

Through the power of storytelling, Streetside Stories values and cultivates young people's voices, fostering educational equity and building community, literacy and arts skills.

CRITICS' CORNER — Here are Streetside's favorite books!



How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization

by: Franklin Foer

Foer analyzes the interchange between soccer and the global economy. He examines how soccer brings together people of different social, economic, political, and racial composition. This book explains why people all around the world not only watch soccer, but live it. You do not need to be a fan of soccer to enjoy this book.

- **Carmen Gonzales**

Board Chair, Streetside Stories



The Westing Game

by: Ellen Raskin

I read this book because it was a Newbery Medal winner. It is a mystery, and I really like mysteries. The fortune of a rich man is left to a group of people in an apartment, and the person who solves the mystery gets the fortune. That makes crazy things happen, like 2 sisters who set off a bomb. You do not know what happens until the epilogue. This book made me think about life, and all the details that have meaning around us.

- **Elizabeth Stern**, *Storytelling Exchange, Claire Lilienthal Alternative School, 6th Grade*



YELL-Oh Girls! Emerging Voices Explore Culture, Identity, and Growing Up Asian American

Edited by: Vickie Nam

I picked up this book while doing a project for my Asian American studies class, a Seminar on Contemporary Asian American Communities. I am working on a project about how young Asian adults develop their identities, and whether or not they embrace both their American and Asian heritage. Vickie Nam received hundreds of contributions from all across the U.S. following a call for written essays and personal accounts by young Asian American women, between 15-22 years old. Essays discuss body image (dissatisfaction vs. self acceptance), interracial friendship and dating, racial and ethnic prejudice, adoption, “model minority” stereotypes, Asian-American feminist activism, sexuality, breaking cultural gender roles and expectations, a variety of issues relevant to the young Asian American women of today.

As the title suggests, these young women are not passive; their voices come through strong and their character and observations are dynamic and illuminating.

- **Vanessa Tom** *Program Assistant, Streetside Stories*

Word on the STREET

Vol. 8, No. 3

NEWS FROM STREETSIDE STORIES

Spring 2008

Despite Budget Cuts, Streetside Thrives

San Francisco Superintendent Carlos Garcia recently wrote in the San Francisco Chronicle, “Suspending Proposition 98 and slashing the monumental sum of \$4.8 billion from our schools is the equivalent of laying off more than 107,000 teachers... It is equivalent to closing every California public school for one month.”

Since the beginning of 2008, teachers, administrators and parents have been preparing for budget cuts that threaten to cripple California’s educational system. The San Francisco and Alameda County schools that Streetside serves will most likely be forced to make painful sacrifices—not just affecting the arts, but to daily teaching and learning across the board.

Our state budget priorities threaten to leave our children behind. California received a D+ in education spending on *Education Week’s* 2008 report card. The state spends \$8,500 per year in the classroom to educate a child and \$35,500 per year to incarcerate a prison inmate. When budget cuts hit, nonprofit organizations, like Streetside Stories, must step up their efforts to meet the need for quality education. We will continue to provide the arts education and literacy



enrichment programming that students need to thrive.

Streetside Stories has worked to build a great organization that can weather economic storms. Instead of relying on one or two funders, we create lasting partnerships with government, and with individuals, foundations, and businesses in our community who put kids first.

We’re also building our operating reserves, to be prepared for ups and downs, and we’re investing in evaluation, so we will have concrete data to prove our effectiveness and continuously improve. Yet we keep overhead low—less than 15% of our budget is spent on administration—to devote our resources to our students.

This year, Streetside will serve 2,500 students. In the next two years, we plan to increase that number. As we grow, we’ll continue to focus on communities like East and West Oakland, the Bayview, Visitacion Valley, the Mission, and the Western Addition, where students often lack the educational resources they deserve. Streetside Staff and Board of Directors are dedicated to helping more youth tell their own stories, gain access to arts education, and improve their literacy skills.

Streetside’s Multimedia Partnerships: Sharing Stories with the World

People all over the world, and right here in the Bay Area, are sharing the stories our students tell, thanks to exciting new media partnerships.

