

# The MY HERO Project

Annual Report 2022



## **OUR MISSION**

To use media, art and technology to celebrate the best of humanity and shine a light on positive role models.

## **OUR STRATEGY**

To use stories of heroes to inspire, bring hope and an appreciation of diversity. Through the process of hero storytelling we work to empower youth to see their own potential to create change in the world.

## **VALUES**

MY HERO embraces the values of a diverse workplace, content creation and dissemination and is committed to inclusive and equitable processes and results.





Hero Erica Fernandez & her mom on stage at The MY HERO International Film Festival.



The Children's Foundation of Technology in Sierra Leone participates in MY HERO.



Former Child Soldier, Mohamed Sidibay hosted The MY HERO International Day of Peace Celebration.



Emmy wrote an award-winning essay about her father, Jeremy Glick, a hero of 911.



Poet Mattie & his mom, Jeni Stepanek, share stories with MY HERO.



Yasmine Sherif, Global Educator Award Winner, champions the rights of all children.

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The MY HERO Project was launched online as a nonprofit educational project to celebrate the best of humanity through media, art and technology. The founders - filmmakers and mothers - wanted to create an alternative to the violence, sexism and racial inequity so prevalent in the mass media. They built a safe place online for people to share stories of real-life heroes from all walks of life who had overcome obstacles and adversity, faced challenges and persevered to create positive change in the world and in their communities.

The MY HERO website went online in 1995 and the response was immediate: MY HERO had touched a nerve worldwide, filling a vacuum with much needed positive content. Teachers, students, parents, writers and artists posted stories about their heroes in the guestbook and mailed art and stories to contribute to the website. To protect children from harmful content, a fledging staff reviewed all content submitted to the website and approved prior to publication.

With the advance of broadband technology and affordable mobile media devices, the Board launched The MY HERO International Film Festival in 2005. Leaders in philanthropy committed to peace, human rights and empowering women support the festival with special cash prizes for professional and student films. Short films and filmmakers from around the world are celebrated annually at the festival and online. All winning films become part of MY HERO's media library and are curated into lesson plans on a wide range of subjects for students of all ages.

Since 1995 over 100 million people have taken part in MY HERO's festivals, social media and in school programs, using and contributing content to our ever-growing online media library. Lesson plans have been shared across the country and world, and accompanying Professional Development for Teachers, Media Arts Workshops, Internship Programs, Salons and Festivals have deepened the impact in schools, in communities and, powerfully, on individuals.

This year's annual report addresses the "Why" of MY HERO. As research deepens our understanding of the impact of positive stories about heroes, I hope you will have a better understanding of the importance of our work and our reach. Please know how much we value your support and participation.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Meyers  
*Co-founder and Director, The MY HERO Project*

# MY HERO: POISED TO ADDRESS TODAY'S CHALLENGES

The challenges of the past two years have heightened the need for people everywhere to receive messages of hope and courage—to focus their energy and time on what is positive and uplifting. This is especially so for our youth.

**“Youth around the world are living in challenging times. Levels of anxiety and alienation are extremely high and the adults in their lives—teachers, parents and caregivers—are exhausted from navigating multiple simultaneous crises. They are all looking for positive messages to re-anchor their lives. Innovative solutions are needed and MY HERO is uniquely positioned to encourage youth to harness their passions, interests and skills. By creating and sharing media on MY HERO – film, art, poetry and music – youth celebrate those making a difference in their communities and in the world. And, critically, to see how their future is full of potential.”**

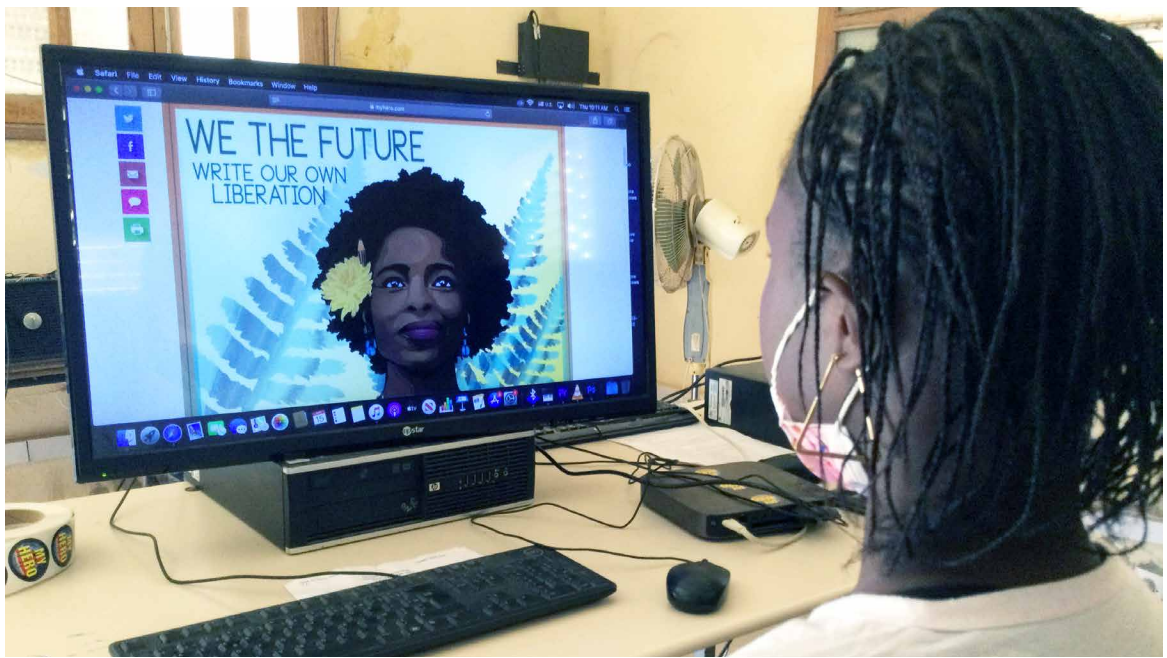
*Andy Ackerman, MY HERO Advisor  
Former Director Children's Museum of Manhattan*

