

2ND STORY PRESENTS

SEA CHANGE



WWW.2NDSTORY.COM

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Chicago is the traditional homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: The Odawa, Ojibwe, and Potawatomi Nations. Many other Tribes like the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac, and Fox also called this area home. Located at the intersection of several great waterways, the land naturally became a site of travel and healing for many Tribes. American Indians continue to call this area home and now Chicago is home to the sixth largest Urban American Indian community that still practices their heritage, traditions, and care for the land and waterways. Today, Chicago continues to be a place that calls many people from diverse backgrounds to live and gather here. Despite the many changes the city has experienced, both our American Indian and the 2nd Story community see the importance of the land and this place that has always been a city home to many diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

This organization, and the people behind it, believe that Black Lives Matter. We believe that no one is free until we are all free. As an organization comprised of artists, advocates, staff, and board members, we believe that sharing and deeply listening to each other's personal stories opens the possibility of radical change that this moment calls for.

LABOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that the work that we do in community rests on the labor that has preceded us, much of which was done by Black, Brown, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and disabled activists, and this labor was frequently invisible, unacknowledged, and unpaid.

ARTS WORKER CARE

2nd Story is proudly certified by the [Pay Equity Standards](#).

Developed by [On Our Team](#), The Pay Equity Standards are a system to establish and publicly recognize equitable pay practices within theatre companies, arts organizations, and not-for-profit organizations.



TELLERS



Carolyn S. Aguila (she/her/hers) is a published and performance poet, who loves to experiment with traditional and contemporary forms. Her work largely focuses on city life, and her personal interests, curiosities, and observations. Aguila authored, *Flirting with Rhyme and Reason* (EM Press, 2006), and was a contributing poet to the acclaimed book: *American Gun: A Poem by 100 Chicagoans* (Big Shoulders Books - DePaul University Press). This remarkable collection was nominated by the Chicago Review of Books as Book of the Year (2020). She has performed at the venerable Green Mill Jazz Club, the Chicago Cultural Center, Printer's Row Lit Fest, area libraries, and many local performance venues. Aguila was an ensemble member of Urban Voices, a poetry showcase featuring many of Chicago's distinguished performance poets. She appeared at Celtic Fest Chicago and the Guinness Fleadh, a day-long festival celebrating Irish culture, and she appeared in the film, *Poets and Profs: Looking at The Iliad*, which includes nationally recognized poets Robert Pinsky, Edward Hirsch, and Marc Kelly Smith. Professionally, Aguila is currently the Manager of Relationships with 2nd Story, one of Chicago's most dynamic storytelling organizations. She is also the former general manager of Brooks Permissions, which oversees the works of the late Illinois Poet Laureate, Gwendolyn Brooks. She's delighted to participate in this 2nd Story performance, and hopes to share her artistic mission: You're not alone.



Sadaf Ferdowsi (she/her) has performed with 2nd Story since 2015 and her nonfiction can be found in CRAFT Literary, Gordon Square Review, Newcity, and The Rumpus. She was awarded a Luminarts Cultural Fellowship and Best of the Net Award in 2022.



Jen Schroeder (she/her/hers) is a clinical psychologist and founder of InPowered Therapy and InPowered Yoga (coming soon), a holistic psychotherapy practice and yoga/community space based in Chicago's Lincoln Square neighborhood. Jen has had the pleasure to serve on the 2nd Story's board of directors since the spring of 2020. When not in these spaces, Jen is busy parenting her 3 year old twins and sneaking time in the garden.

TELLERS



Courtney Kotloski (she/her) is an award-winning writer, playwright, actress, speaker, and published author.

She is one of the founders of Serendipity Theater (now 2nd Story, Chicago). Her plays have been performed in every major city with performances at the New York Fringe Festival, Upright Citizens Brigade Theater, Strawdog Theater, Second City LA, and the Victory Gardens Theater. Courtney has performed in small theaters throughout Chicago and professionally at the Goodman and Steppenwolf theaters. She has voiced many radio and TV spots and received a best actress award for her performance at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. Courtney has taught acting and improv for nearly 20 years. Courtney worked in a corporate agency setting for more than a decade as a Creative Director and Content Strategist. She has led writing teams, and has been the creative mind behind many campaigns and communication strategies. She currently works as the Director of Content Strategy for Milwaukee-based agency, Marie Daniel Group, which she founded with two colleagues.

