

## **Using Storytelling as an Educational Tool**

### Project Description

### Programming Information

1. Briefly describe the reason you are requesting funds.

*Using Storytelling as an Educational Tool* will expand the services of Storytelling Arts of Indiana and create a new collaboration with the Indiana Department of Education. This project naturally grew out of our work with the teachers and students attending the annual Hoosier Storytelling Festival. In conjunction with the festival each year, a Teacher's Guide is developed and placed on the web site. Teachers may then use the activities to tie the festival field trip to the state standards, and curriculum. Visit [www.storytellingarts.org](http://www.storytellingarts.org) to review the Teacher's Guide.

At this time in our history, the quality of education and the standards of education are on the minds of our communities and our country. A week does not pass without an article in our local paper addressing the issues of education. The political climate dictates that we improve the quality of education through state standards and testing. The art of storytelling is easy to infuse into daily classroom activities as a means to improve the results of the state testing. Every great teacher through the ages has used stories as a teaching tool because ...."the human brain is essentially a narrative device. It runs on stories. The knowledge that we store in the brain, in our 'theory of the world,' is largely in the form of stories. Stories are far more easily remembered and recalled than sequences of unrelated facts". (Smith, Frank. *Understanding Reading*. Hillsdale, N.J.: Erlbaum, 1988, p. 178.

Gordon Wells author of *The Meaning Makers* suggests that "the role of stories in education goes far beyond the acquisition of literacy. Constructing stories or storying is one of the most fundamental means of making meaning; as such it is an activity that pervades all aspects of learning. When storying becomes overt and is given expression in words, the resulting stories are one of the most effective ways of making one's own interpretation of events and ideas available to others. Through the exchange of stories, teachers and students can share their understandings of a topic and bring their mental models of the world into closer alignment. In this sense, stories and storying are relevant in all areas of the curriculum."

Even though the above facts are true, the art and use of storytelling is not taught in the School of Education at most universities and therefore many teachers are not confident in using storytelling as an educational tool. For that reason, Storytelling Arts of Indiana and the Indiana Department of Education will provide this lack of knowledge within the state of Indiana.

2. Identify the primary audience targeted for your grant-funded activities, and describe any wider impact you expect to occur from the project.

The initial year of the project will reach approximately thirty central Indiana teachers. Teachers who have attended the festival in the past will be invited to attend the pilot workshop. At the conclusion of

the initial year, Storytelling Arts of Indiana will begin to promote the workshop and the storytelling tools to each school district in the state as a means to secure bookings for the 2007 – 08 school year. There are approximately 330 school corporations in the state to contact.

3. Provide a time frame for the proposed project.

July - December 2006

- Project Director hires a technical writer to develop a template for the guides.
- Project Director hires two storytellers to develop and write the guides by November 30th.
- Technical writer edits the guides

January – February 2007

- Storytellers develop the workshop
- Center for School Improvement and Performance review and endorse the lessons plans

March 2007

- Center for School Improvement and Performance review and endorse the workshop
- Graphic Designer designs the cover and liner notes for the CD's.
- CD's duplicated
- Project Director finds a location to offer the workshop pilot.
- Project Director arranges for 30 central Indiana teachers and the consultants from the Center for School Improvement to attend the workshop

April 2007

- Workshop presented
- Workshop evaluated by the teachers at the end of the day
- Workshop evaluated by the presenters, consultants and the project director
- Storytellers make changes to the workshop
- Project Director hires a graphic designer to develop the marketing materials

May – June 2007

- Project Director will have the marketing materials printed and mailed.
- Project Director will follow up with emails and phone calls.
- Project Director will schedule with the various school systems for the 2007 – 08 school year.

4. Describe goals, strategies and anticipated outcomes of your proposed program activity.

**Goal 1.** Develop storytelling tools for teachers to use in aligning classroom instruction and assessment to the Indiana's Academic Standards for the primary grades in language arts by March 30, 2007.

**Strategy 1.** Hire the consultants needed for this project.

**Outcome 1.** The project director hires two storytellers that are also teachers as consultants.

**Indicator 1.** Two storytellers are hired by July 15, 2006.

**Outcome 2.** The project director hires a technical writer to develop a template for the guides.

**Indicator 1.** The technical writer is hired by July 15, 2006

**Strategy 2.** The technical writer develops a template for the guides.

**Outcome 1.** The template is developed for the guides.

**Indicator 1.** The template is available for the storytellers to use by July 30, 2006.

**Strategy 3.** Using the template, the storytellers develop the activities to teach the language arts state standards for grades k – 5.

