

Storytelling in the Classroom

Timpanogos Storytelling Festival

2015-16 School Year

Program Description



The Storytelling in the Classroom program is designed to inspire students and provide an opportunity for them to create their own art.

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“My students wanted to write stories after the assembly.” Teacher Feedback



Program Statistics



Timpanogos Storytelling reached more students and teachers throughout the state of Utah than ever before in the organization's history.

3

“Tried the ideas in my classroom. [They] definitely work!” Teacher Feedback

Program Finances



The program was successful thanks to support from the Sorenson Legacy Foundation, Utah State Office of Education, and other sponsors.

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“By far my favorite assembly of the year!”
Teacher Feedback

History

The Timpanogos Storytelling Festival was founded in 1990 in the backyard of Karen and Alan Ashton. Attendance by local schools was a major part of the Festival by the event's second year. Both the Festival and Timpanogos Storytelling's education program have grown exponentially. Today, the Festival is the largest storytelling festival in the United States. The education program is now year-round and involves over 30,000 teachers and students.

The Festival is a public/private partnership between Orem City and the Timpanogos Storytelling Institute, a separate 501c3. The City manages and administers all of the Festival's finances. The Institute organizes over four hundred volunteers who donate over seven thousand volunteer hours to Timpanogos Storytelling programs. The Institute is funded through private donors; no Festival money contributes to its operation. Both groups work together to organize, administer, and implement Timpanogos Storytelling Festival programs.

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Questions

Q: What is the difference between the paid assemblies and the POPS program?

A: We have been working with many schools for decades and they want annual assemblies. We can only offer the free assemblies every other year through POPS, so we offer heavily subsidized paid assemblies the week of the Festival for these schools. In addition, there are some schools that don't want to use the lesson plans and private schools that don't qualify for POPS. This allows them all to schedule storytelling assemblies.

Q: How many students end up creating their own story?

A: According to our surveys, approximately 61% of the students we visit will create and perform their own five-minute story during the school year.

Q: How many schools choose the classroom workshop compared to the teacher workshop?

A: 40% chose the teacher workshop last year.

Changes for 2016-17

- The lesson plans will be updated (including posting lesson plans for secondary schools online) and include more ties to Utah Core Standards.
- New branding and designs will be applied to all Storytelling in the Classroom materials.
- The website is being redesigned with a new program tab on the top. The POPS program will be featured heavily on the redesigned program page. Hopefully the change will make it easier to find the program for people coming directly to the website.

What is the Storytelling in the Classroom program?

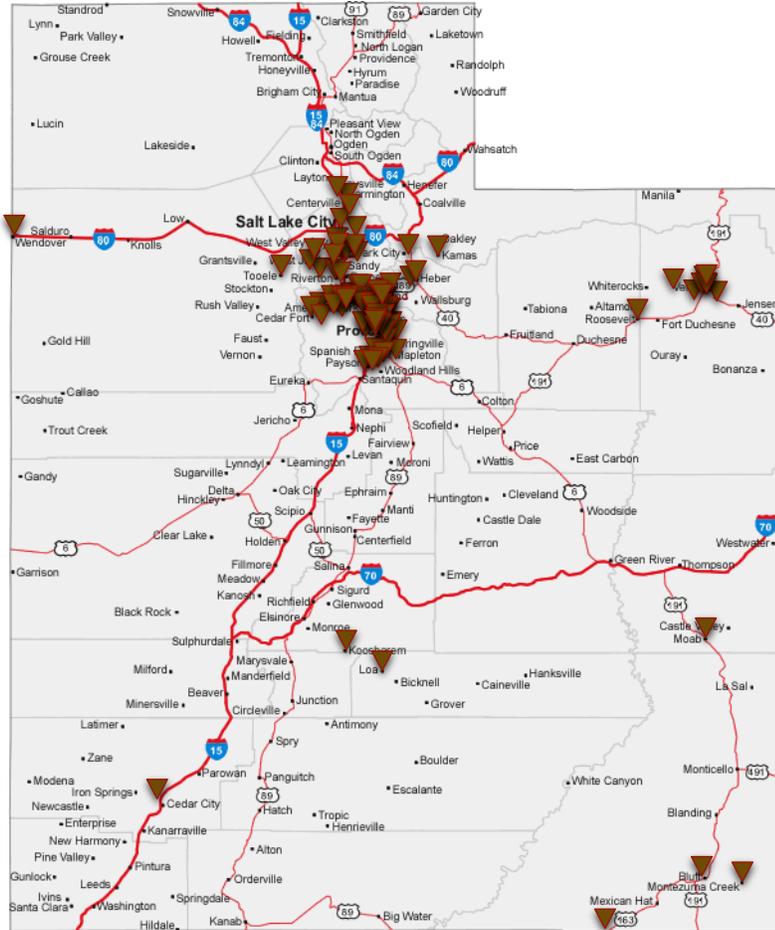
The Storytelling in the Classroom program is a free arts opportunity for public and charter schools in the state of Utah. Schools are provided two options: (1) receive two assemblies (one lower grade, one upper grade) and one teacher or classroom workshop with a visiting professional storyteller; (2) send students to watch two performances onsite at the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival. In return for the services, schools, sometime during the school year, agree to teach two lessons on storytelling and have students prepare and perform original five-minute stories.

