

Word on the STREET

Vol. 5, No. 1

NEWS FROM STREETSIDE STORIES

Spring 2005



"New Boy" by Efrain Plascencia, Horace Mann M.S.

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Three Chances to Celebrate Streetside this Spring!

JUNE 5. Join us for Streetside's first annual fundraising event, on June 5 at 3 p.m. This relaxed event, held at the Firehouse at Fort Mason, will include Napa Valley wine, chocolate, and hors d'oeuvres, student readings and a silent auction. Support Streetside and enjoy an afternoon with students and other friends of Streetside. Look for information in your mailbox in early May.

JUNE 11. Streetside students will read their stories at a public celebration on Saturday, June 11 at 2 p.m. The reading will launch our 2004-2005 anthology, *Writing Outside the Lines*, written by sixth grade students. This year's anthology features a foreword by prize-winning author Andrew X. Pham.

Streetside invites you to A Clean Well Lighted Place for Books to support youth literacy and stock up on summer reading. All weekend, 20% of any purchase you make at the bookstore will benefit Streetside. Just make sure to mention our name at the register.

JUNE 14. Streetside will screen digital stories created by seventh graders in our Tech Tales program. Don't miss the Tech Tales Film Festival on June 14 at 7 p.m. at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Doors open at 6:30 PM.



Laudenia Zuniga of Everett Middle School performs her story

Tech Tales puts Stories on the Screen

At a San Francisco middle school, a normally rambunctious class sits calmly in their seats in semi-darkness, intently focused on images projected on the wall. Pepe Urquijo, Streetside's Tech Tales Facilitator, is showing a digital story about the changes that occurred in his life when his baby brother was born.

This year Streetside added digital media technology to the palette of arts skills students are using to tell their own stories. In the classroom, students produce digital movies based on written stories about their lives. Students turn their written stories into scripts and record them, creating narration for their movies in their own voices. By bringing in family photos and drawing images, students learn to visually represent the experiences they have already brought to life in words.

Then, the fun begins.

"The computers are cool!" one student described the workshop. Students edit their stories on iBook computers, using iMovie digital media software. They switch images around, matching phrases in the voiceover with their artwork, and add movement and effects in between shots. Finally, each youth adds a creative title that swirls into place at the start of the movie, followed by his or her name in large, white letters.

In class, the young filmmakers show off their skills, easily navigating the iMovie program and using editing tools and terminology like transitions, effects and audio.

The results are personal stories, told in students' own voices, with drawings and photos that make the story intensely real to the viewer.



Two Tech Tales students at Treasure Island School edit their digital stories.

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streetside STORIES

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Word on the Street is a publication of Streetside Stories, an arts education non-profit based in San Francisco.

Through the power of storytelling, Streetside Stories values and cultivates young people's voices, fostering educational equity and building community, literacy and arts skills.

Established in 1992, Streetside Stories brings literacy arts education to San Francisco youth in public middle schools and the community, through in-school workshops, after school programs, and literacy arts training for educators. Streetside engages students with storytelling, theater and digital media technology to make reading and writing come alive.

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New Faces at Streetside Stories!

At Streetside we're happy to introduce two Board Members who joined Streetside this school year, Wil Houston and Cecilia Echeverría.

Cecilia Echeverría is a Program Associate at the California Endowment. Prior to this, she was a Policy Analyst at the California HealthCare Foundation in Oakland and an Analyst of Social Legislation at the Congressional Research Service in Washington, DC. Cecilia has been on the Board of Directors of Streetside Stories since 2004 and views their unique approach to literacy through art as a model for engaging youth, improving educational outcomes and building community. A native of Southern California, Cecilia first came to the Bay Area to complete her BA, MPP and MPH from UC Berkeley. She lives in the East Bay with her husband and daughter and enjoys art, music and food during her free time.

Wil Houston. Raised in Georgia, Wil Houston graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in advertising. He holds a graduate degree in accounting from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He currently works as a Cardiovascular Specialty Representative for Merck & Company. Besides his board service with Streetside, he has mentored youth with the YMCA and Back on Track. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, traveling, cooking and writing poetry.

