

THIS WEB CONFERENCE WILL BEGIN SOON



# STORYTELLING BASICS

For Community Building



**CALCASA**  
CALIFORNIA COALITION  
AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT



CALIFORNIA  
**PARTNERSHIP TO END  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**  
Together, We're Stronger.

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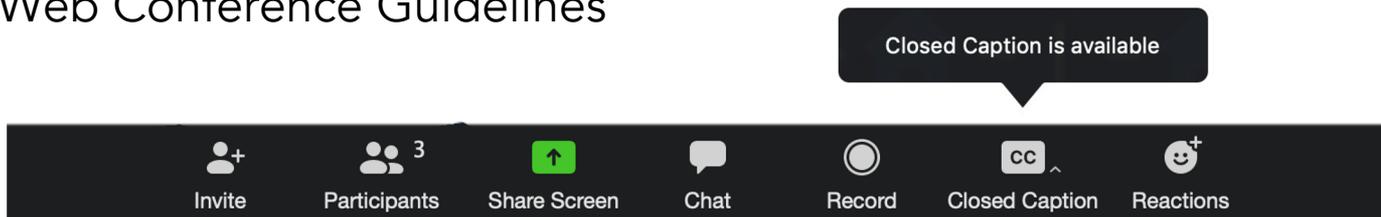
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# HOW TO USE ZOOM

- Text chat
- PowerPoint Slides
- Polling Questions
- Phone
- Closed Captioning
- Web Conference Guidelines



# ON THIS WEB CONFERENCE



**Jessica Merrill**

Communications Manager

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (the Partnership)

she/her/hers

# Learning Objectives

- Describe why personal storytelling can be powerful tool for community building, prevention, or healing during and after a pandemic
- Identify how different modes of storytelling, especially in digital and written formats, can be used from our virtual and digital spaces
- List possible challenges and solutions while using storytelling in our online community building and prevention work

# ON THIS WEB CONFERENCE



**Amy Hill, MA**

[Silence Speaks](#) Director

StoryCenter  
she/her/hers



**Meghna Bhat, PhD**

Project Coordinator, Prevention  
California Coalition Against Sexual  
Assault (CALCASA)

she/her/hers

# Overview

- Storytelling Basics
- Digital Storytelling
- Written and/or Visual Storytelling
- Storytelling Activity
- Ethical Considerations
- Resources

# Friendly Reminder

The Unspoken Complexity Of self-Care  
~ Deanna Zandt

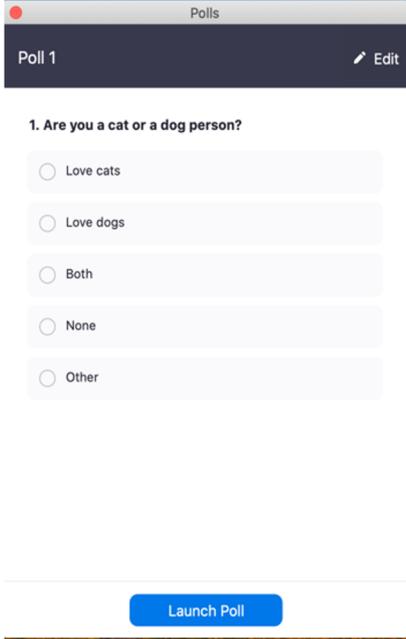


<https://blog.usejournal.com/the-unspoken-complexity-of-self-care-8c9f30233467>

# AUDIENCE POLL:

Have you used  
storytelling of any  
form or capacity in  
your communities?

The Poll will appear on your Zoom  
window



The screenshot shows a window titled "Polls" with a dark header bar. Below the header, it says "Poll 1" and has an "Edit" link with a pencil icon. The main content area contains the question "1. Are you a cat or a dog person?" followed by five radio button options: "Love cats", "Love dogs", "Both", "None", and "Other". At the bottom of the window is a blue "Launch Poll" button.

# My Story



## Stories of Home

VIDEO SCREENING AND STORYTELLING Q&A

Storytelling is one of our most defining human activities; how we reveal who we are, and how we demonstrate the care and solidarity that comes from deep listening.

StoryCenter and Wellness in Action invite you to a screening of "Stories of Home" videos created by immigrant and refugee women and women artists. Together we will create a safe space where artists and audiences can share meaningful stories from their lives.

Please help us honor these stories and learn about the vision for expanding this work to nurture cross-community connections and build solidarity in support of immigrants and refugees and in resistance to anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies.