Courtney is the author of the award-winning Gnat & Corky Series and The Ladybug Club. Her first book, Addison the Light Catcher, achieved the number one new release in children's special needs books on Amazon.

Courtney lives in Northern Illinois with her husband, two children, and two dogs. Most recently, Courtney directed and wrote The Amaze Light Festival and appeared on NBC as Officer Westfall on Chicago Fire.

PRODUCTION TEAM



Michael Benedict (he/him, Sound Designer) is a Chicago-based digital designer. He got his start in sound design at a young age, creating and manipulating analog instruments to create unique soundscapes. Eventually, he gravitated into other aspects of digital design, and is now the co-founder and Creative Director of Tractatus Design Studio, where the focus is on progressive experiential designs in AR, VR, and other digital environments. Michael loves to cook and spend time with his wife and puppy.



Lizzie Duszynski (she/her, Curator) is a writer whose work has appeared in *The A.V. Club*, *Venus Zine*, *The Everygirl*, *Pregnancy Magazine*, and *Verily Magazine*, among others. She has worked as a teaching artist in Chicago elementary schools and the Chicago Writers Studio, leading storytelling workshops for writers of all ages. She lives on the south side with her husband and two young daughters in a funny old house filled with books.



Ema Kester (she/they, Producer) is a recent graduate of Loyola University Chicago where she studied Theatre and Psychology. Post-grad she has had the opportunity to work in the professional theatre space in many different capacities—from acting to devising to producing! When Ema isn't working in theatre, she is a barista and baker at Everybody's Coffee in Uptown. Ema is originally from the south suburbs, but has since found a cozy spot on the lake in Edgewater with their cat, Sock.



RJ Silva (he/him, Director) is a creative producer and artist from Manila, Philippines. Previous credits include directing *The Happiest Place* on Earth by Phillip Dawkins in the Orlando Fringe Festival, as well as writing and directing cabarets for The Impulse Project in Orlando. RJ is the co-founder of The Ampliverse, an inclusive multimedia channel, and makes food on his channel RJ's Food Rocks. TheAmpliverse.com RJFoodRocks.com



Gracie Meier (she/they, Zoom Tech) is a multimedia artist and creative administrator working primarily in photography and theatre. She has worked as an educator and administrator at Lookingglass Theatre Company, the Goodman Theatre, Roundabout Theatre Company, and the Chicago History Museum. As a photographer, Gracie currently works primarily with Meowwolf and New Mexico United soccer, and her work has been featured in *VICE UK* and on *Rupaul's Drag Race*. She holds a BFA in Theatre Management from DePaul University and lives in Santa Fe, NM where she is the Creative Director and a founding member of The Exodus Ensemble, an immersive theatre company.
[@etherealslgracie](https://www.instagram.com/etherealslgracie)

ABOUT 2ND STORY

MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

We believe that stories are what bind us to each other.

We want to live in a world driven by empathy.

Therefore, we create spaces where people can share and deeply listen to one another's stories.

Our Core Values are Inclusion, Craft, and Courage.

STAFF

Amanda Delheimer*, Artistic Director

Lauren Sivak, Managing Director

Carolyn Aguila, Manager of Relationships

Ali Drumm*, Manager of Strategy and Operations

Liz Rice*, Manager of Curriculum and Education

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2ND STORY COMPANY

2nd Story's company is comprised of story-makers working together to build community through the power of storytelling.

Liz Blondel

Pat Fries

Jenan Mohajir

Reshmi Hazra Rustebakke

Madeline Bourdenko

Julie Ganey

David Nabwango

Megan Shuchman

Paula Carter

Martinique Hallerduff

Vince Pagán

Megan Stielstra

CP Chang

Jessica Kadish

Cameron Pentimone

Aimy Tien

Stephanie Chavara

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Katie Pryor

Ozzie Totten

Amanda Delheimer

LaTanya Lane

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Cyn Vargas

Ali Drumm

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Andrew Reilly

Nicholas Ward

Lizzie Duszynski

Shepsara Satimu

Carolyn Reynolds

Scott Woldman

Mikhail Fiksel

Eric Charles May

Liz Rice

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Lauren Sivak & Erin Barlow
Dr. S. and Dr. Danielle Simmons
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Brenda Strong
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If your name was left off in error, please accept our apologies and contact Lauren at Lauren@2ndStory.com.

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*Denotes Current or Emeritus Company Member