



Spreading the Stories: Digital Storytelling MACDC Convention 2006

Spreading the Stories, a collaboration between Creative Narrations and MASSImpact is a "train the trainer" program in the skills of digital storytelling- brief multimedia narratives combining voice, imagery, and video. Since Fall 2005, two participants from Boston non-profit organizations have participated in several intensive 3.5 day training to learn multimedia and storytelling skills. Danielle went through the train-the-trainer workshop back in December 2005 and now she wants to spread the digital story love as a VISTA Leader at massIMPACT.

Session Outline:

1. Icebreaker
2. Introduction to Digital Storytelling:
 - a. History of the Digital Storytelling movement
 - b. Why Story?
3. Digital Story as a Community Building Tool
4. Tech Talk – What do you need?
5. East Somerville Community Mapping Project (Merdith Levy, Somerville CDC)
6. Introduction to Story Development & Making it a Multimedia Experience
 - a. Script Writing : Individual Writing time
 - b. Story Circle : share and give feedback
7. Memory Bow Script
8. New Media Distribution Techniques

What is digital storytelling?

Digital storytelling originates in Berkeley, California at the Center for Digital Storytelling (<http://www.storycenter.org>). Influenced by popular education, third world cinema, and the community documentary movement, digital storytelling values the power of story as a tool for self-discovery and reflection, community building and education, organizing, and advocacy. These workshops guide participants through a process combining storytelling with modern-day technology and digital media. All participants create a three to four minute video through an intensive workshop format. Digital stories are based on participants' own experiences and told through their own perspectives. Participants' voices are recorded and integrated with photographs, letters, home videos, and other artifacts. These pieces can be viewed on DVD, VHS, CD, or uploaded to the web.

How is digital storytelling relevant to my work?

Digital stories are useful both as a process and a product. Consider the following:

Process- Build skills in these areas:

- Reflection and critical thinking
- Oral, written, and visual storytelling
- Multimedia production

Product- Use your digital story for:

- Outreach and Organizing
- Fundraising
- Documentation

Where can I see some examples of digital storytelling?

<http://www.creativenarrations.net>

<http://crccp.mit.edu>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/>

<http://www.massimpact-ds.org/default.aspx>

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Coming soon! Stories for Change – an online community for facilitators of community digital storytelling. Email Danielle.martin@umb.edu to get on the mailing list.

Additional Resources (This bibliography is adapted from materials by Third World Majority.)

Center for Digital Storytelling

<http://www.storycenter.org>

Center for Digital Storytelling's site; contains info about the Center, stories, and a bibliography on digital storytelling

Third World Majority

www.cultureisaweapon.org

Media training and production resource center dedicated to global justice

Silence Speaks

<http://www.silencespeaks.org>

Digital storytelling in support of healing and violence prevention

Creative Narrations

<http://www.creativenarrations.net>

Boston-based organization supporting digital storytelling for community development.

Capture Wales

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/>

BBC's community-based digital storytelling project in Wales

Digital Storytelling Association

<http://www.dsaweb.org/>

Innovative Multimedia and Community Building Projects

The Maverick Site

<http://themavericksite.org>

Maverick: Disappearing Views houses a digital archive documenting Maverick Gardens, a 60-year-old public housing project in Boston that is about to be torn down.

SoundPortraits

<http://www.soundportraits.org>

Established as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation in 1994 by MacArthur Fellow David Isay, Sound Portraits Productions is an independent production company dedicated to telling stories that bring neglected voices to a national audience.

StoryBooths

<http://storycorps.net/>

StoryCorps is a national project to instruct and inspire people to record each others' stories in sound.

Symphony of a City

Symphony of a City is a public cyberart documentary project designed to create dialogue and reflection about housing and community building.

www.symphonyofacity.org

Crossing the Boulevard

<http://Crossingtheblvd.org/>

NYC based innovative web stories

Llano Grande

<http://www.llanogrande.org/>

The Llano Grande Center for Research & Development, a school and community based non-profit organization, is located at Edcouch-Elsa High School in Elsa, Texas.

More resources & links on the CTC VISTA Project Resource Portal

<http://www.ctcvista.org/node/121>