FRIDAY  
SEPTEMBER 27  
6 - 8 PM  
OAKSTOP, 1721 BROADWAY  
OAKLAND  
(NEAR THE 19TH ST. BART STATION)

A collage of circular images featuring various people and cultural symbols, including a woman in a red sari, a man in a suit, a woman's face, and other cultural figures.

# Storytelling Basics

# Defining “Storytelling”

“Storytelling is the interactive art of using words and actions to reveal the elements and images of a story while encouraging the listener’s imagination”

~ National Storytelling Network (NSN)

# The value of “true personal stories”



Credit: [Senorhorst Jahnsen](#)

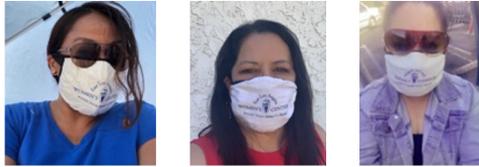


Credit: [Wokandapix \(pixabay.com\)](#)



Credit: [kelly jennings \[wallpaperflare.com\]](#)

# Storytelling during COVID-19



Rebeca Melendez,  
Director of Wellness  
Programs at East LA  
Women's Center

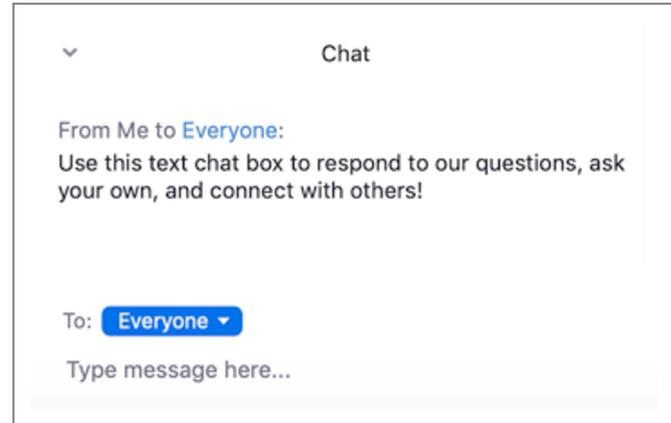


Alliance  
Against Family  
Violence and  
Sexual Assault

# AUDIENCE CHAT QUESTION:

How do you envision  
using storytelling  
{sharing of true  
personal stories} in  
your work or  
communities?

Use the Text Chat feature  
to answer the question.

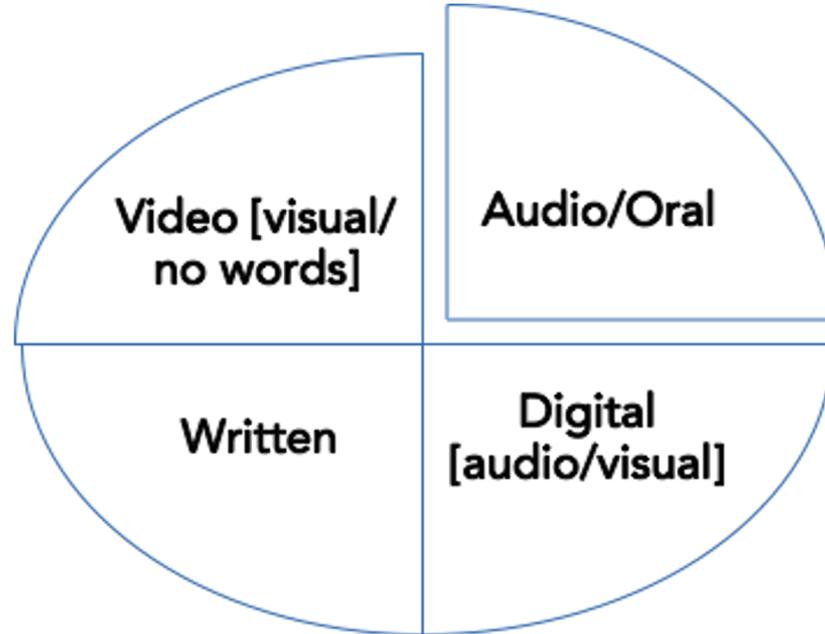


The screenshot shows a chat window titled "Chat" with a dropdown arrow on the left. The message content reads: "From Me to Everyone: Use this text chat box to respond to our questions, ask your own, and connect with others!". Below the message, there is a "To:" label followed by a blue button labeled "Everyone" with a dropdown arrow. At the bottom, there is a text input field with the placeholder text "Type message here..."

