

DIGITAL STORYTELLING IN BC:
AN INVENTORY

APRIL 2010

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About SPARC BC

SPARC BC knows that communities are just and healthy when people have equitable access to places, knowledge, services, adequate incomes, and community decision-making processes. That is why SPARC BC is passionate about working with people on income security, accessibility, and community development; and on the connections between them.

As an independent, non-partisan, registered charity working with BC communities for 43 years, we are an excellent source of knowledge and expertise, and proudly operate the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities. If you are in search of community-based research, consulting services, or practical resources and workshops, then SPARC BC can help you.

From a systems level, to the grass roots, we are working for positive change and would like to work with you.

Contact SPARC BC today: info@sparc.bc.ca,
www.sparc.bc.ca or by phone 604.718.7733

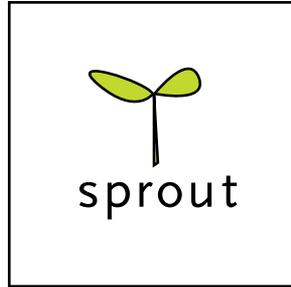
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resources for social change

As SPARC BC's ongoing knowledge transfer initiative, Sprout resources are designed to facilitate learning about and the practice of community-based research methods and community development strategies.

Sprout is a symbol of growth and innovation and can be found on all SPARC BC resource guides and workbooks that have been developed for you to use with groups of committed people who care about community well being. By nature, Sprout resources are fusions of theory and practice — mixtures of big ideas and small steps for cultivating positive change in your community. Each year, we will add new publications to Sprout based on your input. Let us know what you would like to see in Sprout!

Email us: cde@sparc.bc.ca

Find us Online: www.sparc.bc.ca

About Digital Storytelling

The Centre for Digital Storytelling defines a digital story as “a short, first person video narrative created by combining recorded voice, still and moving images and music or other sounds.” Digital storytelling is relatively low tech, low cost and easy to learn, making it an ideal community development tool that helps communities tell their own stories.

Digital storytelling has emerged in BC as a powerful medium that builds both individual and community capacity through its process. It is also being experimented with and considered for use in reporting, evaluating and communicating project outcomes.

Public health has been among the first sectors in BC to explore the idea and practice of digital storytelling and practitioners see value in its use for the promotion and evaluation of a broad range of community-based activities. Digital stories can also connect projects and communities as a means of knowledge exchange so that project impacts and learnings can be communicated more powerfully and shared more broadly.

About the Inventory

The digital storytelling landscape in BC can be difficult to connect into. There is no one source for information and what does exist is often scattered and informal. This inventory is meant to be an initial access point for people interested in learning more about digital storytelling and its applications to health promotion and community development in BC.

The inventory is divided into the following four sections:

- Training programs and facilitators in BC
- Testimonials
- Online resources
- Past projects

The compilation of the digital storytelling inventory was funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

If you would like to add or correct information for future versions of the inventory, please contact:

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Training Programs and Facilitators in BC

The section on digital storytelling training programs in BC provides information on where and how groups or individuals with an interest in digital storytelling can be trained. Some programs adapt to the needs of the particular group and can be framed to meet their requirements while others are one-time courses, but are still worth keeping an eye on for future course offerings. Where possible, this section also includes brief bios of the digital storytelling facilitators associated with each of the programs.

Access to Media Education Society (AMES), Galiano Island

AMES is directed at helping youth cultivate individual, group and mass communication skills through intensive workshops and programs teaching the film and video development. AMES offers both identity based and issue based programming, an example of which was the smoking cessation public service announcements created by youth and funded by Health Canada.

Website: www.accesstomedia.org

Contact information:

Phone: (250) 539-5904

Email: ames@gulfislands.com

BC Healthy Communities

BC Healthy Communities offers fee-for-service training in digital storytelling. They use an 'integral approach' that helps to guide the story from a specific perspective.