MY HERO's media library is a wellspring of stories of individuals who make a difference. This award-winning project flourishes at the grass roots level involving people, especially students, in a dialogue about values, character, diversity, equity and inclusion. The growing archive of stories, art, and films form a critical mass of inspiring stories that emphasize empathy, altruism, morality, sacrifice, leadership, persistence, resilience and—above all—being part of a community.

These are the tools in desperate need at home, in school and in the community. As the needs grow, so will MY HERO. One story at a time.

“ The COVID-19 pandemic has created traumatic stressors that have the potential to further erode students’ mental well-being. Our research shows that surrounding youth with the proper support can reverse these trends and help our youth now and in the future. ”

*- Dr. Debra Houry,  
Acting Principal Deputy Director of the CDC*





# GROWING INVENTORY OF INSPIRING FREE RESOURCES

50,000 Essays  
3,000 Films  
3,700 Art Works  
965 Audio



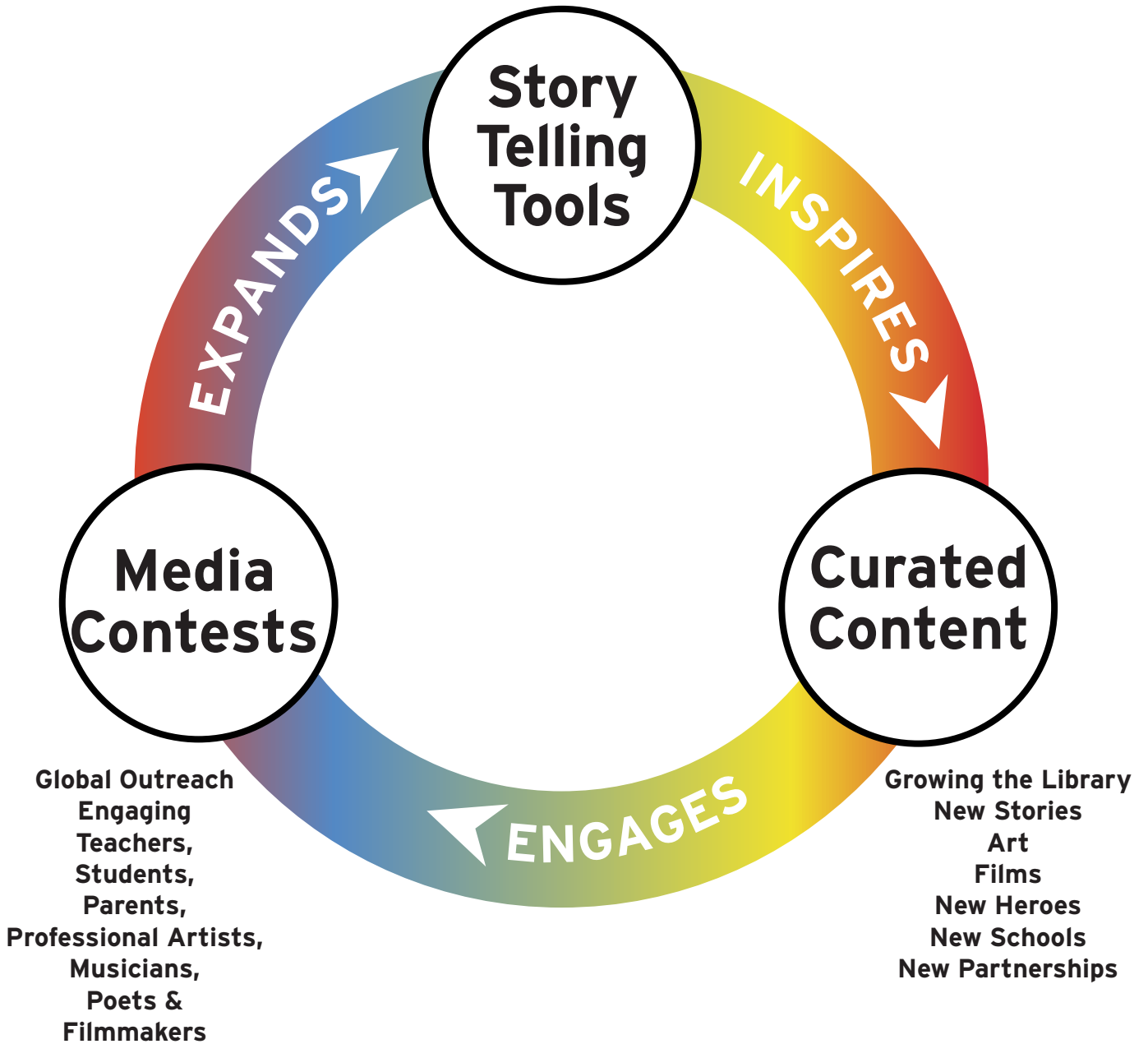
Weekly/Monthly Features  
Media Rich Lesson Plans  
Online Support | Tutorials  
Digital Storytelling Tools  
Mentors | Internships  
Special Events  
Virtual Salons



