partnership with the **Brighton Park Neighborhood Council**, we facilitated a multi-part series to support the goals of their **Treatment not Trauma** campaign. Over the course of three experiences, participants were able to share their mental health experiences, strengthen connections within their community, and learn more about becoming ambassadors, spokespeople, or other leadership roles within the mental health community.