Website: www.bchealthycommunities.ca

Contact information:

Caitlin Schwarz

Phone: (250) 356-0876

Email: bchc@bchealthycommunities.ca

Corin Browne & Patti Fraser

Corin Browne

Email: ckokobrowne@gmail.com

Patti Fraser

Email: pattifraser@telus.net

Corin Browne is a videomaker and media educator who has been working as a community engaged artist for over ten years. Corin is a founding member of the nationally recognized Summer Visions Film Institute for Youth located in Vancouver's eastside. With an academic background in critical media education (MA Communication, SFU) and digital media production, Corin is interested in creating media-based projects that explore notions of community, place, citizenship, social justice and memory. Recent projects include: a large scale mixed media installation exploring notions of "home" created with a group of young women at The Purple Thistle: Arts and Activism Society; four years as co-resident artist with the Digital Storytelling Group at Silver Harbour Seniors Centre in North Vancouver; producing and directing a Bollywood style Public Service Announcement educating farm workers about safe laundry practices and pesticide contamination.

Patti Fraser is a founding member of the Summer Visions Film Institute for Youth in Vancouver. Patti's work is primarily devoted to working with 'story' and community, primarily with youth and First Nations on diverse issues such as HIV/AIDS, racism and violence, health and community activism. She is also an artist in residence for the four year Arts, Health and Seniors project, looking at the relationship between health and creativity and the development of new media with older adults. Patti is also working on the Finding Home Project, an art and media installation on youth and finding home for the Cosmopolis/Cosmopolitics Conference at Simon Fraser University.

Emily Carr University of Art and Design

A Digital Storytelling Workshop will be held at Emily Carr University of Art and Design through the Continuing Studies department in the Fall of 2010. In this 3-day workshop experience—designed for both the tech-savvy and the multimedia novice—participants will make a 3-minute movie made from recorded audio narration, images, video clips and soundtrack. The workshop explores how creating a short, personal multimedia

story with words, pictures and music can be a powerful tool in creative self-exploration, research and evaluation, health services, multimedia journalism, curriculum development, oral history and museum projects, cultural exploration, mediation, literacy, environmental and social justice and public education. Facilitators will be available for follow-up to consult with organizations about implementing their own digital storytelling program. Workshop dates are forthcoming and will be detailed on the University's website.

Website: <http://www.ecuad.ca/programs/cs>

Facilitators:

Suzanne Ahearne

Email: suzanneahearne@gmail.com

Surya Govender

Story Facilitator

found out ink

Email: surya@foundoutink.com

Suzanne Ahearne trained in digital storytelling at the Centre for Digital Storytelling in Berkeley. She is also a photojournalist, writer, radio broadcaster and teaches photography skills to elementary school children. Suzanne works with community, education and media organizations to explore creative ways of using digital media as a means of self expression, discovery, social change and as part of a communications strategy.

Surya Govender trained as a storytelling facilitator at the Centre for Digital Storytelling in Berkeley in 2007. Since then, she has facilitated workshops and storytelling projects with low-income seniors, teens, health care workers, First Nations adults, and ESL students. She sees digital storytelling as a unique tool for building skills, confidence and community and has also used digital storytelling as an evaluation tool. She currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Access to Media Education Society.

Royal Roads University, Victoria

In March 2010, Royal Roads offered a digital storytelling course for the first time. The course was taught by Centre for Digital Storytelling trained facilitators who guided participants through the process of creating a digital story over the course of three days.

Website: www.royalroads.ca/NR/exeres/D8DF90A2-AB22-4830-96DD-B059772FE82E.htm

School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP), UBC

SCARP offers Digital Video for Planners a credit course for students enrolled in its Masters or PhD programs, as well as graduate students from other programs. It is an introductory course that provides students with a basic understanding of how digital video can be used within planning. The course explores the theoretical connections to democratization of planning, and storytelling; practical aspects of implementing a participatory video process; and the role that creative and non-traditional forms of community engagement have within planning practice. Through the course students gain the practical and technical skills needed to independently produce a complete video.