Big Heroes-Short Films  
Global Storytelling  
Honoring Professional and Student  
Filmmakers with Special Awards



# REPLENISHING GROWTH CYCLE





# WHY STUDY HEROES?

In classrooms around the world, students explore the MY HERO multimedia library to then identify and create media to honor their personal heroes. Sharing these stories, art and films promotes cross-cultural understanding and encourages dialogue about values and character. Through these examples, students can find support and pathways to guide their own success.

**The relatively new discipline of “Heroism Science” examines the different expressions of heroism and their impact on society.**

Research on teaching heroism shows that heroes:

- uplift others - inspire and offer hope
- protect and help others to cope, providing emotional and social support
- provide an important role in support of identity exploration and formation
- provide a clearer sense of self

**“MY HERO’s work reflects and dedicatedly confirms many of the scholarly findings on the nature and purpose of heroes. Their integration of art, film, education and many more distinct areas into their vision is especially fascinating for the contemporary shapes and concepts around heroism, and their endeavors to spread the heroic spirits through positivity is definitely worth recognizing and supporting.”**

*Professor Scott T. Allison of the University of Richmond,  
Editor of Heroism Science: An Interdisciplinary Journal*

## MY HERO IMPACT

MY HERO's multimedia resources encourage social and emotional learning and reflection: the stories that are featured on the website emphasize empathy, altruism, morality, sacrifice, leadership, wisdom, persistence and resilience.

**"For almost three decades, The MY HERO Project continues to inspire all of us with tales of heroism that grab us emotionally and elevate us all to become our best selves. MY HERO calls us to transform ourselves and the world, to rise above the claptrap of mere existence and to achieve our full potential, assuming our most noble, heroic identities."**

*Obama Institute Fellow – Simge Büyükgümüş*

**MY HERO serves  
20 Million Visitors Annually  
drawn from 197 Countries  
since 1995.**

## IMPACT on Youth

Giving youth a voice and encouragement to explore and connect with those who inspire them has a profound impact. Mohamed Sidibay, a former child soldier from Sierra Leone, became a leading voice for children's rights and equal access to quality education after working as a MY HERO intern during high school and college. Mohamed is now an international lawyer, advisor to the Director-General of UNESCO and serves on MY HERO's Board of Directors.



Mohamed Sidibay at the International Day of Peace Celebration.

**“In a world where the media sensationalizes violence, the importance of organizations like MY HERO cannot be understated. MY HERO came at a time in my life when my world was in complete disarray. Unable to understand the world outside of the one I had grown up in, MY HERO taught me the true meaning of life by empowering me through the use of media and storytelling.”**

