

THE **REDFORD** CENTER

Redford Center Stories

2020-2021 Overview &
Impact Report





“We are growing up in a world we didn’t create, and we are unable to vote. So how do we fight for our environment?”

- student participant

Overview

The Redford Center is a go-to resource for young people interested in storytelling, media arts, and the environment. Our Redford Center Stories program features an inclusive learning community designed for students, educators, and organizations to actively engage in the environmental justice movement.

Now entering its third year, after a two-year pilot, Redford Center Stories celebrates transformational storytelling, creative education, community wellbeing, and global justice. We bring educators and students into dialogue with youth activists, filmmakers, and environmental and social justice leaders, nurturing the next generation of environmental advocates and storytellers.

Annual youth filmmaker challenge, in partnership with Apple, providing an expansive take on environmental justice and how it shows up in young people’s lives.

Comprehensive, standards-aligned free curriculum that utilizes the rich collection of environmental films and media created by The Redford Center and its global network of filmmakers and storytellers.

Public event series – Meet the Moment – that combines professional development for all educators with learning opportunities that engage students as experts and media-makers.

Mentoring pathways that put students in direct relationship with filmmakers, environmental activists, creative youth development experts, and each other.

Program Goals

Based in creative youth development principles, Redford Center Stories invites educators, organizations, families, and students to:

Learn

understand the complexities and challenges of, as well as opportunities for environmental action while diving deeply into the process of storytelling through film

Experience

engage in deep conversations inside and outside of school to bring together lived experiences, media, data, and action

Network

build an active community of individual and collective storytellers

Create

develop narratives that honor young peoples' visions, voices, and lived experiences

Share

share stories and perspectives live and online, in the classroom, and through public forums, adding a new generation of diverse environmentalists to the movement

Civically Engage

create pathways to become active participants in the movement for environmental justice

Grow

deepen student interest in learning across all subjects and develop social-emotional skills to succeed in school and beyond



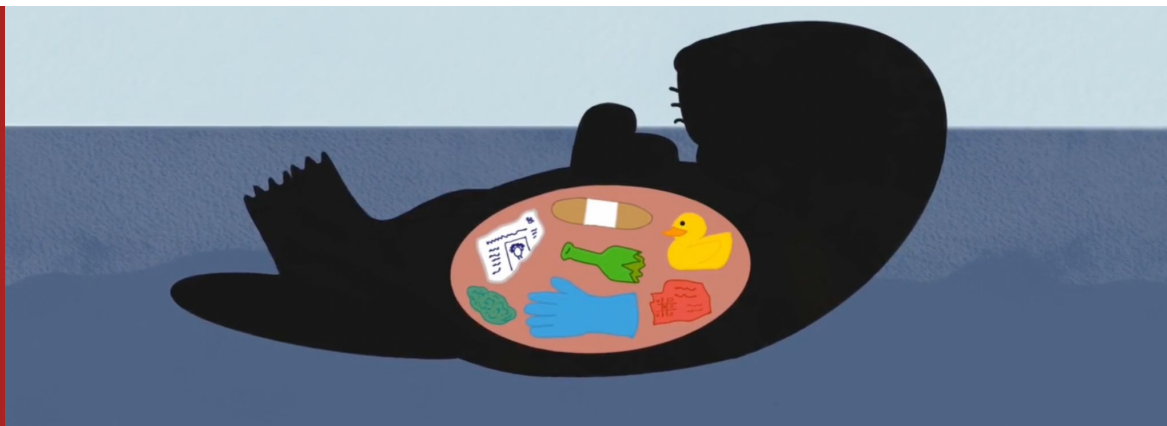
“I learned that activism is something that I actually like. Both political and environmental. I like using my voice and also being the face of my community since there aren't many of us.”
- student participant

2020-21 Impact Summary

OUTCOME

1

Expanded the population of youth who can use film to express environmental learning and share personal narratives



92% of surveyed students said they would recommend Stories to other students, and **80%** said they would participate again

71% of students report this was their first time making a film, and **83%** said they would like to make another film after participating in the Challenge

"I feel like we were actually learning about the world and about complex issues... and how we can impact the world in a real way even when we are young. It connected to things we were reading. I started thinking more about the news going on too." - student

2020-21 Impact Summary

OUTCOME

2

Engaged students and educators in active dialogue about the intersectionality of environmental justice



1600+ students engaged with our 10-part curriculum.