Website: www.scarp.ubc.ca/courses/digital-video-planners

Facilitator:

Jonathan Franz

Adjunct Professor

School of Community and Regional Planning, UBC

President, Ear to the Ground Planning, Inc.

Email: jon@eartotheound.ca

Jonathan Franz teaches Digital Video for Planners out of the Cosmopolis Lab at UBC. As the President of Ear to the Ground Planning Inc. Jonathan uses storytelling as a public engagement and communication tool within the planning profession. Through storytelling he helps communities ground visions, aspirations and goals into planning policy.



Shape Shyphter Studios, Port Alberni

Working closely with First Nations communities, Shape Shyphter Studios offers training and facilitation in digital storytelling, film and video production and audio recording.

Facilitators:

Nitanis Desjarlais

Executive Director

Shape Shyphter Studios

Phone: (250) 730-1098

Email: shapeshyphterstudios@gmail.com

John Rampanen

Owner/Producer

Shape Shyphter Studios

Phone: (250) 730-1097

Email: jrampanen@yahoo.ca

Nitanis Desjarlais is a Cree woman from Fort McMurray First Nation. She is an experienced video producer, editor and digital storyteller. She is also an acting coach and facilitates experiential therapeutic and empowerment exercises. Nitanis believes strongly in the importance of revitalizing traditional first nations teachings and practices through contemporary storytelling techniques (film, video and photography).

John Rampanen is from the Nuu-chah-nulth Nation (west coast Vancouver Island). He is a trained digital storytelling facilitator, musician, audio editor and writer. John focuses especially upon elder and youth engagement, traditional medicinal knowledge/practices, cross-cultural bridge building and indigenous food security.

Yayem, Vancouver

Yayem is a program of Atira Women's Resource Society. The program offers fee-for-service training to individuals and groups through intensive three day workshops, with a focus on youth. Participants are led through the creation of their own digital stories, from photography basics to audio and editing.

Website: www.yayem.com

Facilitators:

Janice Abbott

Executive Director

Atira Women's Resource Society

Email: jabbott@atira.bc.ca

Michael Bednar

Photographer

Bednar Photo

Email: mike@bednarphoto.com

Janice and Michael were trained in digital storytelling at Bridges to Understanding in Seattle. They co-facilitate hands-on digital storytelling workshops throughout BC through Yayem, a program of Atira Women's Resource Society. Their work focuses primarily on youth from diverse backgrounds, but they facilitate workshops for all ages.



Testimonials

The testimonials section of the inventory provides a brief introduction and contact information for individuals in BC who have been involved with digital storytelling in various capacities. They can speak to their experiences with digital stories and can identify from their own perspectives where the medium has had value and what some of the challenges have been with its application.

Peter Bruckmann

Community Developer, SMART Fund
Vancouver Coastal Health
Phone: (604) 730-7611
Email: Peter.Bruckmann@vch.ca

Lezlie Wagman

Manager, SMART Fund
Vancouver Coastal Health
Phone: (604) 714-3799
Email: LezlieM.Wagman@vch.ca

Vancouver Coastal Health's SMART fund promotes health and wellness by encouraging marginalized and vulnerable members of the community to play an active role in their own health. Lezlie and Peter were involved with the Our Stories: Demonstrating Change through Storytelling conference in 2007. Their work has explored the applications of both digital storytelling and videography in promoting the value and outcomes of SMART Fund funded projects. Digital storytelling was a component of the Arts, Health and Seniors project funded in part by the SMART Fund. The following video was created to demonstrate the personal impacts of the project on participants: www.lemongrassmedia.net/lgm/blog/files/arts-health-seniors-program.html

Tanis Dagert

Community Educator
Phone: (250) 390-5159
Email: tanisd@shaw.ca

Tanis Dagert is a community education and development practitioner who lives in central Vancouver Island. Through her most recent work as a community capacity facilitator with the BC Healthy Living Alliance she has witnessed the power of digital storytelling to communicate stories that otherwise would not be told and to give voice to those who otherwise might not be heard. Digital stories are great ways, especially in this digital age, to educate, to raise awareness of and increase support for issues, to connect youth with elders, and to help build community. Tanis has incorporated training in digital story telling with community groups on the island and is happy to share ideas and strategies to do so.

