



2026

# Partnering for Inclusion: The StoryBridge Network Sponsorship and Partnership Guidelines



The StoryBridge  
NETWORK

*Transforming Lives Through Storytelling  
and Community Engagement*



# Our Mission: Amplifying Voices, Fostering Belonging



## About Us

The StoryBridge Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating inclusive and connected communities. We believe that by providing a platform for marginalized individuals and communities to share their narratives, we can build a more empathetic and resilient society.

Our work focuses on bringing people together through in-person workshops, digital storytelling projects, and public events that promote greater inclusion and belonging.

## Mission

Our mission is to empower marginalized individuals and communities through storytelling and community engagement—amplifying underrepresented voices, fostering community resilience, and sparking meaningful social impact.

## Vision

A world where stories bridge divides, reduce isolation, and strengthen community well-being.



# Why this Matters: The Research



Our programs are built on a foundation of research that demonstrates the power of storytelling and community engagement to drive social impact. Our work addresses critical gaps in Canadian society, as shown by data from leading organizations.

By partnering with The StoryBridge Network, you are making a direct investment in social impact, helping to build a society where every voice is heard and every story contributes to a greater sense of belonging.

**Empowering stories. Enriching Lives.**

#StoryBridgeNetwork #EmpoweringStories #CommunityEngagement

## 64%

**Social Isolation:** Data from Mental Health Research Canada and Statistics Canada show that 64% of **Canadian newcomers are without support networks**, compared to 48% of the general population. Our programs provide a vital bridge to connection and community.

## 40%

**Mental Health & Homelessness:** Research from the Homelessness Hub and CAMH indicates that 30-40% of **people experiencing homelessness in Canada have a severe mental illness**. Storytelling provides a therapeutic tool and a path to community for those who are most marginalized.

## 57%

**Youth Mental Health:** A startling 57% of **youth across Canada are not getting the mental health support they need**. Our programs offer a safe, creative outlet for self-expression and skill-building, which can serve as an essential preventative and supportive measure.

## 12%

**Seniors & Loneliness:** Data reveals that 12% of **people over age 65 report feeling socially isolated**. StoryBridge helps bridge the generational divide and creates spaces for connection, combating loneliness one story at a time.



# Become a Bridge to a More Inclusive Community



Your partnership with The StoryBridge Network is an investment in our shared future. As a young organization, we are at a pivotal moment of growth, and your support will allow us to expand our reach, enhance our programs, and create lasting social impact.


This brochure outlines our partnership and sponsorship guidelines for our core programs and flagship events. We invite businesses, nonprofits, and community groups with value-aligned social responsibility goals to connect with us to help us build a more confident, connected, and inclusive community.


## Our Core Programs


The StoryBridge Network offers three core programs that are delivered free of cost or at minimal cost to newcomers, youth, seniors, and persons experiencing displacement.

We often work with community partners to invite participants, host events, and collaborate on program design and outcomes.

We fund these programs with the proceeds from our flagship events StoryBridge and social enterprise initiatives, and through grants, sponsorships, and in-kind partnerships.

 **Open Circle Outreach Pop-Up Story Circles**  
social prescription storytelling to support mental wellness, reduce loneliness, and foster connection across communities.

 **Storytelling Cafés**  
provide newcomers, seniors, and community members with the tools to share their journeys, build confidence, and foster belonging.

 **StoryScape Youth Program**  
empowers underrepresented youth with creative outlets, mentorship, and tools for growing their mental well-being and psychological resilience.



# The StoryBridge Network's Flagship Events



StoryBridge's flagship events are large-scale, mission-driven storytelling and community education experiences designed to amplify lived experience, foster dialogue, and strengthen community connection.

Through performances, conferences, facilitated conversations, and interactive programming, these events bring together diverse voices and audiences to explore identity, belonging, and social change—while generating revenue that directly supports StoryBridge's free community programs.


