



What's your story? How do you want to tell it?

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## Our Mission

StoryArk empowers student voices and equips young artists to thrive

## Organizational Overview

StoryArk helps students in middle school and high school initiate creative teams in which they communicate, collaborate and connect with each other to imagine and produce narrative podcasts, short films, comedic web series and a literary magazine that publishes prose, poetry and visual arts. We ask youth, "What's your story? How do you want to tell it?" They respond in ways that transform not only themselves, but also the audience who gains empathy and understanding of the student experience.

## Vision Statement

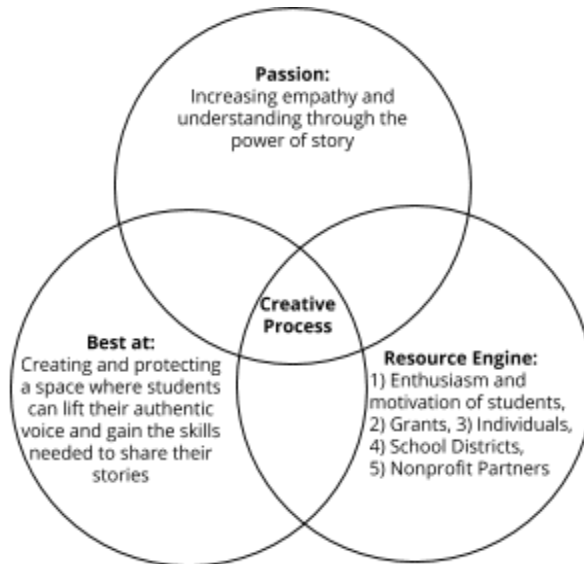
We envision a world where all stories are welcomed, valued and uplifted as an integral part of the larger narrative

## Core Values

1. We create and protect a space where all voices are uplifted and heard
2. We desire that all people see themselves in the stories told
3. We respect the intentions of the storytellers and support the initiative of the students
4. We value the creative process over the final product knowing that passion nurtured and empowered within high functioning teams naturally leads to superior work
5. We hold up storytelling in its ability to increase empathy and understanding as key to building a sense of community, decreasing polarization, and developing healthy communication

## The Heart

Student initiated, student led, our creative process focuses on building life skills through passion for storytelling and the desire to communicate and be in relationship with each other



*The intersection:* Our process emphasizes students being a part of a team that builds a sense of belonging and empowerment as youth work together to create their stories. In our creative process, students lead students and professional writers, actors, directors, cinematographers, editors and filmmakers serve as mentors who share their skills and wisdom as needed with youth. Ultimately, our artistic success is determined by how well we develop students as individuals and as team members. Participant learning and artistic quality are inextricably intertwined, and students have learned both are dependent on each other. If we honor the process, if we focus on how we strive to collaborate effectively while supporting each other individually as artists, quality content will naturally emerge.