

2ND STORY PRESENTS

TRUST

YOUR WISDOM
THE PROCESS
THE UNIVERSE



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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



CP Chang (he/him, Curator and bonus Storyteller) is a telecommuting company member of 2nd Story. He received his M.F.A from Columbia College of Chicago. His short fiction, poetry, and narrative nonfiction has appeared in Briefly Knocked Unconscious: Stories from 2nd Story, Upstairs at Duroc, Atlanta Review, Word Riot, Immigrant City - Chicago, and other publications. He is blessed to be married to Jessica Young, who teaches him a little more about yoga, spiritual care, and love each day.



LaTanya Lane* (she/her) is a company member with 2nd Story, a two-time alum of the Voices of Our Nations Arts writers' workshop, and winner of the 2018 Diverse Worlds Grant from the Speculative Literature Foundation. She is trying so. very. hard to finish her novel. You can learn more about LaTanya and her work at www.latanyalane.com.



Deb R. Lewis* (anything except "it") writes, tells stories, and helps others do the same. She's a teaching artist in education and community engagement at the Goodman Theatre and collaborates with 2ndStory as a company member, telling stories and helping others tell theirs. She's served up stories for Fillet of Solo, Homolatte, Gumbo Fiction Salon, Next Theatre, and Solo Homo. Her honors include the Windy City Times Pride Literary Supplement Prose Prize, Top Three Finalist in the Project: Queer Lit novel competition, and a Pushcart nomination. Her work appears in many journals, including: Cellstories.net, Gertrude, Criminal Class Review, F Magazine, Susurrus, Zahir, Café Irreal, Outsider Ink, Velvet Mafia, The2ndHand, Blithe House Quarterly, Mobius, Dyversity, International Drummer, Bad Attitude, and SandMutopian Guardian. Her published work includes contributions to Briefly Knocked Unconscious by a Low-Flying Duck: A 2nd Story Anthology (Elephant Rock Books), Windy City Queer: LGBTQ Dispatches from the Third Coast (U of Wisconsin Press). More info at: DebRLewis.me



Reshmi Hazra Rustebakke* (she/her) is a multi-faceted filmmaker and theater maker. She has her BFA from New York University, Playwrights Horizons Theatre School. During her time in New York, she received the Robert Moss Directing Fellow at Playwrights Horizons Theatre, as well as the Artist of Color Fellowship at New York Theatre Workshop. She works creatively developing new work, and also directing, producing, and production managing many varieties of shoots and plays. She has worked at The Vineyard, Playwrights Horizons Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, TimeLine Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Free Street, and many more. She is the co-director of critically acclaimed BRUJOS, and director for FOBia, The Haven, Ethel and Agnes, Geeta's Guide to Moving on, and several more projects in development. She develops work as a creator, director, producer, storyteller and curator.

PRODUCTION TEAM



Julie Ganey (she/her, Emcee) has been working with 2nd Story since 2008 and has performed in theaters all over Chicago for the last 30 years. Her stage work includes three original solo shows, *The Half-Life of Magic*, *Love Thy Neighbor...till it hurts*, and *Good Enough*. Through the improv comedy ensemble *Wavelength*, Julie has created workshops for educators and executives across the U.S. on communication skills, bridging conflict, and community building. She is an adjunct professor at The Theatre School at DePaul University, an instructor for the Goodman Theatre's *GeNarrations* program, and a consultant with The Morten Group, LLC, where she facilitates workshops around equity. Julie is an AEA and SAG-AFTRA member.



Ema Kester (she/they, Zoom Tech) 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.



Nathan Kistler (he/they) is a classical singer turned hoodlum, an early childhood educator left unattended, and someone who is always volume inappropriate. Nathan has worked hard at therapy so he doesn't need your validation, but boy sure would he appreciate it. Nathan can be found wildly composing songs while riding his bike, singing loudly to large rooms of children for his day job, and mostly in Chicago. He is a polyamorous plant dad, and he couldn't be more proud of his struggling plants.



Chicago-born and bred, **Brandi Jimenez Lee** (she/her) is a thriving writer, educator, and performer. She graduated from Columbia College Chicago and earned an MFA in TV and Screenwriting from Stephens College. Brandi has dedicated many years to arts education and uses her teaching as a way to create a more equitable playing ground for future artists and dreamers.



Jenna Meyers (she/her) is a senior producer at the creative and production agency August Jackson—coordinating and managing all manner of big events and meetings. When not working she can be found at a local Chicago craft brewery hanging with friends or on her bike. A theatre kid at heart—she loves producing at 2nd Story and being a part of the creative teams they bring together.

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

Lilian Matsuda, Interim 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 Nabwangu

Megan Shuchman

Paula Carter

Martinique Hallerduff

Vince Pagán

Megan Stielstra

CP Chang

Jessica Kadish

Cameron Pentimone

Aimy Tien

Stephanie Chavara

Nick Kawahara

Katie Pryor

Ozzie Totten

Amanda Delheimer

LaTanya Lane

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Lizzie Duszynski

Shepsara Satimu

Carolyn Reynolds

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If your name was left off in error, please accept our apologies and contact Lilian at Lilian@2ndstory.com

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*Denotes Current or Emeritus Company Member