154 educators registered as participants, more than **90%** were new to the program

100% of educators had a positive experience and said they would recommend the Stories program to other teachers and schools

"The curriculum focus on environmental and social justice is practical, inspirational and fun. It's opening up new conversations and a deeper community in my classes."
- educator

2020-21 Impact Summary

OUTCOME

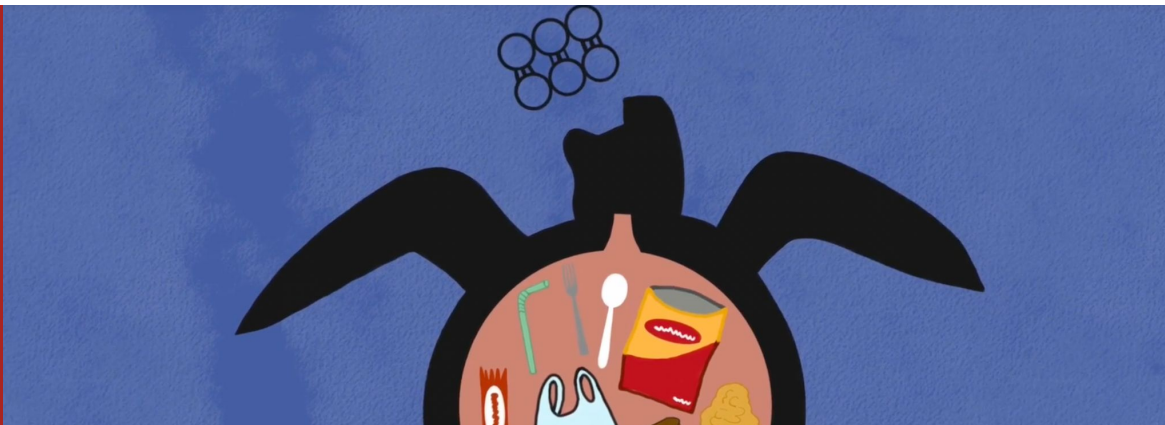
3

Elevated student voices, experiences, and engagement in building a more environmentally just future for all

500+ students created 407 films for the Stories Challenge, an increase from 56 submitted films in year-one

Nautilus, a digital science publication, featured interviews with six of student awardees as part of their Spark of Science series.

"After entering in the Stories Challenge, I was driven to take on more leadership roles as an environmental advocate. I continued to express my passion for the environment by founding and running an organization called San Francisco Girls Environmental Association, that participates in beach cleanups and other environmental projects." - student



2020-21 Program Highlights

- **New thematic focus on environmental justice**
- **A 10-lesson curriculum**, free and flexible across subjects, ages and educators
- Multimedia lesson components and highlights from Redford Center films and projects, positioned as “**mentor texts**” to open and amplify environmental justice themes
- Student engagement with short and long-form documentaries and **civic engagement projects**
- **Learning standards integration across all lessons**, including a standards guide that mapped to interdisciplinary subject areas
- **Built-in lesson mini challenges** to provide diverse opportunities for student expression, project-based learning and skills cultivation toward the Stories Challenge
- Multiple **celebrations of Challenge participants** and award recipients
- New **partners and collaborators** for programming and media
- An active network of collaborators and **new online public events series, Meet the Moment**, with over **1,200 live viewers** and live streams to classrooms



“I wish we talked more about pressuring governments and corporations to change what they are doing because usually I see stuff about what we can do on a personal level instead.”

- student participant

Additional Educator Feedback

"I couldn't believe all of the connections students could make between these films and the books we were reading and the history they were studying...**I had not yet made such explicit and deep connections between social justice and climate change, and neither had students.** The films and narratives opened our hearts and minds, and the quality of the content exceeded my expectations."