Author Andrew X. Pham Shares Stories of Change in 2005 Student Anthology Foreword



"These are brave young writers. They are discovering that language is like furniture; they must use it. In using it, they leave traces of themselves on it. They bend it to their will. They invent new usages with it. They scruff, break, and even repair it, making it unique. They make it theirs, and in doing so, they are taking the first step to becoming masters of the house that shall in time be their world."

—Andrew X. Pham, from the Foreword of *Writing Outside the Lines*

This year, Streetside's anthology features a foreword by prize-winning author Andrew X. Pham. Pham is a journalist whose highly-praised book, *Catfish and Mandala*, describes a bicycle journey through his native Vietnam, 20 years after he left his home country.

The book intersperses stories of his bike ride with his memories of adjusting to life in Northern California as a youth. Like Streetside's young writers, Pham discovered as a young person the power of his words to express feelings of change in his own life.

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Students are thrilled by the crisp images on the digital screen. "In my life, I never suspected that I could create a movie," one student told Streetside. "It felt really good to finally see the finished project on the screen," another student remarked, after the final class day when all the movies were screened for an audience of peers and teachers.

Streetside's story theme this year was changes, and students wrote about happy and sad first times, like new siblings, moving to the US, losing a family member, roller coaster rides, broken bones and new pets. By telling stories from their lives using voice, images and sounds, students can even more eloquently share their experiences and build connections with their classmates and teachers.

Through digital stories, Streetside's youth voices will reach an even larger audience this year, through screenings, school-wide TV broadcasts, websites and DVDs. Look for Tech Tales digital stories on Salesforce.com's YouthSpace.net website, coming soon.

The first year of a new program takes a lot of work. Tech Tales Facilitator Pepe Urquijo and Streetside have accomplished a great deal. As one student said, "It made me feel proud to have been one of the first people to do this. I think that we are really lucky to be able to have this opportunity."

FRIENDS

of Streetside Stories

The support of our wonderful donors means so much!
 Many thanks to all who make our work possible.

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Thank You Volunteers!

Where would Streetside be without our valuable volunteers? We can't imagine! Thank you for your support in the classroom, in the office and in the community. **Volunteer of the Month** awardees are in bold.

Stephanie Arciero	Jay Kilian	Jon Tupy
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Todd Booker, Jonathan Woo and Ariel White relax after performing their stories at a storytelling event hosted by Porchlight.

Get Involved!

There are many different ways to contribute to Streetside Stories. To help, contact Britt at britt@streetside.org or (415) 864-5221, or visit our website at www.streetside.org.

Work in the Classroom! Streetside classroom volunteers act as storytellers and mentors, helping students one-on-one with their writing. They lead discussion groups and participate in theater activities with the students. Tech Tales volunteers also help youth create digital movies in iMovie.

Make a Donation! Donate or help with fundraising. Does your company have a matching gifts program or take part in a giving campaign like United Way? Earmark your gift for Streetside!

Edit Students' Stories! Type and edit stories written by Storytelling Exchange students for publication in the annual anthology and movie scripts by Tech Tales students.

Streetside Stories' TALE Tools for Arts and Literacy Education

Ever wished Streetside could come to *your* classroom? Now *you* can make it happen with our teacher training program, TALE. And it's *free* for public school teachers!

Streetside trains educators, teachers-in-training, and other youth-service professionals to use our innovative and engaging techniques! Learn to lead story swaps, theater games, and other literacy arts tools. Help your students to tell their own stories, build literacy and get engaged in learning.

Call **Linda Johnson** at (415) 864-5221 for details.

