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We celebrated the 20th anniversary of StoryCorps in 2023, which was especially meaningful as the major impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic finally subsided, making it a transition year for StoryCorps and so many other organizations. In October, we were gratified to have our first in-person gala in four years, our most successful to date.

I am so inspired by our staff, who have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the communities we serve and continue to innovate on even better ways to stay connected to create a more inclusive society where every story matters.

Through it all, our amazing partners and friends stood by our side, and we are deeply grateful for your support. We are both humbled and invigorated as we look ahead toward an even brighter future.

Warmly,

SANDRA M. CLARK
STORYCORPS CEO
Our 20th Anniversary Gala — hosted by New York Times best-selling author Jason Reynolds, a former StoryCorps facilitator and current board member — marked a significant milestone. The event at the Brooklyn Museum recognized and honored Alberto Ibargüen’s exceptional legacy on his retirement as President of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

The evening celebrated StoryCorps’ groundbreaking history over two decades, sharing some of our favorite stories. Equally important, we looked forward to a time when our mission of hope, humanity, and helping people believe in each other is more resonant than ever.
Stories That Connect Us

BROADCASTS

StoryCorps produced a special 20th Anniversary weekly series for NPR’s Morning Edition in September, featuring follow-up stories of some of our most memorable broadcasts.

58 broadcasts

11 MILLION listeners
ANIMATIONS

During this banner year, we released 13 animations — narratives about witnessing pivotal moments in history, and stories that reflect the true meaning of StoryCorps.

Watch all three seasons now: New Beginnings in Love, History Lessons, and 20th Anniversary.

36.7 MILLION animation views
PODCASTS

Hosts Jasmyn Morris and Michael Garofalo returned for a special 8-episode season, StoryCorps Then and Now, which tells the journey of StoryCorps from inception to present day. The series features updates from participants, and takes listeners behind the scenes through interviews with StoryCorps staff and alumni.

3.9 MILLION downloads
With more capacity than ever dedicated to partnerships and distribution, we achieved a record-breaking increase in both partner and broadcast video views, and further expanded radio broadcast carriage outside of Morning Edition.
In 2023, StoryCorps Studios, our fee-for-service division, brought our award-winning model for ethical storytelling to Fortune 100 companies, major foundations, higher education institutions, and others, helping them share their brand stories through the voices of real people.

2023 Studios clients included the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Amgen, the City of San Diego, PBS: American Experience, and others. Studios continues to refine its offerings — including a special focus on university campuses — for increased scalability in 2024 and beyond.

Expanding Our Reach

44 produced audio stories
11 partner organizations
By fostering an environment that encourages individuals from a diversity of backgrounds to share their stories, we actively work toward constructing bridges of understanding among Americans.

**80%** of listeners say that StoryCorps helped them better understand the experiences of people different from them.

**82%** of listeners say it helped them see the value of everyone’s life story and experience.
We traveled across America to gather stories through our programs and initiatives.

Collecting Stories Across the Country

Military Voices Initiative
Portland, ME
Anchorage, AK
Savannah, GA

The Mobile Tour
El Paso, TX
Marfa, TX
Taos/Albuquerque, NM
Logan, UT
Colorado Springs, CO
Kalamazoo, MI
Green Bay, WI
St. Louis, MO
Mobile, AL
Lafayette, LA

The Atlanta Booth
Atlanta, GA

One Small Step
Fresno/Central Valley, CA
Richmond, VA
Wichita, KS
Columbus, GA

One Small Step Hubs
Rohnert Park, CA
Elkhart, IN
Blue Hill, ME
Seattle, WA
Jackson, WY
Collecting Stories Across the Country

ONE SMALL STEP

In 2023, we refined our strategy to prioritize localization and inclusive outreach, ensuring that our efforts aligned with the uniqueness of the communities we serve. We successfully launched our new Model Community in Columbus, Georgia. We also received a generous gift from the Robins Foundation in Richmond, Virginia, which is a powerful testament to the trust and credibility we built there, and the possibilities our work presents.