Jessica Hallenbeck

Planning Consultant

Ear to the Ground Planning, Inc.

Email: jessica@eartotheground.ca

Jessica uses Digital Storytelling as a tool to catalyze individual and community change within planning processes. Working with youth and other under-represented residents, Jessica uses storytelling to facilitate ideas and transform them into policy.

Rose Soneff

Population Health Dietitian

Population Health, Interior Health

Phone: (250) 851-7417

Email: rosario.soneff@interiorhealth.ca

The Community Capacity Building Strategy used digital storytelling as one component of an evaluation technique to illustrate the broad range of activities in the field of community capacity building. It allowed participants to be actively involved in what components go into the story and honoured the community or individual approach used in the program. A challenge of digital storytelling in this capacity was that it required practice and a level of technical skill and time that many people are not able to commit.

Denise Weber

Program Consultant

Public Health Agency of Canada

BC/Yukon Region

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Email: Denise.Weber@phac-aspc.gc.ca

The Public Health Agency of Canada, BC Yukon Region has funded a number of projects involving digital storytelling, either through funding direct access to training for participants in the health sector or by funding projects that have digital storytelling as a project component.



Cathryn Wellner

Email: cathryn.wellner@shaw.ca

Cathryn has worked in a number of fields, including community economic development, population health and food security. Most recently, she was with Interior Health working with communities and organizations to develop healthier stories about food, health, social justice and sustainability. She currently resides in Kelowna and has recently started a storytelling blog, which includes a number of examples of digital stories. It can be found at: www.storyroute.com.

Online Resources

The online resources section provides a description and web-link for digital storytelling websites, both in Canada and internationally. There are more digital storytelling sites than can be listed here, but these represent an emphasis on first-person narrative and participatory production methods. Wherever possible, a focus on public health and community development is noted. Most of the sites provide examples of digital stories created through their projects. Collectively, these stories demonstrate the compelling nature of this medium.

Bridges to Understanding (Seattle, WA)

Bridges to Understanding uses digital technology and the art of storytelling to empower and unite youth worldwide, enhance cross-cultural understanding and build global citizenship. They offer a one-day workshop for educators detailing how to bring digital storytelling into the classroom and have produced a nine-lesson curriculum for making digital stories in the classroom.

Website: www.bridgesweb.org

Capture Wales (UK)

A digital storytelling project produced by the BBC, which ran monthly workshops between 2001 and 2008. Some 400 resulting stories are available on this site, categorized as follows: challenge, community, family, memory and passion. The site includes a 'how-to' guide to digital storytelling, with information ranging from finding a story to taking digital photos and audio and voice recordings for digital storytelling.

Website: www.bbc.co.uk/wales/audiovideo/sites/galleries/pages/capturewales.shtml?page=20

Centre for Digital Storytelling (Berkley, CA)

The Centre for Digital Storytelling is an international not-for-profit training, project development and research organization dedicated to assisting people in using digital media to tell meaningful stories from their lives. Their focus is on building partnerships with community, educational, and business institutions to develop large-scale initiatives in health, social services, education, historic and cultural preservation, community development, human rights and environmental justice. The Centre for Digital Storytelling has also created a guide (or "cookbook") to digital storytelling that takes the learner through the process of creating a digital story

using Adobe Premiere software. The Centre offers a number of training workshops, ranging from learning how to create digital stories (standard digital storytelling workshop) to train-the-trainer workshops where participants learn how to facilitate digital storytelling workshops (facilitator intensive training workshop).