Order a License Plate, Support Arts Education



Depicting a brilliant orange sun over a coastline lined with palm trees, the Arts License Plate was the first license plate in the nation designed solely to benefit the arts. Designed by noted California artist Wayne Thiebaud, the Arts License Plate has generated more than \$6.6 million in revenue for arts education efforts and other local programs. Currently, revenue from plate sales funds the programs of the **California Arts Council** including arts education efforts for schoolchildren. At \$30 for standard and \$70 for personalized, thousands of Californians are branding their vehicles with an attractive, functional license plate as well as making an investment in the arts. The CAC realizes \$14.63 on each plate order and \$15 on each plate renewal. To order a plate and support the arts, visit the CAC website at www.cac.ca.gov.

The Story Swap

At the beginning of each Streetside workshop, facilitators tell an autobiographical story and then ask students whether they have had a similar experience that they would like to share. This is called the Story Swap. This page is dedicated to this idea, and to sharing student and community stories. The following are scripts and artwork from Tech Tales digital stories.

Seeing Things Differently



By Carlos Fuentes
Tech Tales participant, Horace Mann Middle School

A time in my life when there was a change was when I wore glasses and the kids called me four eyes.



I really used to get mad at the kids that called me that.



Now that I'm in seventh grade I'm so happy that I see well and I don't get bugged anymore!

My advice to kids who call other people names is to not insult someone who is more different than you or less different than you. What people should do when they see someone who is different from them is to be friends with them and maybe they can share some great things!



Pre-teen Adventure



By Winnie Phan, Tech Tales participant, Treasure Island School

My change was that I could see better after the operation in the hospital. I didn't have to wear glasses and kids didn't call me four eyes. But now that I don't wear glasses and I can see perfectly, kids don't call me that because of the operation!

The operation almost took four hours but at least I got my eyes fixed. My dad was happy that the operation came through.

I finally turned ten years old and my life was changing. I was on an adventure of a preteen. On my adventure I found out that life could be filled with surprises like my first pimple and of course my feelings and emotions.



One day walking in the streets, my friend Mike Vick told me that it doesn't matter what other people can do and what you can't do.

I can play the piano, be a president of a club, score a goal for my team, and do my knuckleball when I'm bowling. I felt unusual having feelings like happiness, anger and jealousy. Even though I can do those things, I don't need to brag about myself to be better than others.



If you follow your heart and believe in yourself, then you can be the best that you are. It doesn't matter what you have on the outside, it matters what you have in you. I am Winnie Phan, a winner because my name has the word "win" in it. Now I am a winner because I believe in myself. So be who you want to be, not what people tell you to be!

Through the power of storytelling, Streetside Stories values and cultivates young people's voices, fostering educational equity and building community, literacy and arts skills.

CRITICS' CORNER: Books & Movies

In honor of Tech Tales, here are Streetside's favorite books and films.



Kirikou and the Sorceress
Directed by Michel Ocelot

Kirikou is an animated film based on a West African folk tale. Baby Kirikou saves his village from a drought caused by an evil sorceress who is stealing gold from the people. This beautiful film shows the value of young people to the restoration of a community.

—Pepe Urquijo, *Tech Tales Facilitator*



Catfish and Mandala
by Andrew X. Pham

Catfish and Mandala details the author's bicycle journey through Vietnam. Beautifully written, he weaves back and forth between his experiences in Viet Nam and the complicated stories of his life and family in the United States. For me, the book really spoke to the multi-layered experience of a refugee family through the unique lens of a bicycle rider. And, it inspired me to take my own bicycle journey down the West Coast.

—Viet-Ly Nguyen, *Workshop Facilitator*

I ♥ Huckabees

Directed by David O. Russell

My new favorite movie is *I ♥ Huckabees*, a head-spinning philosophical/metaphysical slapstick comedy about a nonprofit director trying to find his place in the world by hiring an "existential detective." It still has me both laughing and contemplating the structure of the universe every time I think about it.

—Tod Booth, *Student Anthology Copyeditor*



The Secret Garden
by Frances Hodgson Burnett

This was my favorite book as a young person. I liked it because it tells the mysterious story of a girl who arrives in an old house, explores it, and finds strange and unexpected things.

—Valerie Kuki, *Language Arts Teacher,*
Luther Burbank Middle School