Streetside recently joined Access SF, San Francisco’s public TV channel. Streetside staff members Pedro Reyes, Bernadette Montez, Erika Padilla-Morales, and Helen McGrath learned how to produce their own shows and public service announcements. Look for Streetside segments on Access SF this June. Recently, Streetside Executive Director, Linda Johnson, and Deputy Director, Tomàs Riley were interviewed on *SF Live*, Access SF’s news show. The interview can be found on Streetside’s website.

The staff of Streetside’s youth media programs, including Digital Teachers, Tech Tales, and Tech Tales After School, have created an exciting new YouTube channel to display short movies by Streetside students. The channel is helping put youth voices front and center. In March, Streetside Stories was one of YouTube’s 50 most-viewed non-profit channels.

Streetside is also the lucky recipient of a Google Grant. Since 2005, Google has given Streetside over \$100,000 worth of free AdWords

advertising, which has led to 200,000 hits on our website. Overall, Streetside’s website, which features dozens of student stories, receives an average of 20,000 hits each month.

Through these efforts, Streetside youth and staff are being empowered as creators of media.

WHAT’S INSIDE

New Faces	p. 2
Friends of Streetside	p. 3
Streetside’s Volunteers	p. 4
The Story Swap	p. 5
Critics’ Corner	p. 6

To see stories from Streetside on TV and the web:

Access SF: Comcast channels 29/76, or www.accesssf.org

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/streetsidestoriesff>

To learn more about **Google Grants**, go to <http://www.google.com/grants/>

streetside STORIES

Word on the Street is a publication of Streetside Stories, an arts education non-profit based in San Francisco.

Through the power of storytelling, Streetside Stories values and cultivates young people's voices, fostering educational equity and building community, literacy and arts skills.

Established in 1992, Streetside Stories brings literacy and arts education to Bay Area youth in public schools and the community, through in-school workshops, after school programs, and literacy arts training for educators. Streetside engages students with storytelling, theater and digital media to make reading and writing come alive.

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New Faces at Streetside Stories

Meet Streetside's New Staff, Board Members, and Interns!

Audrey Adams, Board Member Audrey is a retired school teacher, who went back to school when her own children were in middle school, to earn a BA and MA with an emphasis in Math Education, from San Francisco State. Audrey taught at James Denman Middle School in San Francisco for nearly 20 years, and has credentials in English, Social Sciences, Math and Science, all of which she has taught. She had an opportunity about 9 years ago to move into Language Arts, and considers herself lucky to have worked with Streetside Stories during her first year. Her proudest recent achievement was being named National Board Certified Teacher (Early Adolescence/Generalist) in 2002. During retirement she looks forward to spending many hours traveling, gardening, reading, sleeping in, working with the wonderful people of Streetside Stories, and waiting for grandchildren!

Brittney Shepard, Tech Tales Facilitator Brittney loves the idea of media as a means of connection. With a B.A. in Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, Brittney was a founding member of the student-run production team MothaBase Productions who's short film entitled *Hurricane Katrina: Ya'll Know Where the Vietnamese Were?* is used as a discussion tool for community groups, policy makers, and educators around the country concerning the issues of language access and disaster preparedness for immigrant communities. Since then, she has gone on to work on many independently produced documentaries such as *Ask Not*, and *A Village Called Versailles*. Appreciating the power and strength of new media and storytelling, Brittney is excited to be in the classroom engaging and learning with young people. A filmmaker, novice writer, and hesitant artist, Brittney looks forward to many new projects and stories.

Melissa Chow, Storytelling Exchange/Tech Tales Anthology Intern

Melissa is a photographer who grew up in San Francisco. She went away to San Diego for a few years to receive her bachelor degrees in Visual Arts: Photography and Economics from the University Of California, San Diego. The idea of community is important to her and she is excited about working on the anthology at Streetside Stories!