Each participating teacher is also given an introduction to storytelling CD (which includes a variety of sample stories from professional tellers) and easily customizable lesson plans. Each school also receives a copy of *Make It, Tell It, Write It: A Donald Davis Approach to Unlocking Stories*, an educational DVD developed by Timpanogos Storytelling with support from a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The program is a statewide program and schools are served on a first-come, first-served basis. Slots typically fill within a few weeks. Schools sign up after the program is filled are guaranteed a spot on the schedule for the next school year. As a result of this high demand, schools cannot have assembly programs two years in a row. However, they can send their students to the Festival for free in years where they are not hosting assemblies.

Timpanogos Storytelling also partners with other organizations like BYU Arts Academy and the Learning Express Conference to provide professional development opportunities to teachers and administrators.

The program is open to K-12 public and charter schools. Although most of the interest has been at the primary level, several secondary schools participate in the program each year.



Statistics for 2015-16 School Year: Who Participated?

Total Services Provided

- Districts Served: 28
- Charters Served: 26
- Schools Served: 202
- Hours: 664
- Teachers Served: 2,349
- Students Served: 35,476

Demographics

- Minority Students Served: 7,358
- Special Education Students Served: 2,772
- English Language Learners Served: 2,467

Note: The map above indicates all of the schools that participated in the performance programs during the 2015-16 school year. It does not include schools that sent teachers or administrators to Timpanogos Storytelling professional development programs.

Who are our storytellers?

Timpanogos Storytelling is committed to work with many of the best storytellers in the nation. We believe quality is essential to a vibrant arts experience.

That same dedication to quality pertains to our school programs. A partial list of 2015-16 Storytelling in the Classroom performers includes NPR All Things Considered contributor and Whiting Award-winning playwright Kevin Kling, frequent Philadelphia Orchestra and Carnegie Hall performer Charlotte Blake Alston, master storyteller and former National Storytelling Association Chairman Donald Davis, 5-time West Virginia Liars' Contest champion and PEN Steven Kroll Award-winning author Bil Lepp, Emmy-winning performance group Eth-Noh-Tec, and international storyteller and BBC contributor Shonaleigh Cumbers. Many of these storytellers have had their work preserved in American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress.



2015-16 POPS Program Services

Storytelling in the Classroom Assembly Program:

Participating schools receive up to two assemblies (typically dividing the lower and upper grades) from a visiting professional storyteller.

District	Charters	School	Hours	Teachers	Students
17	7	54	104	1,244	28,812

Storytelling in the Classroom Workshop Program:

Participating schools receive the assemblies and either a classroom workshop (usually with one class or possibly two combined) or a professional develop workshop for teachers. The visiting storyteller conducted either event.

District	Charters	School	Hours	Teachers	Students
15	6	49	104	368	1,727

Timpanogos Storytelling Festival Student Program:

Participating schools can send classes (grades 3-12) to the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival in order to watch two national storytellers perform for an hour.