**Outcome 1.** The guide for each grade level is developed.

**Indicator 1.** Each of the six guides will contain a minimum of five storytelling activities for each of the seven state standards by November 30, 2006.

**Strategy 4.** Review and edit the guides for production.

**Outcome 1.** The technical writer edits the guides.

**Indicator 1.** The six guides are edited and ready for review by the Center for School Improvement and Performance by December 30, 2006.

**Outcome 2.** The Center for School Improvement and Performance reviews and evaluates the guides.

**Indicator 1.** The six guides are endorsed and are ready to be produced as CD's by February 28, 2007.

**Strategy 5.** Produce the guides as CDs.

**Outcome 1.** A graphic designer designs the cover and liner notes for the CD's.

**Indicator 1.** The cover and liner notes are ready for production by February 1, 2006.

**Outcome 2** The CD is duplicated and the covers are printed.

**Indicator 1.** 1000 CD's are in stock at the office of Storytelling Arts of Indiana by March 30, 2007.

**Goal 2.** Design a workshop for teachers in the art and use of storytelling in the classroom by April 30, 2007.

**Strategy 1.** Using the activities contained in the guides, the storytellers develop a workshop in the art and use of storytelling in the classroom.

**Outcome 1.** The workshop is designed.

**Indicator 1.** The content of the workshop is ready for the Center for School Improvement and Performance to review and endorse by February 28, 2007.

**Outcome 2.** The Center for School Improvement and Performance reviews the content of the workshop.

**Indicator 1.** The workshop is endorsed by the Center for School Improvement and Performance by March 30, 2007.

**Strategy 2.** Present a test-run of the workshop to a group of primary grade teachers.

**Outcome 1.** Project Director finds a location for the pilot

workshop.

**Indicator 1.** The location is secured by  
March 1, 2007.

**Outcome 2.** The project director arranges for teachers and the consultants from the Center for school Improvement to attend the pilot workshop.

**Indicator 1.** Thirty teaches and the consultants attend the workshop in April 2007.

**Outcome 3.** Two additional storytellers are chosen to train in the workshop content and the how-to present the workshop.

**Indicator 1.** The two additional storytellers attend the workshop in April 2007.

**Strategy 3.** Evaluation of the workshop

**Outcome 1.** Those who attended will complete an evaluation form at the conclusion of the workshop.

**Indicator 1.** The presenters collect 30 plus evaluation forms at the conclusion of the workshop.

**Outcome 2.** The project director, the storytellers, and the staff from the Center for School Improvement and Performance evaluate the workshop.

**Indicator 1.** The storytellers have made changes to improve the workshop by April 30, 2007.

**Goal 3.** Market the workshop and CD's by June 30, 2007.

**Strategy 1.** Design, print and mail the marketing materials to the school corporations in the state.

**Outcome 1.** Marketing materials are designed by a graphic designer

**Indicator 1.** The marketing materials are designed by May 15, 2007.

**Outcome 2.** The marketing materials are printed.

**Indicator 1.** Three hundred and thirty packets are mailed to each school corporation in the state by June 15, 2007.

**Strategy 2.** Emails are sent as a follow-up to the mailing.

**Outcome 1.** School corporations respond to the emails.

**Indicator 1.** Ten school districts have scheduled the workshop for the 2007 – 08 school year by June 30, 2006.

**Strategy 3.** The workshop and CD's are marketed to our current audience base.

**Outcome 1.** Our current audience base learns about the workshop and CD's.

**Indicator 1.** The marketing materials are placed on the web site of Storytelling Arts of Indiana by June 30, 2007.

**Indicator 2.** An article about the project is included in the electronic newsletter of Storytelling Arts of Indiana by June 30, 2007.

**Indicator 3.** All teachers who have attended the Performances for Students during the Hoosier Storytelling Festival receive a packet by June 30, 2007.