Eva Langman, Storytelling Exchange Intern Eva recently completed her undergraduate degree in Cultural Anthropology from San Francisco State University. She is interested in pursuing work and study that merges the arts with activism, and that explores their potential as complementary catalysts for social change, community empowerment, and the revitalization of indigenous culture. She will be interning with the Storytelling Exchange Program and helping to prepare Streetside's Storytelling Exchange anthology.

Diana Hayworth, Digital Teachers Intern Diana is in the midst of a career change. After working in real estate and sales in both the private and non-profits sectors, she returned to school, and will graduate in May 2008 with degrees in Social Science and Broadcast Media studies from San Francisco State University. Diana interns with Streetside's Digital Teachers program, and is helping organize the KIPP Film Awards.

Tomàs Riley, Deputy Director of Programs Tomàs is a Chicano grass roots educator, activist, and artist. With some seven years of classroom experience and an MA in American Literature from San Diego State University, Tomás has taught at all levels from bilingual elementary school teacher to adjunct faculty member in the disciplines of English, Comparative Literature, and Chicana/o Studies. He is committed to educational empowerment, equity, and youth development for all young people, and through his work he has continually endeavored to create spaces for the voice of the next generation.

Formerly the Director of Residency Programs at Youth Speaks, Tomás oversaw the in-school residency and after school workshop programs and co-created the San Francisco/Oakland School District Poetry Slams. Before that Tomás was a founding member of the San Diego visual and performing arts space *The Voz Alta Project*.

As a writer and performer Tomás is a veteran of the influential Chicano spoken-word collective *The Taco Shop Poets (TSP)*. With TSP he has appeared in the HBO documentary *Americanos: Latino Life in the United States*, the PBS dramatic series *American Family* (2002), and is profiled in *Visiones* a documentary series on Latina/o arts (2004). A finalist for the California Voices Award from *Poets and Writers* magazine, his written work has been anthologized in *Bum Rush the Page: A Def Poetry Jam*, *Chorizo Tonguefire: The Taco Shop Poets Anthology*, *Primera Pagina*, *Pacific Review*, and various journals and literary publications. Most recently his first solo collection of poetry, *Mahcic: Selected Poems*, was published by Calaca Press (2005).

The Story Swap

At the beginning of each Streetside workshop, facilitators tell a story and ask students whether they have had a similar experience that they would like to share. This is called the Story Swap. This page is dedicated to sharing student stories.

Graduation

By: Cindy Cheng

*Streetside
Afterschool,
Aptos Middle School*



About the Author:

My name is Cindy Cheng. I am from San Francisco, California. I like to play violin, even though I am not so good. I also like Bobby Jack, which is a monkey. Things that are important to me are my family. My family is everything to me. The other thing that is important to me is school. School makes me learn and get smarter. When I grow up, I want to be a pediatrician. Why? Well, because I like to help people. In the world I would like to change war. War ruins life. STOP THE WAR!

June 11, 2007, I graduated. I graduated from Guadalupe Elementary School.

I am in the auditorium, on stage. I see parents, grandparents and relatives being proud with an exciting face. It smells yummy. It smells like pizza. It got me hungry as if I was a lion starving to eat some meat. I felt very nervous and excited up there. This stage is a bit big. This reminds me of kindergarten. Why? Well because it was the same in kindergarten. And guess what that day was sunny. It was a good day, everything was all cool actually.

“Here comes graduation,” I said. I was so nervous. On that day we sang a couple of songs. We all knew the songs by memory. We had lots of practice in school.

After singing songs our fifth grade teacher made some memorable comments. My fifth grade teacher is named Mr. Schmitz.

Mr. Schmitz looks like he is very strict. He was pretty young, I guess. He wore formal clothing. His hair color was kind of golden. He stands tall like a skyscraper. Mr. Schmitz had a high voice. My teacher loved to rock climb. He even took us rock climbing for a field trip. Mr. Schmitz does special things like rock climbing as I said earlier, that’s his favorite sport. My teacher is one of the best teachers I ever had.

The comments for graduation were said. Then “Oh no.” We are now going up on stage to get our diplomas. One by one, it was almost my turn to get on the stage. My stomach really hurts now.