Website: www.storycenter.org

The Cookbook: www.storycenter.org/memvoice/pages/cookbook.html

Workshop Descriptions: www.storycenter.org/workshops.html

Centre for Digital Storytelling (Toronto, ON)

The Canadian affiliate of the Centre for Digital Storytelling in Berkley opened in late 2008. It works in partnership with the Centre for Community Learning and Development. Their website features numerous digital stories emerging from their workshops and projects over the past year. Example stories include those created in Northern Labrador as part of the Changing Climate, Changing Health, Changing stories project funded by Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch and projects involving mental health and immigrant women.

Website: www.storycentre.wordpress.com

Digital Clubhouse Network (US)

The Digital Clubhouse Network's mission is to develop innovative ways of using the power of digital technologies that are transforming the world to build a better 21st century community. They operate intergenerational community-based incubators (digital clubhouses) in the Silicon Valley and New York City, where people come together to create new and exciting applications of digital technology that enrich education and lifelong learning, promotes public health, preserve history and encourage a deeper appreciation of cultural diversity. Their website offers a number of digital story examples.

Website: www.digiclub.org

Digital stories: Niles Township High School District 219 (US)

This website showcases digital stories told by students, teachers and senior citizens from the local community. There are many examples of digital stories emerging from the School District's projects.

Website: www.digitalstories.org

[murmur] Vancouver (BC)

Modeled on similar work started in Toronto, [murmur] is an archival audio project that has collected stories set in specific locations throughout Vancouver's Chinatown. At each of these locations, a [murmur] sign marks the availability of a story with a telephone number and location code. By using a mobile phone, people can listen to the story of that place while engaging in the full physical experience of being there. Some stories suggest that the listener walk around, following a certain path through a place, while others allow a person to wander with both their feet and their gaze.

Website: www.murmurvancouver.ca/index.php

Our Stories: Demonstrating Change through Storytelling

Emerging from a Vancouver Coastal Health SMART Fund conference in 2007, Our Stories is an ongoing initiative that works to build community capacity by supporting all stakeholders to: (1) explore how stories can be used in reporting, funding applications and communications with others; (2) brainstorm cost effective ways to integrate storytelling into current or planned projects and programs, and; (3) explore the use of spoken word, art, photography, videography, popular theatre and more to capture the stories of change. More information on the conference can be found in the Past Projects section.

Website: www.ourstories.vch.ca

Patient Voices (UK)

The Patient Voices project puts the experiences of patient voices at the heart of healthcare, initially arising from the desire to harness the power of patient experiences into e-learning courses at the Royal College of Nursing. Wider use of digital storytelling as an educational methodology is advocated by Patient Voices, which has also done evaluative work on digital storytelling as a reflective tool for medical students. The website also includes a database of digital stories on patient experiences in health care. There are a number of stories from Saskatoon, SK based on the evaluation of the Live Well with Chronic Conditions Program for Aboriginal People, funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Saskatoon Health Region.

Website: www.patientvoices.org.uk

Stories from Saskatoon, SK: www.patientvoices.org.uk/sask.htm



Photobus (UK)

This is the personal website of Daniel Meadows, a UK documentarist and instructor at Cardiff University's School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies and who was involved with the Capture Wales project. It includes several high quality digital stories, created by himself and his students. The site includes several downloadable tutorials on digital storytelling, including writing a script and manuals on creating digital stories using Apple's iLife '06 and Adobe Premiere Pro v.1.0 for Windows XP.

Website: www.photobus.co.uk/index.php?id=1

Photovoice (UK)

Photovoice encourages the use of documentary photography by enabling marginalized communities to control how they are perceived by the rest of the world, while learning new skills to enhance their lives. Their site includes an introductory photo voice video.