*–Mohamed Sidibay*

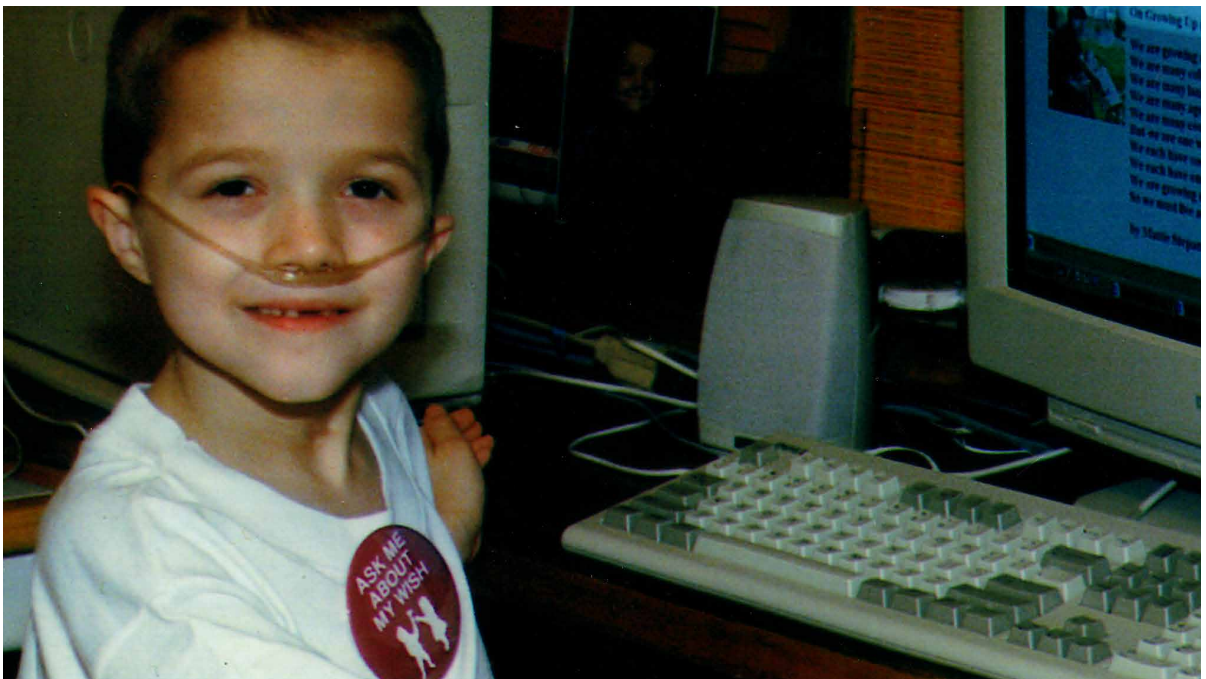
## IMPACT on Children and Families

Mattie J. T. Stepanek, as a young child, suffered from dysautonomic mitochondrial myopathy, a rare disorder that took the lives of his three older siblings. After Mattie was nominated as a MY HERO by the Children's Hospice International World Conference, MY HERO's Jeanne Meyers reached out to Mattie's mother to see how the organization could help. Through generous corporate donations Mattie received a computer so he could share his poems with the world. By the time Mattie was twelve years old, he had published five New York Times-bestselling books and had met all of his personal heroes, including Oprah Winfrey. His hero, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, described Stepanek as "the most extraordinary person whom I have ever known."

*Jeni Stepanek, Mattie's mother, spoke of MY HERO's role in Mattie's life:*

**"It was about 20 years ago when MY HERO chose to honor Mattie who was only 6 years old at the time, as a poet hero. MY HERO gave Mattie, a little boy, a platform for sharing his HEARTSONGS, his messages of purpose, purpose for himself and purpose for all of us. When Mattie died in 2004 just before his 14th birthday MY HERO was a place where global neighbors shared comments and thoughts about Mattie. About their grief and about their ongoing hope for peace rooted in lessons they had learned from this little boy."**

*Jeni Stepanek sponsors an annual poetry contest in Mattie's honor on MY HERO through the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Foundation.*



Young Mattie Stepanek, Poet, Peacemaker and a NYT's best-selling author.

## IMPACT on New Filmmakers

Slater Jewell-Kemker is an award-winning film director who learned her craft as a youth reporter for The MY HERO Project. Her feature documentary, "Youth Unstoppable," which covers young people on the front lines of climate change, has screened at the United Nations and festivals around the world. Slater gives workshops on filmmaking within the youth climate community, empowering young people to tell their own stories that promote a sustainable, caring world.

**"The MY HERO Project taught me the power of storytelling. It's endlessly inspiring to me as an artist (and at a deeper level, as a human) to see the empowered community of young storytellers that MY HERO has fostered impact their own communities and bring a little bit more love, understanding and tolerance into a world that so badly needs it."**

*– Slater Jewell-Kemker*



Slater Jewell-Kemker with her hero Jean-Michel Cousteau.

## IMPACT on Teachers



**“This is a difficult time in history, and MY HERO creates an awareness of everyday individuals – heroes, not just problems in our society. We need more positivity. Before deciding on heroes or beginning their stories, my students have to collaborate with their families on defining the characteristics of a hero. They then have to interview their parents about their childhoods. Students experience a newfound respect for their families and connections that will impact the rest of their lives.”**

*- Teacher Julie Reidel High School Teacher, Kansas, USA, 2021*

**“We live in Iran, and we are grade eleven. This is an exciting project because it has given us a vast perspective toward different people from different parts of the world.”**

*- Teacher from Iran*



Photo edited to protect the students, 2010

**"The MY HERO Project's extensive existing training materials, and staff support in creating a curriculum tailored for our program, helped make our summer bridge program a huge success. The students made eight "My Hero" films in groups, all while being completely remote from one another. I am so grateful for the help we received from The MY HERO Project."**

*- Teacher Coleen Bondy, Los Angeles Unified School District, USA, 2020*



**"Thanks to MY HERO my students have become international citizens who care about Climate Change, and Human Rights. They have become future heroes dedicated to protecting and caring for one another and the environment and demonstrating with the media their success."**

*- Teacher/Principal Cheikh Darou Seck, Senegal, 2022*

**"The MY HERO Project recounts inspiring and empowering stories that are great for use by teachers, parents, and the public. Love working with them."**

*- Global Educator & Author, Esther Wojcicki, 2022*



## FILMMAKING

**Growing library of over 3,000 MY HERO short films available free online.**

**Students and professional filmmakers have found a place to create and share documentary, experimental, animated and narrative short films about heroes.**

**Teachers use MY HERO's film library to enrich learning, promote cross-cultural understanding and provide stories of hope to students around the world.**

**In support of young filmmakers, MY HERO provides Media Arts Education Resources to help students create their own hero-themed films.**



Molly's Film – by Jonathan Dumont - Head of Television Communications: The United Nations World Food Programme – ITALY, Featuring Molly, a 12-year-old girl from Nairobi, Kenya.

**[MYHERO.COM/FILMS](http://MYHERO.COM/FILMS)**



# INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Students and professional filmmakers come together with heroes, artists and musicians to share inspiring stories with our global learning community. Screenings have been held in the George Lucas Theater at USC School of Cinematic Arts, The American Film Institute, Moss Theater at The Herb Alpert Educational Village at New Roads School, and in classrooms, community centers and libraries around the globe.



Winners and heroes with musician Pato Baton at the Moss Theater, Herb Alpert Educational Village, New Roads School, Santa Monica.

