



Community Storytelling Menu of Options

Example Organizational Partnership Proposal

Who we are and how we partner

We work alongside communities to help shift narratives, improve historical memory, and build resilience. We love adding capacity to your storytelling projects by bringing our research skills and technical know-how. We focus our efforts on the needs that the community brings to us. We can play the role of story steward, facilitator, and convener - providing a space to come together, to document and share new stories of who we are and how we want to live together.

Our work is highly collaborative & experimental. We use a variety of formats - live storytelling, theatre, community conversations, podcasts, film screenings, video and audio production, exhibits, and more. We love collaborating to increase our collective impact. We have two paid staff and many collaborators (both paid and volunteer) who bring their unique skills to help further our mission. Our collaborators include multimedia storytellers, artists, academics, community organizers, and other organizations doing good work locally.

Storytelling opportunities

Meg and Elaine each bring unique skill sets to document and activate community stories. With us, you can:

- Learn community-based oral history practices to document and share your family or community history
- Practice deep listening and oral history interviewing skills
- Gain knowledge, skills, and media literacy using accessible recording technologies
- Honor the wisdom of people all around us - our family, community members, and peers - who are all knowledge-holders and educators
- Connect with others, be curious, and build community by listening and sharing stories
- Activate public histories through interactive and creative community engagement projects.

Listed below are a few ways we can imagine supporting your organization as you engage your community in its history and story.

Option #1: Storytelling Circles

We can facilitate a storytelling circle as a part of an established event or as a special community storytelling event. This activity is perfect for groups that want to make space for personal storytelling, sharing memories, and building community. We collaborate to choose a theme and adapt the structure to fit your group. We draw

from a pool of talented facilitators who lead small groups. We can also teach you the structure so you can facilitate future community storytelling circles on your own!

- [View offering](#)

Components

- Your organization assesses interest, audience, and number of participants, and works with us on details
- Window Seat leverages our pool of community facilitators to coordinate an event or series. In breakout circles, we like to keep the ratio of participants to facilitators about 6:1.
- We work together to establish how the circle or circles will go. We pick a theme or central question that highlights your organization and can spark people's stories. Sometimes, we feature a story at the beginning of the event so everyone has a shared experience leading into breakout circles. Featured stories come in many mediums including a panel, keynote, live performance, short audio story, poem, podcast, or other inspirational or creative media piece. Participants have the opportunity to reflect and share their own stories in facilitated large and small group conversations. We engage in community dialogue and deep listening inspired by people's true stories.
- Window Seat facilitates a 90-minute to 3-hour event or series

Timeframe

Minimum 2-month lead time to coordinate facilitators and establish circle elements. Depends on facilitator availability. The earlier we know, the better.

*Sliding scale component breakdown

- Up to 10 hours of project consultation, design + management. Estimate can be adjusted based on the scope of the project.
- Sliding scale quote for a 90-min story circle and 2-5 additional facilitators. Fluctuates depending on the length of the event and the number of facilitators.
- Featured Story: TBD depending on the event. Free if the media resource is free.

Option #2: Playback Theatre with Brave Practice Theatre Collective

Invite Brave Practice Playback Theatre Collective, our group of theatre teaching artists, for a Playback Theatre performance at an established event or special event, or to facilitate a Playback Theatre workshop with your organization. Playback is an original form of interactive and improvisational theatre where people tell true stories from their lives and others enact them on the spot using music, dialogue, metaphor, and movement. Together, we'll practice bravery in community through deep listening and storytelling so that we are more prepared to be courageous in our everyday lives.

- [View offering](#)

Components

- Your organization assesses interest, audience, and approximate number of participants
- Window Seat leverages performers/teaching artists in Brave Practice to coordinate a Playback Theatre

performance, workshop, and/or series. We “conduct” these experiences.

- We work together to establish how the performance or workshop goes. We pick a theme or central question that highlights your organization and can spark people’s stories.

Timeframe

Minimum 2-month lead time to coordinate performers/teaching artists and establish performance/workshop elements. Our active season runs from September through May. The earlier we know, the better.

*Sliding scale component breakdown

- Up to 10 hours of project consultation, design + management. Estimate can be adjusted based on the scope of the project.
- 90-min performance with Meg + 3-5 performers. Fluctuates depending on the length of the event and the number of performers.

Option #3: Peer-to-Peer Storytelling Project

We can facilitate a StoryCorp-style audio storytelling project as a way to share listening and interviewing skills with your community and document and share important moments or connections within the community. These stories can then be shared via the web and social media, at events, or used in conjunction with a Story Circle or other community storytelling or conversation format to spark conversation with a group around an idea or theme. Our experience shows that a participatory model has rich and exciting potential for deepening engagement and connection – both through the process (peer-to-peer interviews) and the product (a story *series* to educate and spark conversations in the community).

We’ve facilitated a similar project with mediators at the Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County and with staff, volunteers, and clients at CIELO.