## Our Flagship Events

The StoryBridge Network hosts two flagship events annually. Each event is designed to be high-impact storytelling experiences that center lived experience as a catalyst for dialogue, connection, and social change.

Our flagship events appeal to our beneficiary groups as well as a wider audience of professionals, artists, and community builders.

These events also cater to a large audience, bringing hundreds of people together to connect, learn, and grow together. Income from our flagship events are used to support our core programs.

 **We Are All Stories**  
a live showcase and community dialogue event featuring creative lived experience narratives, expressive arts practice, and musical storytelling.

 **StoryStrong Annual Conference**  
a community-centered gathering focused on dialogue, learning, and social impact through the lens of storytelling anchored in themes of culture, confidence, and care.



# The StoryBridge Network's Social Enterprise Framework






StoryBridge operates a social enterprise model that generates revenue through fee-based services, training, events, and creative initiatives to sustainably support our mission.

Income from consulting, program design, facilitator training, and retail sales is reinvested directly into free and low-cost community programs for newcomers, youth, seniors, and individuals experiencing displacement—ensuring our programs remain sustainable, accessible, inclusive, and community-driven.

## Our Revenue Streams

Revenue income supports StoryBridge operations, including staff and operating costs, while providing additional funding to support our core programs.

-  **Consulting Services**  
We provide strategic consulting to organizations seeking to design and deliver meaningful community engagement and storytelling initiatives.
-  **Program Design Services**  
We develop customized storytelling and community-building programs tailored to the goals and needs of partner organizations and communities.
-  **Facilitator Training & Certification**  
We offer trauma-aware storytelling and community engagement training to equip facilitators with the skills to lead safe, inclusive, and impactful programs.
-  **The Story From Here (Book Series)**  
Sales from our storytelling publications help fund community programs while amplifying the voices and lived experiences of program participants.





# Sponsorship vs. Partnership

How would you like to engage with us?

StoryBridge works with both sponsors and community partners to support our programs and events. While both play an important role, the nature of the relationship and expectations differ.

## Sponsors

Sponsors provide financial or in-kind support (such as venue space, services, or materials) in exchange for visibility and recognition. Sponsorship is typically aligned with marketing and brand objectives and may include logo placement, event recognition, audience engagement opportunities, and promotional benefits.

## Partners

Community partners collaborate with StoryBridge to achieve shared community outcomes. Contributions may include program delivery support, referrals, or financial or in-kind resources. These partnerships are mission-aligned and do not focus on marketing or advertising, but partners are acknowledged and may receive updates, reporting, or opportunities to share in the impact of the work.



# Ways to Support: Sponsorship & Partnership Opportunities



StoryBridge offers a range of opportunities for sponsors and community partners to support storytelling programs and events that build belonging, amplify lived experience, and strengthen community connection.

Support may be financial or in-kind and can align with your organization's priorities, expertise, or resources.

## StoryScape Youth Program

### ➤ Youth Program Delivery Support

Support multi-day or multi-session storytelling and resilience-building workshops for youth.

*Impact:* Youth develop confidence, identity awareness, and communication skills.

### ➤ Program Materials & Creative Tools

Provide supplies for journaling, art, and storytelling activities.

*Impact:* Enhances creative exploration and engagement.

### ➤ Healthy Living & Wellness Support

Support nutrition, movement, and mental wellness components of the program.

*Impact:* Promotes holistic well-being alongside storytelling and self-expression.

### ➤ Access & Inclusion Support

Support participation for youth facing financial or social barriers.

*Impact:* Ensures equitable access to meaningful developmental opportunities.



# Ways to Support: Sponsorship & Partnership Opportunities

## Storytelling Cafés



### ➤ Workshop & Facilitation Support

Support multi-session storytelling workshops that guide participants in developing and sharing their stories.

**Impact:** Participants build confidence, communication skills, and meaningful community connections.

### ➤ Venue & Hospitality Support

Provide accessible space, refreshments, or gathering resources for workshops and final showcase events.