## SPECIAL AWARDS - CASH PRIZES

### **Sylvia Earle Ocean Conservation Award**

*presented by MacGillivray Freeman Films Educational Foundation*

### **Women Transforming Media Award** *presented by Eva Haller*

### **'WOJ' Youth Reporter Award** *presented by Esther Wojcicki*

### **Relationships First Award** *presented by The Foundation for the Contemporary Family*

### **Dan Eldon Activist Award** *presented by Kathy Eldon and Amy Eldon Turteltaub*

### **Peace Prize** *presented by Ron Kovic*

### **Mattie Stepanek Poetry Prize** *presented by Jeni Stepanek*

## AWARDS

**Global Educator Award | Media Award | Media Arts Educator Award**

**Emerging Artist Award | Immersive Storytelling Award**

**Humanitarian | Song Contest | Documentary | Animated | Narrative**

## STORY LIBRARY

An online resource with over 50,000 stories about all kinds of heroes from family members to global leaders.

Students and professional writers contribute to our library. Prizes are awarded to students for outstanding stories.

Artists



Essays on the Theme of Heroism



Earthkeepers



Scientists



Freedom



Explorers



Diverse heroes from all walks of life are celebrated on MY HERO.

**“When people tell me nothing has changed, I say walk in my shoes and I will show you change.”**

*- Congressman John Lewis*

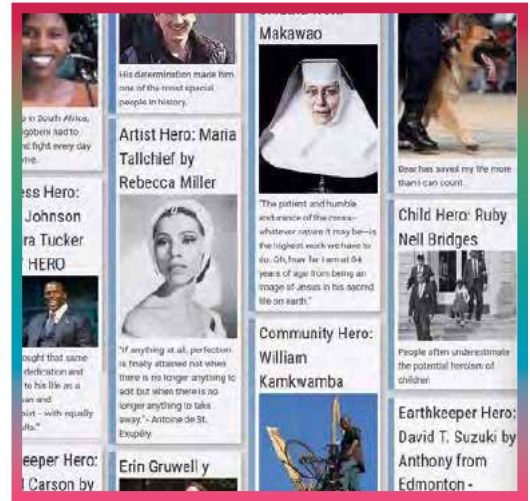


**Community Heroes, Young Heroes, Family Heroes, Health Heroes, Inventors, Lifesavers, Peacemakers, Poets, Sports Heroes, Writers and more . . .**

**[MYHERO.COM/STORIES](https://myhero.com/stories)**

# AUDIO

Narrated stories from the MY HERO library support early readers, ESL and ELL students in classrooms and online.



Professional artists contribute music and poetry to inspire, entertain and engage.



Kayla Briët



Dana Williams



Trey Carlisle



Olivia Milch

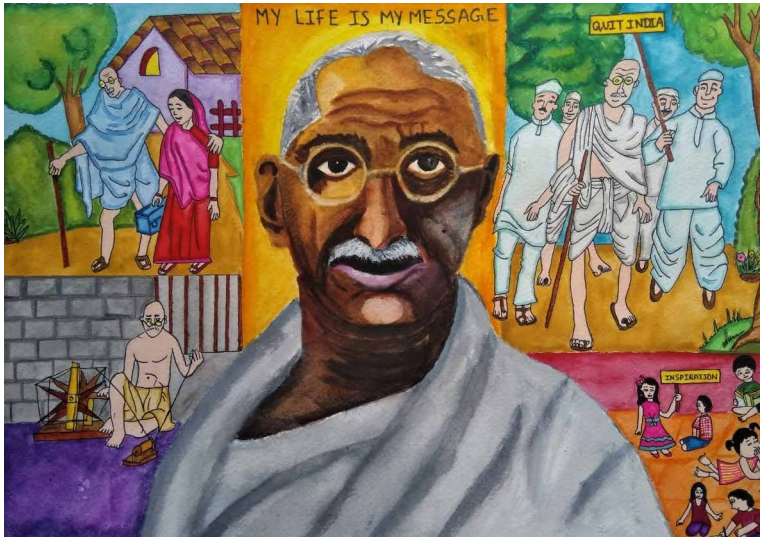
# ART GALLERY

Over 3,700 works of art made by students and professional artists.

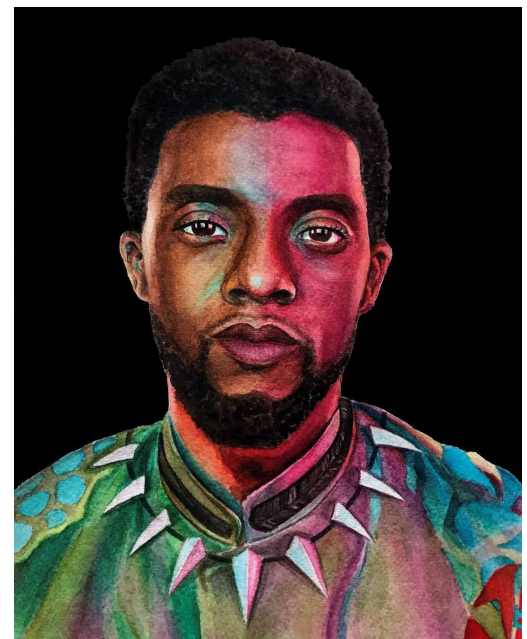
Prizes are awarded for outstanding portraits.