"Watching the films included in Redford Center Stories – and then sharing and discussing them with my 4th and 5th grade students – has **significantly shifted my perception of the use of film in educational settings.**"

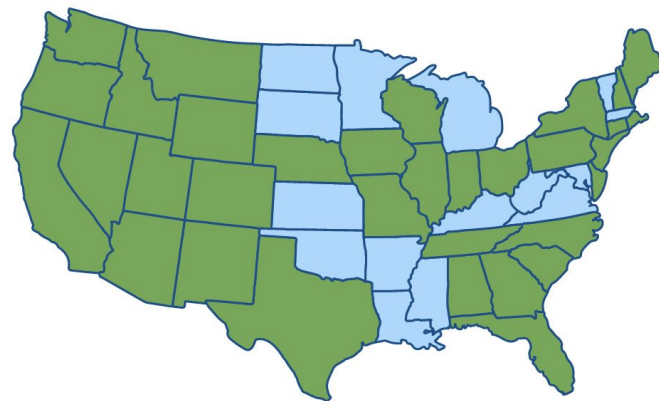
"The curriculum provided me with so many tools, but it also allowed me to make it my own. **Even though so much of this content was new for me, I never felt intimidated by it because of the way it was created and designed.**"

"My 5th graders loved this program. It has me rethinking our entire curriculum across the year, with so much interest to go far deeper into social justice in everything we do. I'd also like to see our district adopt this program and project so that students can do it across many years."



2020-21 Geographic Reach

Educators signed up **across 32 states**, including: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington



Without any international outreach, educators also signed up from **13 countries on 4 continents**, including: The Kingdom of Bahrain, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, India, Hong Kong, France, Italy, India, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, and Portugal. Half of these educators learned about Redford Center Stories from a colleague in the U.S., and the other half from LinkedIn, Twitter, or Nautilus Magazine.

2020-21 Organizational Collaborators

Our growing network of collaborating organizations includes:



Examples of recent collaborator outcomes:

Multiple Stories participants received an **EarthX Education** summer youth fellowship with training and resources that included professional film, environmental, and educator mentors.

We collaborated with four **Apple Distinguished Educators** from locations across the U.S. to develop and facilitate a workshop for ADEs highlighting the way Stories integrates technology and digital media creation with science, narrative, design and project-based learning.

2020-21 Individual Collaborators

Our ten distinguished judges included Robert Redford, Sibylle Szaggars Redford, Dylan Redford, Lisa Jackson, Coyote Peterson, Katie Eder, Faith Briggs, Dr. Elizabeth Lindsey, and Chloe Mei and Ella Lin Espinoza. (pictured at right)

Our Meet the Moment series brought together filmmakers, educators, youth activists including filmmakers Holly Morris, Jalena Keane-Lee, Mark Decena, Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi, and Faith Briggs; cultural anthropologist Elizabeth Lindsey; essayist Belvie Rooks; and Outdoor Afro's Rue Mapp.



Dylan Redford
CO-CHAIR OF THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS



Robert Redford
CO-FOUNDER,
THE REDFORD CENTER



Sibylle Szaggars Redford
MULTIMEDIA ARTIST



Lisa Jackson
APPLE'S VP OF
ENVIRONMENT, POLICY
AND SOCIAL INITIATIVES



Coyote Peterson
YOUTUBE PERSONALITY,
HOST OF ANIMAL PLANET'S
"BRAVE THE WILD"



Katie Eder
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
FUTURE COALITION



Faith E. Briggs
FILMMAKER



Dr. Elizabeth Lindsey
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
EXPLORER



**Chloe Mei Espinosa &
Ella Lin Espinosa**
YOUTH STEWARDS



“I learned that what I say and show in the film can impact someone’s point of view on the environment.”
- student participant

2021-22 Program Outlook

- **Pilot to operational program** - Solidify staffing, structure, and funding
- **Evolve Curricula** - Build out curricula for additional educational and community applications, such as modular configurations and after school programs
- **Film Education** - Include new content to support filmmaking process
- **Participant Growth** - Increase eligibility to include high school students, and increase participation from more diverse and impacted communities
- **Content Integration and Films as “Mentor Texts”** - Integrate new Redford Center content and student-created films in curriculum
- **Digital Learning Environment:** Revise and update website for ease of use and integration of new content, and upgrade challenge submission technology platform
- **The Growing Story of Redford Center Stories** - Create videos and features highlighting students and teachers, and increase public content
- **Redford Center Stories Challenge** - Identify and implement more equitable technology access solutions for student filmmakers
- **Public Programs & Outreach** - Increase targeted outreach collaborations and produce and participate in engagement events

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www.redfordcenter.org