“Cindy Cheng.” My name is announced by our principal, Ms. Hume. I go on stage. I shake my teachers hand, get my diploma and looked at the crowd seeing my parents’ faces being very proud of me.

In fact, I also got a medal for perfect attendance. I wasn’t the only one to get the medal, about eight other people in my class got it too. After that, we became full sixth graders. I was so happy. I was kind of sad at the same time because I’m going to miss all my best friends, but I still have one more day left with my friends.

My parents took me out to Moon Star to eat. I ate a lot of yummy stuff like sushi. I even got money from some of my relatives. I enjoyed this day. I will always remember this day. I now feel excited to start middle school. I learned

that when promotion comes you can get nervous, but after all it was exciting.

My Change of Life

By: Soknay Lim

*Literate Learners,
Streetside
Afterschool
Francisco Middle School*



There was a change in my life when I immigrated from Phom Phen (Cambodia) to San Francisco. I came to San Francisco when I was about 11 years old and I also learned a little English before I came to the U.S. At first it was exciting because I wondered what students in the U.S. have to learn.

I also wondered how the teachers in the U.S. would teach their students. Sometimes I also think how my parents can work to survive. I wanted to know what the U.S. looked like and how life is there. Since people from Cambodia and America talked about it, it made me wonder all these things. People said that the U.S. is a good place for kids to learn and their parents could work for a large amount of money.

When I got to the United States on my first day of school, I was so nervous. It made me nervous because everyone spoke English. At Francisco Middle School I see many students from different countries. I touch English books. I hear people speak English and Chinese. I smell food in the cafeteria. The weather is warm and windy.

Thank You Volunteers!

Dedicated volunteers make Streetside's programs work. Thank you to these hardworking volunteers and groups!

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Coming Soon!

Streetside's 2008 Anthology & DVD

Streetside's Storytelling Exchange program is preparing to publish *Birth of a Sidewalk Butterfly: Stories of Change by Bay Area Youth*, our 2008 anthology of student-written stories. Also! The Tech Tales program will produce *Jump Into My Shoes*, a collection of student-produced films. The publication and DVD will be ready by the end of May, so stay tuned for these beautiful anthologies of stories and films!

Streetside Events!

TELL IT LIKE IT IS! An introduction to Streetside Stories, **TILIS!** is a free, monthly one-hour event that's all about Streetside. Join us for the facts about Streetside, some great stories, and refreshments.

To RSVP, email contact@streetside.org.

Tell It Like It Is! Will be held at 6:30pm on the following days:
Thursday, May 8, 2008
Wednesday, June 18, 2008
Thursday, July 10, 2008
Thursday, August 14, 2008 and Wednesday, August 27, 2008

STREETSIDES STORIES SPRING SHOWCASE!!

Thursday, June 12th 5:30-8:30pm, Program @ 6:30pm

The Green Room/Herbst Theater
401 Van Ness Avenue, 2nd Floor

Streetside's Spring Showcase will be truly unique this year, as we will combine all of our programs' final celebrations into one! We will have students read their work, show student films, and celebrate with our youth, families, our funders, and all of Streetside's stakeholders. Plus! We will also present the Storytelling Exchange and Tech Tales anthologies, so come out and celebrate with us!

RSVP to 415-864-5221 or contact@streetside.org

Watch our website at www.streetside.org for details.

Bring Streetside Stories to Your School!

Ever wished Streetside could come to your classroom? You can bring Streetside's Storytelling Exchange, Tech Tales, or Streetside After School programs to your school. Our programs build literacy skills while engaging students in theater, media arts, and autobiographical writing.

In addition, Streetside Stories is offering a new in-school program called **First Edition!** First Edition helps elementary students tell their own stories while building lasting writing, reading and communication skills. Streetside facilitators use storytelling and the visual arts to inspire students to write true stories about their lives.

"Streetside is simply the best arts education program I've seen in my years as a teacher and administrator."

--William Hack, *Principal*
Claire Lilienthal K-8 school

Call Tomàs Riley at (415) 864-5221 for details.

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The support of our wonderful donors means so much! Many thanks to all who make our work possible.

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