"Katherine Johnson"  
by St. George Thompson, California



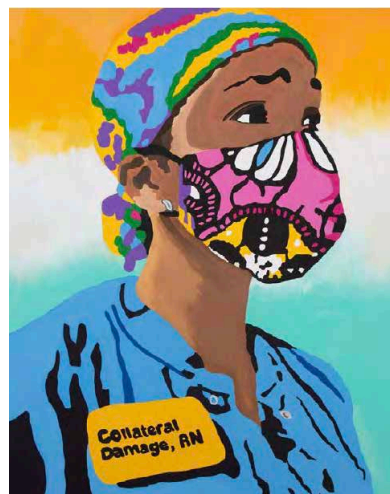
"Mahatma Gandhiji" By: D. Aron Raj, India



"King" by Kiddo Pan, Maryland



"Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall"  
by Emily Im, California



"Black and Essential"  
by Gigi Wilborn, Georgia

## TEACHER'S ROOM

Elementary, Middle, High School and College teachers use MY HERO in classrooms and for hybrid and distance learning. MY HERO lesson plans curated with media from our library and digital story telling tools are used for a wide range of subjects at all grade levels.

**Art | Language Arts | Social Studies | Peace Studies | Social Justice  
Human Rights | Women's Studies | Environmental Education  
Ocean Conservation | Global Studies | ESL / ELL | Media Arts Education  
Digital Art | Journalism | Film-making | Character Education | and more**

MY HERO Media Arts Education Programs take place in schools and with community partners around the globe. Media Arts Resources developed for workshops are shared online. The network of media arts organizations and filmmakers that become part of our global learning community support and mentor young story tellers.



A student participates in a media arts workshop in Amman, Jordan as part of the MY HERO Global Exchange.



Students work on music for ECO HERO media arts project at the Laguna Beach Boys and Girls Club.

**PROMOTING Mental Wellness | Social and Emotional Learning  
Character Education | Community Service | Civic Engagement  
Cross Cultural Understanding | Creative Self Expression  
Appreciation of Diversity | Intergenerational Dialogue  
Sustainable Development Goals | Positive Use of Social Media**

**[MYHERO.COM/TEACHERS](https://myhero.com/teachers)**

Media and resources for learning about heroes every day of the year on the MY HERO home page and daily calendar.  
[myhero.com/Calendar](http://myhero.com/Calendar)



PHOTO: Nina Simone by Roland Godefroy, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

April  
**JAZZ  
APPRECIATION  
MONTH**



PHOTO: Still from "Youth Unstoppable" on the youth climate movement, directed by Slater Jewell-Kemker

April 28 - April 30  
**CELEBRATING  
GLOBAL YOUTH  
SERVICE DAY**



October 11  
**DAY OF THE  
GIRL CHILD**

# SUPPORT

**Thank you to all of our generous supporters over the years**

## **FOUNDATIONS & GRANTS**

The Seedlings Foundation  
Massen Greene Foundation  
American Legion Child Welfare Foundation  
The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation  
Foundation for the Contemporary Family  
Laguna Beach Community Foundation  
Orange County Community Foundation  
Irving Harris Foundation  
Puffin Foundation  
Festival of Arts Foundation  
Cox Cares Foundation  
American Association of University Women  
Rotary Club Laguna Beach  
William and Dorothy Meyers Foundation  
Max Factor Family Foundation  
MediaThe Foundation  
Gertrude Lempp Kerbis Foundation  
Google Grants

## **GOVERNMENT GRANTS**

California Arts Council  
City of Laguna Beach  
US Department of Education  
U.S. State Department  
Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs



# FINANCIAL REPORT

The following information is a condensed version of our audited financial statements prepared by Piazza, Donnelly & Marlette LLP for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles.

## ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents . . . . .	\$846,023
Grant receivable . . . . .	\$44,351
Property/equipment . . . . .	\$10,799
Deposits . . . . .	\$1,200
<b>Total Assets . . . . .</b>	<b>\$902,373</b>

## REVENUE AND SUPPORT

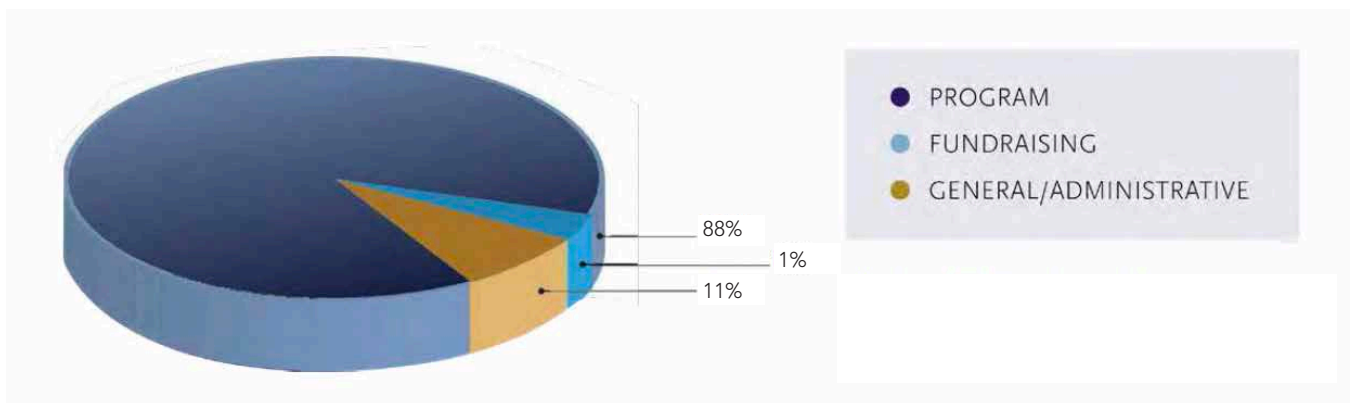
Contributions . . . . .	\$83,171
Government Grants . . . . .	\$135,806
In-Kind . . . . .	\$297,254
Interest and other . . . . .	\$122
<b>Total Revenue and support . . . . .</b>	<b>\$516,353</b>

## CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accrued expenses . . . . .	\$22,114
Cares Act PPP Note Forgivable+NP . . . . .	\$880,259
<b>Total Liability and Net Assets . . . . .</b>	<b>\$902,373</b>

## FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Program . . . . .	\$682,992
Fundraising . . . . .	\$8,092
General and Administrative . . . . .	\$84,495
<b>Total functional expenses . . . . .</b>	<b>\$775,579</b>



The MY HERO Project is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization. Donations from individuals and foundations support our global learning community.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jeanne Meyers** | Laguna Beach, California - Jeanne has been directing The MY HERO Project since its inception in 1995. She oversees all aspects of this award-winning multimedia project. She is a film producer and multimedia artist.

**Mark Cavanagh** | Chepachet, Rhode Island - Mark is a screenwriter. He founded Youth Vision, Inc., which promotes television by and for kids. A Recipient of the Action for Children's Television Award, Mr. Cavanagh has directed projects for Public Broadcast and recently released his first feature film.

**Cynthia Costas Cohen** | Beverly Hills, California - Cynthia is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Cynthia's specialties include EMDR and hypnosis. She is on the board for the Trauma Resource Institute, and co-facilitates trainings for The Trauma Resource Institute.

**Judith Zucker Anderson, Ph.D.** | Laguna Beach, California - Judith is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the UCI College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior and President of the Foundation for the Contemporary Family (FFCF), a non-profit foundation supporting research, clinical training, and community programs that address the important issues facing contemporary families.

**Carolyn Hodge-West** | Cassopolis, Michigan - Carolyn is a change expert and a multi-sector business leader with extensive board leadership and civic involvement. Carolyn is a licensed Executive Mentor Coach and CEO of the Hodge West Group, an executive coaching, training and wellness firm specializing in transformational leadership development, change management, and career and life transition. Carolyn's lifelong passion and commitment is to promote diversity, equity and improve the status of women and girls.

**Eva Haller** | Santa Barbara, California - Eva is an activist, philanthropist with a passion for mentoring not profit leaders serving youth, women and the arts. She received an honorary doctorate from Glasgow Caledonian University and was awarded their 2014 Magnusson Fellowship. She is a trustee of the Rubin Museum of Art and the University of California Santa Barbara Foundation. She annually presents the Women Transforming Media Award as part of the MY HERO Film Festival.

**Elena Corchero** | London, England - Elena is an award-winning technology designer and futurist in the area of meaningful innovation, focusing on sustainability, ethics and gender equality. She is currently Dow Jones Live's Director of Emerging Tech and Innovation, creating the experiences and services required for the new hybrid world, the metaverse and Web 3.0 economies. Her speaking portfolio includes TEDx and MIT Technology Review. Her prototypes and artistic technology concepts have been exhibited and featured worldwide in museums, books and publications including Elle magazine, BBC news, CNBC and Boston Science Museum.

**Kathleen Duhl** | Oakland, California - Kathleen taught Pre-K-8th grade and then became a division director, assistant head of school, and principal. Kathleen's practice involves understanding the neurodevelopmental challenges in students, creating policies and resources to broaden the scope and breadth of diversity and inclusion in both public and private schools, and creating integrated, engaging curriculum.

**Jennifer Borland, M.A.** | Bloomington, Indiana - Jennifer became involved with MY HERO in 2007 as an evaluator for a Global Exchange Media Arts Project funded by the U.S Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. She has managed evaluations for some of the world's leading media

producers, museums, game developers, and educational institutions, with grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

**Sandy Factor** | Los Angeles, California - Sandy is an advocate for using innovative technology and media in the classroom to promote cross cultural understanding and social and emotional learning. Her training and work in exotic animal management has given her a unique perspective on how we connect and communicate with one another.

**Barbara MacGillivray** | Los Angeles, California - Barbara is the Director of Research for MacGillivray Freeman Films. She has, over the last 50 year, worked on pre-production, production and post production for the award-winning IMAX filmmaking company. Barbara has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, and has also worked for 30 years in Children, Youth Services for the Orange County Health Care Agency as a Licensed Clinical Psychologist.

**Mohamed Sidibay** | New York, New York - Mohamed is an internationally recognized voice for children in armed conflict. Mohamed holds a master's in law from Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas University and a Juris Doctor (JD) from Fordham University School of Law. He is a member of The High Level Reflection Group on Strategic Transformation that advises the Director-General of UNESCO. Mohamed is also the Youth Champion for the Global Partnership for Education and the host of Raise Your Hand Live, a monthly talk show featuring change makers from across the globe. He is a corporate associate in the New York office of the global law firm Covington & Burling.