**Impact:** Creates welcoming, inclusive environments that reduce barriers to participation.

### ➤ Participant Support (Accessibility & Inclusion)

Support transportation, childcare, translation, or accessibility needs.

**Impact:** Expands access for newcomers, seniors, and equity-deserving participants.

### ➤ Showcase & Community Event Support

Support the final storytelling performance or dialogue event.

**Impact:** Amplifies participant voices and fosters community-wide engagement and empathy.



# Ways to Support: Sponsorship & Partnership Opportunities

## Open Circle: StoryBridge Pop-Ups



### ➤ Community Session Sponsorship

Support the delivery of free storytelling circles in community spaces.

**Impact:** Reduces isolation and builds connection through accessible, low-barrier engagement.

### ➤ Materials & Creative Supplies

Provide or fund storytelling materials and session resources.

**Impact:** Enables hands-on participation and creative expression.

### ➤ Wellness & Mental Health Support

Support trauma-aware facilitation, self-regulation tools, or participant supports.

**Impact:** Ensures safe, respectful engagement with personal and sensitive stories.

### ➤ Venue & Community Hosting

Host an Open Circle in a community space such as a library, school, or cultural centre.

**Impact:** Brings storytelling directly into communities where connection is needed most.



# Ways to Support: Sponsorship & Partnership Opportunities

## The Story From Here (Book Series)



### ➤ Publishing & Production Support

Support editing, design, and production of the anthology.  
*Impact:* Amplifies underrepresented voices through published storytelling.

### ➤ Community Story Development Support

Support workshops that prepare participants to contribute their stories.  
*Impact:* Builds capacity and confidence in emerging storytellers.

### ➤ Book Launch & Community Events

Support readings, discussions, and community engagement events tied to the book.  
*Impact:* Extends the reach of stories and fosters dialogue across communities.

### ➤ Distribution & Access Support

Support efforts to share books with community organizations, schools, and libraries.  
*Impact:* Increases access to diverse stories and lived experiences.





# Sponsorship & Partnership Opportunities

## Flagship Event: **We Are All Stories**



### Event Production Support

Support staging, sound, lighting, and event coordination.

**Impact:** Brings storytelling performances to life in a powerful and engaging way.



### Artist & Storyteller Support

Support honoraria and preparation for storytellers and performers.

**Impact:** Recognizes and values lived experience as expertise.



### Audience Access Support

Support subsidized or accessible ticketing options.

**Impact:** Ensures broad community participation.



### Marketing & Outreach Support

Support promotion, media, and audience engagement.

**Impact:** Expands reach and visibility of diverse voices and stories.



### Venue & Hospitality Support

Provide event space, refreshments, or audience experience enhancements.

**Impact:** Creates a welcoming environment for community gathering.





# Sponsorship & Partnership Opportunities

## Flagship Event: **StoryStrong Conference**



### Program & Session Support

Support keynote speakers, panels, and workshop sessions.

**Impact:** Enables high-quality, inclusive programming centered on lived experience.



### Accessibility & Inclusion Support

Support interpretation, child-minding, or accessibility services.

**Impact:** Ensures diverse participation and equitable access.



### Venue, AV & Event Logistics

Provide or support venue, technical equipment, or event coordination.

**Impact:** Creates a professional, accessible conference experience.



### Community Participation Support

Support attendance for community members, youth, and underrepresented groups.

**Impact:** Expands access and strengthens diverse representation.



### Wellness & Reflection Spaces

Support quiet spaces, facilitators, or wellness resources during the conference.

**Impact:** Promotes safe and meaningful engagement with complex topics.



# Ready to Support Our Work?



We welcome flexible, values-aligned, and collaborative approaches to sponsorship and partnership. Opportunities can be tailored to your organization's goals and areas of interest while supporting meaningful community impact.

To discuss a customized partnership or to receive a formal proposal, please contact:

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Together, we can ensure every voice is heard and every story is told.

Thank you for your supporting The StoryBridge Network.