# What does storytelling look like?



# How can we share?



# Digital Storytelling

Amy Hill, StoryCenter

# Background on StoryCenter

- Developed original [digital storytelling model](#) in 1993, focusing on first-person stories
- Lengthy history of work with [community-based and institutional partners](#) globally
- Accessible to those with at all levels of experience as storytellers and video makers
- Methods easily adaptable for use in languages other than English or with low literacy groups

VIEW STORY

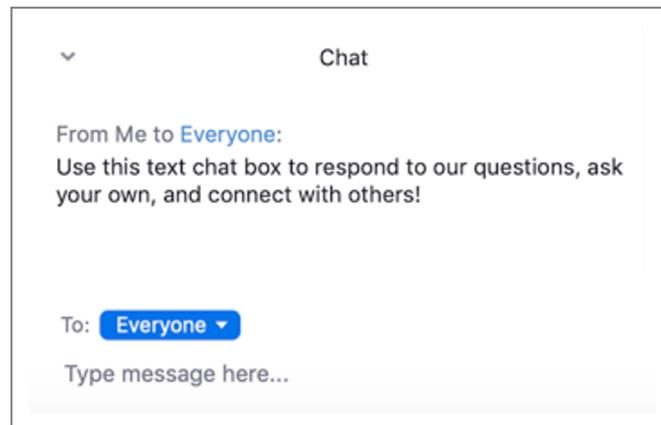
# I Am Enough



# AUDIENCE CHAT QUESTION:

Feel free to share your  
words of affirmation for  
this storyteller

Use the Text Chat feature  
to answer the question.



# Rationale for Use in GBV Context

Research shows that telling and listening to personal stories can:

- Increase self-esteem and wellbeing
- Transmit important information and skills
- Help communities bond in solidarity
- Inspire people to take action for change
- Influence public policy and legislative decision-making

STORYCENTER  
LISTEN DEEPLY. TELL STORIES

# Digital Storytelling Overview

- **Preparation Steps:** identifying and screening storytellers; developing story prompts
- **Finding Your Story:** view examples; Story Circle
- **Hearing Your Story:** scripting and recording
- **Seeing Your Story:** image collection and production
- **Bringing it Together:** video editing; story screening; identifying next steps ...

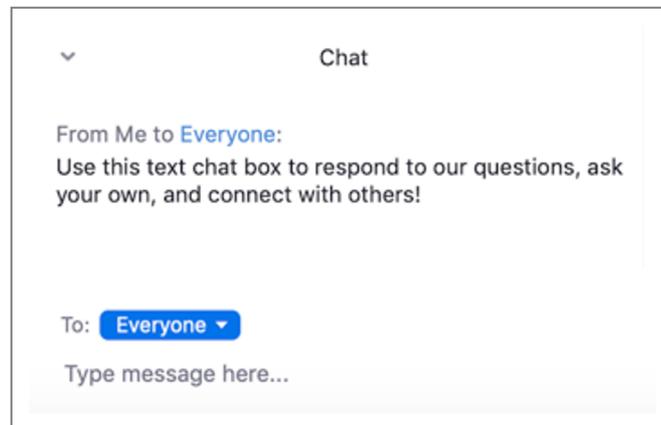
VIEW STORY

# Embers

# AUDIENCE CHAT QUESTION:

Feel free to share your  
words of affirmation for  
this storyteller

Use the Text Chat feature  
to answer the question.



# Digital Storytelling Outcomes

- Participants improve their ability to tell compelling personal stories and produce digital media
- Participants establish meaningful relationships and bond with each other in a cohort of support
- Participants become engaged and inspired as leaders and advocates
- Stories as tools for education and advocacy are created: videos; text stories; images

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# Written & Visual Storytelling



Catcalls, sexually explicit comments, sexist remarks, homophobic slurs, groping, leering, stalking, flashing, and assault. Most women and some men will face gender-based street harassment by strangers in their life. Street harassment limits people's mobility and access to public spaces. It is a form of gender violence and it's a human rights violation.

It needs to stop.

[www.stopstreetharassment.org](http://www.stopstreetharassment.org)

@StopStHarassmnt

# Written Storytelling

“Every day when I go out on walks near the downtown area, someone makes a comment out of their car window at me. They honk their horn or yell out something about my body, like the fact that I’m out there is an invitation. One time someone called me a whore and threw water on me. It makes me feel disgusting and degraded that people treat me like this just for leaving the house in shorts.” – Anonymous, USA



“I was walking home with both arms full of groceries and a man walking past me muttered some obscenities about me and licked his lips. I felt nervous and scared” - MP

# Written and Visual Storytelling



Artist: Zoe Stromberg

[https://www.instagram.com/p/B\\_NY1r0BDUT/](https://www.instagram.com/p/B_NY1r0BDUT/)