**Rita Stern Milch** | Los Angeles, California - Rita is an artist, filmmaker and is a co-founder of The MY HERO Project. She co-produced the MY HERO TV Pilot in 1994 and designed the original MY HERO website in 1995. Rita has produced several MY HERO special events: Salons for Poetry and Jazz and the International Day of Peace Celebrations with Ron Kovic and Mohamed Sidibay. She received an Emmy for her Frontline Documentary on Abortion. She is Vice President at Red Board Productions and works with her husband, Emmy Award Winning producer and writer, David Milch on TV series and motion picture projects.

**Greg Stamos** | Santa Barbara, California - Greg presently serves on the Board of UCSB's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity & Ecological Restoration (CCBER) and formerly served as a board member of the University of California Santa Barbara Foundation. Greg practiced law for over 40 years as an associate and partner in the law firm of Rose, Klein & Marias, specializing in environmental and toxic exposure cases and represented children who were exposed and adversely affected by exposure to lead paint.

**Ellen Freeberg** | New York, New York - Ellen is an educator who cares deeply about students, teaching, and innovative new programs that prepare us to engage each other across divides and nurture democratic citizenship. She holds a PhD in political science and currently serves as associate dean for faculty and curriculum at The New School for Social Research in Manhattan.

**Nikki Pope** | San Jose - Nikki is in-house counsel for NVIDIA, leading the company's efforts in developing trustworthy artificial intelligence. She also is the co-founder and principal executive officer of The Pruno Fund, Inc. a nonprofit organization that provides financial support to exonerated men and women who need help reclaiming their lives after a wrongful conviction. Nikki became interested in wrongful conviction and helping the exonerees during her tenure on the advisory board of the Northern California Innocence Project. In addition to her law degrees, Nikki holds a B.A. in economics from Carleton College and an M.B.A from Kellogg. She is the co-author of the award-winning book and audiobook "Pruno, Ramen, and a Side of Hope: Stories of Surviving Wrongful Conviction," narrated by Whoopi Goldberg and Bill Kurtis.

# STAFF



**Jeanne Meyers**  
Co-Founder & Director



**Stephanie Cole**  
Administrative Manager



**Abigail Richardson**  
Editor & Writer



**Deborah Neff**  
Editor & Writer



**Laura Nietzer**  
Director of Global Education  
and Outreach



**Wendy Milette**  
Director of Film Festival  
and Media Arts Education



**Stu Pearlman**  
Audio Studio Curator & Musician



**Kitty Richardson**  
Social Media & Video



**Nathan Smith**  
Director of Web and IT



**Anthony Pouw**  
Software Design & Development



**Betty Bailey**  
Writer & Communications



**Saint George Thompson**  
Artist & Illustrator

# INTERNS

## USC SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS - WORK STUDY INTERNS



**Ashlyn Bradshaw**  
Intern



**Rachel Priebe**  
USC School of Cinematic Arts



**Becca Han**  
USC School of Cinematic Arts



**Dorothy Lie**  
USC Annenberg School of Journalism



**Mia Islas**  
USC School of Cinematic Arts

## COLLEGE INTERNS - 2019 - 2022



**Michael Gankin**  
Boston University



**Jessica Ordaz**  
Woodbury University  
Animation



**Nicole Petrovsky**  
Woodbury University  
Animation



**Jennifer Bose**  
Woodbury University  
Animation



**Felicia Paredes**  
Woodbury University  
Animation



**Jesse Zaragoza**  
Cal-State Northridge  
Journalism



**Skyler Gallarzan**  
Loyola Marymount University  
Journalism



**Catherine Lima**  
Cal-State Long Beach  
Journalism



**Sebastian Ruiz**  
San Francisco State  
Journalism



**Katie Artin**  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Film Festival



**Cheuk Yiu (Rene) Cheng**  
Journalism



**Trey Carlisle**  
SOKA University Music



**Avery Isabel Sweeney**  
NYU Tisch School of the Arts  
Film Festival



**Cara McPhee**  
Film Festival



**Katie Graubart**  
Skidmore College



**David Villegas**  
Film Festival



**Jeremy Hsing**  
UCLA



**Lauren Verlinde**  
Michigan State University



**Leilani Wetherell**  
Film Festival



**Natalia Osuna**  
USC Journalist

## **Educational Partners**

**iEARN | ISTE | New Roads School | Crossroads School  
Herb Alpert Educational Village | UCI Bren School of  
Information & Computer Sciences | USC School of  
Cinematic Arts | Baycat | Peace Pals International |  
Americans Who Tell the Truth | Francis W. Parker School |  
Journeys in Film | Freedom Writers Foundation |  
BellaGaia.com | UCLA Center X | Taft High School |  
Foshay Learning Center | Weemes Elementary School |  
Laguna Art Museum | Laguna College of Art  
Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach | Soka University |  
Guitars in the Classroom | Art Miles Mural Project |  
Creative Visions | Glasgow Caledonia University | Global  
Education Conference | Mattie J. T. Stepanek Foundation |  
Santa Barbara Middle School Teen Press | One World One  
Ocean | Coalition for Engaged Education | Royal Film  
Commission - Jordan | Palo Alto High School Media Center |  
Google Cultural Institute | Facens University |  
University of Leeds | Young Voices for the Planet |  
Video Volunteers - Change Chitra**

**SINCE 1995** MY HERO has built a global template for value-added cultural learning, reframing the educational narrative to provide students with a creative platform for academic and personal growth – instilling hope, pride, courage, knowledge, innovation and possibility.

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