Website: www.photovoice.org

Silence Speaks (San Francisco, CA)

Silence Speaks is an international digital storytelling initiative offering a safe, supportive environment for telling stories that all too often remain unspoken. They hold intensive workshops in which participants share and bear witness to tales of struggle and courage, resulting in short digital stories. They emphasize work with youth and adult communities that have been denied a voice in decision making that affects their lives, such as people living in poverty, survivors of trauma, those who face social stigma due to chronic medical conditions, etc. Silence Speaks stories are used in training, community organizing, and policy advocacy arenas to promote global health and human rights. The case studies on their website include international story and project examples from South Africa, Uganda and Brazil relating to health, violence against women and community.

Website: www.silencespeaks.org/index.html

Stories for Change (US)

Stories for Change aims to connect and extend the network of workshop facilitators and organizations that have come together in community-based digital storytelling workshops. The site provides a space for members and visitors to share their favorite curriculum ideas, post the stories they create and engage in meaningful

conversations around the stories they watch. The power of community digital storytelling workshops rests in their ability to inspire, connect, and incite action within and between local groups. The goal of Stories for Change is to further nurture that spirit online. Featured videos are searchable by subject tags, including a health tag.

Website: www.storiesforchange.net

Tech Head Stories

This site provides links to a broad range of websites with some relationship to digital storytelling in numerous categories ranging from digital storytelling educational programs and books, articles and research about digital storytelling to corporate storytelling.

Website: www.tech-head.com/dstory.htm

The Story Project (Toronto, ON)

Created through the women's program at Central Neighbourhood House in downtown east Toronto, the story project works primarily with immigrant and refugee women and Deaf women and girls to create personal digital stories. The site has numerous examples of digital stories emerging from a number of projects.

Website: www.thestoryproject.ca

Yayem Digital Storytelling

A program of Atira Women's Resource Society, Yayem provides fee-for-service digital storytelling training with a focus on youth. The website features numerous examples of digital stories from locations across BC.

Website: www.yayem.com



Past Projects

This section provides a sampling of one-time events related to digital storytelling held in BC.

Canada CODE Digital Storytelling Workshops (2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games)

Canada CODE is a collection of words and photos by Canadians collaborating online. It was a creation of CODE (Cultural Olympiad Digital Edition) with the National Film Board as a major collaborator. During the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, a selection of the stories of Canadians were shown on the big screen. The NFB and CODE collaborated to deliver short digital storytelling workshops to communities across Canada. It was a lecture-style program with hands-on activities designed to build awareness and encourage educators, community leaders and librarians to deliver digital storytelling workshops to various people.

Website: www.canadacode.vancouver2010.com

Healthcare Perspectives on Digital Storytelling Retreat (May 20-22, 2008)

This retreat was designed to provide an opportunity for digital storytelling practices to be shared with and amongst health care practitioners, researchers, patients and policy makers. The dialogue was led by Joe Lambert and Michelle Spencer of the Centre for Digital Storytelling and Pip Hardy with Patient Voices in the UK. The goals of the retreat were: to highlight initiatives throughout the world using digital stories in their work; to bring together policy makers and health providers to build a community of health practitioners interested in partnering and supporting the work of digital storytelling, and; to provide a practical and logistical understanding of digital storytelling to those interested in program implementation.

Our Stories: Demonstrating Change through Storytelling (April 11-12, 2007)

This conference was funded by the Vancouver Coastal Health Smart Fund. It brought together 230 people for a two day conference to explore the how storytelling can be used as an evaluative tool. The conference website currently has storytelling links, particularly those related to the health sector. Workshop and plenary notes are also available on the website.

Website: www.ourstories.vch.ca



THE DIGITAL STORYTELLING LANDSCAPE IN BC CAN BE DIFFICULT TO CONNECT INTO. THERE IS NO ONE SOURCE FOR INFORMATION AND WHAT DOES EXIST IS OFTEN SCATTERED AND INFORMAL. THIS INVENTORY IS MEANT TO BE AN INITIAL ACCESS POINT FOR PEOPLE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT DIGITAL STORYTELLING AND ITS APPLICATIONS TO HEALTH PROMOTION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN BC.

 **sparc bc**
people. planning. positive change.