Our related OSS Congress program secured the participation of a dozen U.S. House members, and had a meaningful presence — a spot on the stadium Jumbotron and an interactive activation — at the annual Congressional Baseball Game in Washington.

1,375 total participants
708 total interviews
25 partner organizations
Collecting Stories Across the Country

MOBILE TOUR

Last year’s Mobile Tour covered 10 cities across the United States.

Last year’s Mobile Tour covered 10 cities across the United States, bringing our initiatives directly to diverse communities. To deepen engagement, we introduced experimental “Meet & Greets” in Texas, providing a unique opportunity for individuals to connect with our team firsthand. These Meet & Greets were designed to foster meaningful interactions, inviting both community partners and members of the public to come together, learn about our initiatives, and even sign up for appointments. Additionally, we premiered our newly revamped Airstream outside the Brooklyn Museum for our gala.

168 partner organizations

942 total interviews

1,798 total participants
MILITARY VOICES INITIATIVE

Since 2012, the Military Voices Initiative has collected the stories of veterans, active duty service members, and their families, to honor their service and sacrifice. It ensures these narratives are acknowledged and preserved for future generations. The Military Voices Initiative made stops in 2023 in Maine, Alaska, and Georgia.

Collecting Stories Across the Country

158 total participants

146 total interviews

3 partner organizations

146 total interviews
Collecting Stories Across the Country

ATLANTA BOOTH

StoryCorps’ Atlanta Booth — located at the Atlanta History Center — has been a vital resource for the city’s residents since 2013. Throughout the last year, we continued recording diverse voices, documenting and preserving the stories of Atlantans.

221
total participants

130
total interviews

6
partner organizations
COMMUNITY TRAINING

Our Learning & Engagement team — through workshops, in-depth trainings, and free learning resources — equipped individuals and organizations with the skills and tools to be better listeners, preserve local stories, and contribute to the rich tapestry of the StoryCorps archive.

Collecting Stories Across the Country

1,707 attendees
1,346 new registered DIY users (accessing our free online learning hub)

171 interviews recorded by L&E trained partner facilitators at live events & workshops
5 active partners in 2023
Since 2003, StoryCorps has gathered and curated the largest collection of human voices in history — the recorded voices of over 650,000 people — in our Online Archive. Adapting with the landscape, we added TikTok and Threads accounts to our social media portfolio, and expanded our reach to include more vertical targeting.

**Digital Platforms**

- 32,847 registered online users
- 17,114 self-guided conversations
- 2,386 facilitated conversations
- 1.6M social media followers
- 44.3M video views (25% increase in views)
- 2.7M website sessions
Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

At StoryCorps, we strive for an inclusive society where every story matters. Our commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) is reflected in our internal culture. This past year, we implemented our comprehensive IDEA Plan, while recognizing the ongoing work is always ahead.

- **Received** 100% staff identity survey response rate.
- **Met** the majority of our internal staff diversity and recruitment benchmarks.
- **Implemented** significant steps for pay equity, including raising the salary floor to $50K and enhancing the 401K match.
- **Streamlined** benefits by reducing the wait period for medical coverage.
2023 was a transformational year for StoryCorps. The organization underwent a period of unprecedented growth in both revenue and the public service we deliver to the nation. Interest in our work increased dramatically from all corners.

In 2023, we also continued to refine and expand One Small Step, our work helping Americans see the humanity in those with whom they may disagree. Today, OSS stands as the only tested, shovel-ready, scalable antidote to the toxic political polarization tearing the very fabric of our country.

With a first-rate team led by our CEO Sandy Clark, an extraordinary board chaired by Dane Holmes, and a tireless focus on our values and mission, along with the people we serve, the potential to weave StoryCorps into the fabric of American life and the lives of all Americans is more promising than ever.

We are grateful to everyone in this community for your belief in and support of the work — we simply could not do it without you.

Dave Isay
StoryCorps Founder & CEO