# Storytelling may also look like...



It Happened WHEN i WAS 22

Artist: Chanel Miller

# Storytelling Activity

BREAKOUT ROOMS

# Preparing to Tell a Story

- A note about [StoryCenter's Storytelling Agreements](#)
- Make sure you're in a quiet space, free of distractions
- Have a notebook and pen nearby
- Somatic grounding activity: feeling your length, depth, and width

# Responding to a Prompt: Tell a Story About ...

- a time when you found your strength, in challenging or responding to gender-based violence
- a moment when you felt vulnerable, and how this affected you
- a situation that made you felt hopeful about your community coming together during this pandemic

# Group Sharing Process

- Meghna and Amy will each lead a breakout room
- Participants are invited to read their stories
- Space will be made for appreciations, comments, reflections, verbally and in the chat box
- Please stay on mute unless you raise your hand to speak

# Regroup and Sharing Stories

# Ethical Considerations

# Ethical Storytelling Facilitation

- Consider bringing in experienced practitioners
- Carefully screen and prepare storytelling participants
- Create a safe space: language, culture, accessibility
- Manage expectations appropriately: this is not therapy!
- Tread lightly in providing story feedback
- Ensure adequate follow up along the way

[StoryCenter's Guidelines for Ethical Practice](#)



# Ethical Story Sharing

- Prepare storytellers for the experience of public sharing
- Make opportunities available to storytellers, to share
- Allow anonymity for storytellers, if desired
- Prepare audiences for the experience of story viewing (trigger warnings; managing expectations; clarity about objectives)
- Be ready to manage viewer feedback and facilitate safe and productive Q&A sessions

# Resources

# StoryCenter Offerings

- [Free webinars and workshops](#) focused on COVID-19 storytelling (oral and written stories)
- Online digital storytelling workshops to produce short videos (some scholarships available)
- Collaborative projects in partnership with organizations and networks, including digital storytelling and other storytelling methods, strategic story distribution, integration of stories into curricular materials, and more!



# STORYCENTER

LISTEN DEEPLY... TELL STORIES

[www.storycenter.org](http://www.storycenter.org)

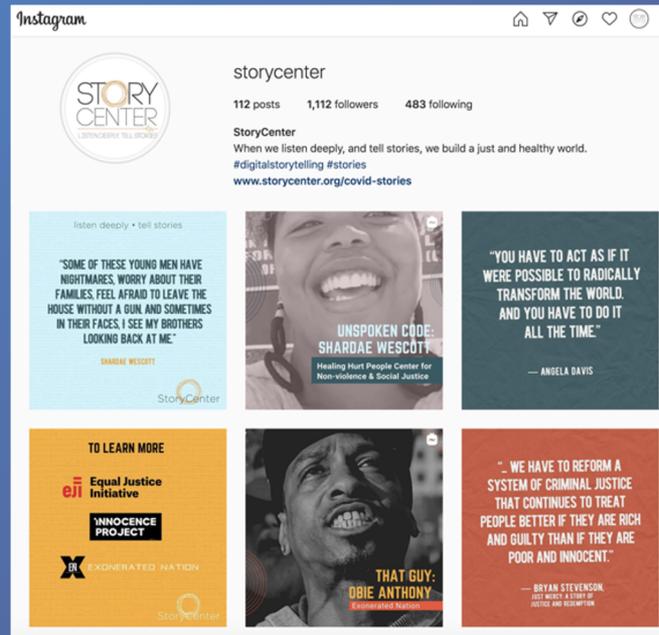
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<https://www.instagram.com/storycenter/>

Contact Information:

Amy Hill

[amylenita@storycenter.org](mailto:amylenita@storycenter.org)





<http://www.preventconnect.org/2020/06/creating-stories-for-gender-justice-a-narrative-and-culture-change-strategy-to-prevent-sexual-and-domestic-violence/>



Catcalls, sexually explicit comments, sexist remarks, homophobic slurs, groping, leering, stalking, flashing, and assault. Most women and some men will face gender-based street harassment by strangers in their life. Street harassment limits people's mobility and access to public spaces. It is a form of gender violence and it's a human rights violation.

It needs to stop.

[www.stopstreetharassment.org](http://www.stopstreetharassment.org)

@StopStHarassmnt

# Resources and Tools

- PCAR- NSVRC & StoryCenter Webinar Series
- Idaho Coalition Our Collective Future Story Circle Guide
- Tamarack Institute Web Conference- “Circle: A Container for Hosting Conversations that Matter”
- Capital Storytelling [Oral Storytelling Virtual Workshops]

# QUESTIONS

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