- [View Nuestras Historias](#)
- [Listen to two of the DRC Stories](#)

Components

- Your organization assesses interest and calls for storytellers, and works with us to determine details
- Window Seat facilitates a 90-minute to 2-hour workshop with storytellers from your community to learn interviewing skills and develop questions
- Window Seat schedules interviews at a convenient time and location and serves as the “facilitator” by recording the interview
- Window Seat works with you to determine the best visual component for the project, such as a simple photo of the storytelling pair or selecting an artist to create an illustration of the story, or some other visual
- Window Seat edits the interviews into 3-5 minute audio stories with feedback from storytellers and your organization on the final product

Timeframe

4-6 months depending on the number of storytelling pairs

*Sliding scale component breakdown

- Up to 15 hours of project consultation, design + management. This estimate can be adjusted based on the scope of the project.
- 2-hour storyteller workshop/training
- Audio recording, transcription and editing per story
- Visual Component: TBD depending on the product. Free if a simple iPhone photo of the storytelling pair (like the one of Cristian and Kindra in the CIELO sample above).

Option #4: Workshops for educators, organizations, and groups

We offer workshops in community oral history, organizational storytelling, and media literacy. We are an OSPI-certified Washington Educator Clock Hour Provider. All of our workshops are custom-designed to meet your needs. Workshop examples include:

- Document the stories of your family or community through an oral history workshop - Youth & Adults
- Incorporate an oral history project into your classroom curriculum through consultation or training - Teachers & Educators
- Use storytelling as a tool for empathy, belonging, building community, or personal reflection at your next staff meeting, retreat, conference, or event - Groups & Organizations
- Improve organizational storytelling and strategic planning to help staff, volunteers, and Board members be more effective organizational ambassadors - Public Service & Nonprofit Professionals
- Learn how to produce your own ethical and artistic stories for web or social media through a media literacy workshop, technical training, or coaching - Individuals & Professionals
- Learn what goes into telling your own story and explore personal narrative through a chosen medium or multimedia format - Individuals & Groups

Components

- Your organization assesses interest and works with us to design an appropriate offering
- Window Seat facilitates an engaging 90-minute workshop or series of workshops

Timeframe

1-month lead time for planning is ideal

*Sliding scale component breakdown

- Up to 10 hours of project consultation, design + management. This estimate can be adjusted based on the scope of the project.
- 2-hour workshop

Option #5: Community-Building through Storytelling Workshop or Series

We can engage groups in a variety of interactive and creative ways through storytelling that can be a discrete event, combined into a series, or coupled with other offerings. We can facilitate [Sociometry](#), a way of visualizing and mapping community characteristics and assets within the group. Perhaps there is a specific activity that calls to you from either of these resources that we can coordinate with your group: [Liberating Structures](#) or [National School Reform Faculty Protocols](#). We could facilitate a panel discussion and some kind of creative engagement, including [Image Theatre](#). We could incorporate personal, social, and cultural identity development into the conversation. Meg draws from a diverse background in theatre arts, outdoor education, equity, and working with groups of all kinds. They are also a Qualified Administrator of the [Intercultural Development Inventory](#) (IDI) Assessment should your group want to use this as a tool for reflection.

Components

- Your organization assesses interest and works with us to determine a course of action
- Window Seat facilitates an engaging 90-minute to 3-hour storytelling workshop or series around a theme or central question that highlights your organization and can spark people's stories.

Timeframe

3-month lead time for planning is ideal

*Sliding scale component breakdown

- Up to 15 hours of project consultation, design + management. This estimate can be adjusted based on the scope of the project.
- 2-hour workshop

*Sliding scale and cost-sharing

We offer a large sliding scale of pricing so that our services are more accessible. When organizations with an abundance pay more, it allows others to pay less when they need to, ensuring more equitable access to our arts and humanities programs and services. We are also open to cost sharing. After finalizing the details and expenses of the project, we would work together to determine what funds (in-kind or cash) each can bring to make this project (or a modified version) happen. This may include collaborating on a grant to fund the project or doing the project in phases as funding allows. The cost breakdown estimate can be adjusted based on the scope of the project. We'll keep track of hours and follow up with an exact invoice for services.

Window Seat Stewards

About Elaine

Elaine Vradenburgh (she/her) is an oral historian, multimedia storyteller and educator. She has carried out her work through a variety of roles — a development director at nonprofit organizations in South Puget Sound; a faculty member in the Evergreen State College's MPA and Evening and Weekend Studies programs; and a

community-based learning coordinator at high schools in Albuquerque, NM and Portland, OR. Elaine currently works for Window Seat Media as its Memory Activist. She holds a BA in Cultural and Community Studies from The Evergreen State College and an MA in Interdisciplinary Studies: Folklore, Anthropology, and Journalism from the University of Oregon.

About Meg

Meg Rosenberg (she/they) is a community member, public servant, and theatre artist deeply invested in local community-building and creating dialogue that sparks equitable social change. Meg is a queer non-binary white half-Jewish person, youngest of two, PNW outdoor enthusiast, and pet-lover. Meg's passion is for people and finding the connections between us through our stories. Meg currently serves as the Community Weaver at Window Seat Media, where they get to lead Brave Practice Playback Theatre Collective as a community engagement program. Meg's professional work has focused on public and nonprofit organizational development, strategic planning, education policy, diversity, equity, inclusion, and theatre arts with a focus on improvisation, devising, and ethnodrama. Meg studied theatre and interdisciplinary arts throughout middle and high school (Vancouver School of Arts and Academics), Theatre Arts, Anthropology/Sociology, and French during undergraduate (BA, Kalamazoo College '13), and a Master of Public and nonprofit Administration (MPA, The Evergreen State College '18).