District	Charters	School	Hours	Teachers	Students
5	7	31	31	148	4,937

Timpanogos Storytelling Professional Development Opportunities:

National storytellers teacher professional development courses on using storytelling in the classroom at arts education workshops and conferences. These courses are usually offered in partnership with other arts education providers around the state or at the annual Timpanogos Storytelling Conference.

District	Charters	School	Hours	Teachers	Students
20	16	171	425	589	0

District	Schools 14-15	Schools 15-16	Projected 16-17
Alpine	19	54	22
Beaver			
Box Elder		1	
Cache		1	
Canyons		3	
Carbon	3		1
Daggett	1		
Davis		9	
Duchesne		7	
Emery			3
Garfield			
Grand		1	
Granite		8	2
Iron	5	2	3
Jordan	1	25	4
Juab		1	
Kane			
Logan			
Millard		2	
Morgan			
Murray	2	3	
Nebo	2	21	5
N. Sanpete		1	
N. Summit			
Ogden		2	
Park City		1	
Piute			
Provo	2	12	6
Rich			
Salt Lake City		2	1
San Juan		3	1
Sevier		1	
S. Sanpete		1	
S. Summit		1	
Tintic			
Tooele		2	4
Uintah	8	9	
Wasatch		4	1
Washington		1	
Wayne		1	
Weber			
Charter	6	26	8
Total Schools:	49	202	61
Total Districts:	9	28	13

Finances

In addition to the legislative support, every POPS organization brings at least a 100% match of private to state dollars.

	Legislative Appropriation	Funding Leveraged from Other Sources	Total Expenditures on Approved Education Programs	Legislative Appropriation % of Total Expenditures
Personnel	\$8,623.51	\$49,960.49	\$58,584.00	15%
Travel	\$10,815.99	\$11,798.32	\$22,614.31	48%
Materials	\$1,700.00	\$1,976.92	\$3,676.92	46%
Other-Performer Honorarium/Technical Services/Etc.	\$60,016.50	\$74,774.32	\$134,790.82	45%
TOTAL	\$81,156.00	\$138,510.05	\$219,666.05	37%

Note: The Timpanogos Storytelling Festival is a public/private partnership between Orem City (Nonprofit Status: Local Government Agency) and the Timpanogos Storytelling Institute, a separate 501c3. The City manages and administers all of the Festival's finances, including the POPS budget. Orem City's financial records are annual audited by an outside auditing company. The Institute contributes over 6,000 volunteer and staff hours to Timpanogos Storytelling programs (including the POPS program). The Institute is funded through private donors; no Festival money contributes to its operation. The project also received over \$10,300.00 of in-kind contributions, largely through the complete use of private residences for performer lodging.



Storyteller Donald Davis is considered the foremost storyteller in the nation. Donald participates in the Storytelling in the Classroom program, traveling to Utah multiple times throughout the year.

“This assembly had me worried at first [because of its length]. I was amazed how glued the students were during the performance and how much they enjoyed the experience. This includes students with learning disabilities, ADHD, and Autism. [The storyteller] captured them all.”

Participating POPS Teacher

Self Evaluation

Cost Effectiveness:

Storytellers are booked for longer periods of time, allowing staff to negotiated a weekly honorarium that is significantly less expensive than the performer’s normal daily rate. The use of a personal residence for performer lodging also great reduced overall expenses. We also had success sharing storyteller fees with partners, reducing the overall costs for both groups. Decreased funding from the state legislature for the POPS RFP groups will mean we will be able to reach fewer schools next year. However, by maximizing outside funding and partnerships, we hope to serve all of the schools who signed up before the funding allocation was announced.

Procedural Efficiency:

We hope that designing the website will make it easier for schools interested in finding out more about the program to find out information by just browsing.

Collaborative Practices:

Plans are already in place to continue a partnership with the Beverly Taylor Sorsenson BYU Arts Partnership to offer storytelling workshops to even more Utah arts educators, including adding joint events at the Learning Edge Conference in October. Discussions are underway to establish partnerships with addition BTS Partnership offices in the 2017-18 school year.

Educational Soundness:

All lesson plans were tied to subject area standards. Supplementary materials were professional and, according to the responses from our educator survey, helpful.

Professional Excellence:

Utah students and teachers learned from some of the top storytellers in the nation during the 2015-16 school year including Grammy and Emmy-winning performers.