5. What organizations are partnering or collaborating with you on this project?

The Center for School Improvement and Performance of the Office of Program Development for the Indiana Department of Education is the partner in the project. The Center for School Improvement and Performance will edit, review and endorse the guides and the workshop along with sending their consultants to the workshop. Their consultants will assist in the promotion of the project too.

6. What other organizations, if any, are providing similar programming to the geographic area and population that you plan to serve?

At this time, individual storytellers may present a workshop to teachers in the art and use of storytelling. But, this is the first time that a state-wide initiative has been developed to reach teachers through the school corporations with a uniformed product endorsed by the Center for School Improvement and Performance of the Office of Program Development for the Indiana Department of Education.

As we all know, the Indiana Department of Education develops and writes the Indiana state standards. Partnering with these experts from the Center for School Improvement and Performance of the Indiana Department of Education, teams us up with the leaders in the field of education in the state. This project brings those with the knowledge and expertise in the two fields of storytelling and education together.

7. Ellen Munds, the executive director of Storytelling Arts of Indiana will lead the project. She will coordinate the work between the two storytelling consultants, technical writer, graphic designer and the staff from the Center for School Improvement and Performance. Her administrative assistant will help with the project in-house.

8. How will this project enhance your organization's ability to fulfill its mission?

Storytelling Arts of Indiana promotes the art and use of storytelling in daily life through an annual festival, concerts, workshops, programs and other events. Storytelling Arts of Indiana encourages

individuals and families to tell and listen to stories. Storytelling Arts of Indiana creates the places for people to share and listen to stories. Storytelling Arts of Indiana reminds us that storytelling is an art to be enjoyed by all.

The first programs of Storytelling Arts of Indiana were public performances that demonstrated the entertainment value of storytelling. These programs include the Annual Hoosier Storytelling Festival, the Storytelling Series, and Family Performances. Along the way, Storytelling Arts of Indiana encouraged individuals to become professional storytellers by offering workshops, producing the *Directory of Indiana Storytellers* and in 2000 initiated the Frank Basile Emerging Stories Fellowship for Indiana storytellers.

At this point, the board and staff began examining and discussing how to reach out into other segments of the community. This discussion resulted in several new programs including

- Therapeutic Storytelling Project at Riley Children's Hospital
- As I Recall Storytelling Guild (formally known as the OASIS Storytellers)
- Sharing Hoosier History Through Stories Series
- Performances for Students during the Hoosier Storytelling Festival

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## **Finances**

9. How will this project be financed or maintained after the completion of this grant.

At the conclusion of the project, the project will maintain itself. We will have a fee-based product to sell to the school districts in the state. The fee will pay the continuing costs of duplicating more guides and Cd's, paying the presenters of the workshop and the administrative costs.

10. Have you submitted a request for support of this project to other potential funders?  
Yes.

- National Storytelling Network, received \$3,000

11. Will any revenues be generated as a result of this project? If yes, please describe.

As a result of the project, Storytelling Arts of Indiana will have a fee-based project to promote the school districts in the state. The fee will cover the costs of the guides, the storytellers and the administrative costs.

## Actual Budget at the Completion of the Project

	<i>NMPCT Grant</i>	<i>Amount supported by additional grants *</i>	<i>Amount supported by earned income</i>	<i>Amount supported by your organization</i>	<i>Total proposed budget</i>
DIRECT COSTS:	\$2,000				\$2,000
A. Salaries and benefits					
B. Consultants					
Storytellers	\$5,000	\$3,000			
Technical Writer	\$3,000				\$11,000
C. Supplies for Activities	\$404.90				\$404.90
D. Printing & publication costs					
Graphic Designer	\$1,500.00				
Typesetting	\$ 465.00				
Printing	\$2,359.14				
Postage	\$ 161.00				
CD's	\$3,840.60				\$8,325.74
E. Miscellaneous					
Rent for Workshop Space	\$300.00				
Snacks during workshop	\$ 23.04				\$323.04
SUBTOTAL - DIRECT COSTS:	\$19,053.68				\$22,053.68
INDIRECT COSTS: (e.g. administrative overhead charged to this project)	\$946.32				
SUBTOTAL - INDIRECT COSTS:	\$946.32				\$946.32
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$20,000	\$3,000			\$23,000

\* Please list source of additional grants and amounts. (Attach a separate sheet if necessary.)

National Storytelling Network