



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

PO Box 75, Homer, AK 99603
907-302-6032
www.storyknife.org

STORYKNIFE

WHO WE ARE

Overlooking Cook Inlet and the heart-stopping grandeur of the Aleutian Mountain Range, Storyknife Writers Retreat, a literary nonprofit located in Homer, Alaska, hosts residencies for women from Alaska, across the United States, and internationally. Our mission is to give women writers the time and space to explore their craft without distraction. Storyknife provides women with a community to support their efforts, lifting their voices.

Storyknife provides residencies for six women writers each month, April through October. Each woman has a private cabin with work and living space. The cohort gathers each evening for a communal meal prepared by our chef. Lunches are delivered to their doors.

The women writers of Storyknife form a community that supports them long after they return to their daily lives.

From the time it opened in 2016 to the end of the 2024 season, Storyknife has hosted one-hundred and eighty-three women writers in residency. 843 women applied in 2024 for the 2025 residency season, amplifying the need for women to have the time and space to devote to their writing.



MISSION AND VISION

Mission:

Give women writers the time and space to explore their craft without distraction

Core Values:

- Cultural impact (women's views, culture of women, within Native Alaska and Indigenous culture, writing as real job, culture of writers)
- Validation (acknowledged, empowered, lifting women's voice's, nurturing)
- Supportive (grow things, the way we treat our community in Homer and in the communities they go back to)
- Openness (sense of coming to Alaska, and sense of working on things, landscape, possibilities, experiment, try new things, have a bigger vision, last frontier, explorer)

Long-term Definitions of Success by 2028:

Writers someday say, "I went to Storyknife and my whole life changed."

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2024, fifty-two women writers were in residence during the months April through October. They came from twenty-one different US states and two provinces in Canada.

Storyknife's organizational reach was approximately 325 individuals.

- Fifty-two women in residency at Storyknife, April through October
- Twenty-eight in free writing classes offered by writers in residence
- 245 attending seven months of Live from Storyknife, free, online readings featuring each month's writers in residence

Storyknife writers in residence in 2024 were:

- 26% fiction writers, 24% creative nonfiction and memoir writers, 24% poets, 12% playwrights and screenwriters, 8% children's literature writers, and 6% writers in other genres.
- 10% Alaska Native, 16% Asian, 18% Black, 17% Indigenous, 16% Latina, 4% two or more, 17% white, and 2% other.
- 8% aged 21-29, 54% aged 30-49, 34% aged 50-69, and 4% aged 70 and up.

Here is what a few women writers had to say about their time at Storyknife:



The Storyknife magic is real! The beauty, the sense of calm and repose, and the welcomed jolt of creative energy and freedom felt like a once in a lifetime experience. I never knew a place like this was possible. From the moment I arrived, I was welcomed by a group of extraordinary women working to care and uplift the voices of women writers, especially historically marginalized voices. Again and again, I was told: "Your words brought you here. Your voice matters." I felt so overwhelmingly grateful, I couldn't help but cry.

This residency was nothing short of a safe haven for this writer's soul. It was a place to rest, abide, be and create. And I'm so grateful for the opportunity to be here, in community, honoring the gift of story.

~ Mayra Cuevas

I felt cared for in every direction I turned while in residency. I was nourished by my cabin's view of the bay and volcanoes, the way the light danced and changed so dramatically, the incredible meals, and the spaciousness of my days, open to fill with whatever project was calling my attention. I left Storyknife feeling so affirmed in my work and my voice and in my decision to pursue the sometimes lonely and often discouraging path of being a writer and artist. The care I felt at Storyknife carries me through hours of editing and revising, reminding me that this work is worth it.

~ Selene Ross



My residency at Storyknife was a dream come true. The lush green landscape, the omnipresent wildlife, and the remarkable hospitality fueled my creative spirit. For twenty-eight glorious days, I wrote my heart out. I felt like a curandera, casting spells in my little cabin—the creative ideas sprouting like fireweed, the ancestors speaking through me, breathing words into my novel's characters. The greatest gift Storyknife gave me is permission to write and be a writer. As a first gen, bilingual Chicanx woman of humble, immigrant origins, I had always felt sheepish identifying as a "writer." I don't think I had ever called myself that without flinching, despite having a Ph.D. and several publications under my belt. Storyknife healed me from past colonial writing traumas. After Storyknife, I am proud to call myself a writer, and now, more than ever, I am determined to finish my novel.

-Victoria Bañales

Storyknife is a magical gift to women writers. I have yet to fully process the profound impact of attending, but know it will unfurl over time and throughout my writing life. Storyknife offers relentless support to the women in residence, ensuring your ability to focus on the work you want to accomplish, with ample time and opportunities to engage with a community of women writers--your peers--from across the globe. I particularly appreciated the careful attention to the diversity of the writers selected to participate--supporting the voices less often heard/published/attended to is one of the most important aspects of Storyknife. My experience at Storyknife is in my blood and will continue to circulate, I'm sure, for my entire writing career. It's an honour to call myself part of the Storyknife family. Maarsii (thank you in the Michif language).

~Lisa Bird-Wilson



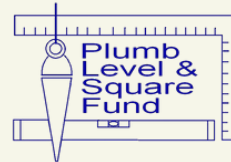
Grateful for the support of the following foundations, businesses, and individuals



academy of
american poets



The George J. and
Theresa L. Cotsirilos
Family Foundation



Ring of Fire Visionary

Jacqueline Carr
Patrice Krant
Deborah McNeil
John and Rika Mouw
Nancy Nordhoff
Jeannie Penney
Dana Stabenow

Mount Augustine Circle

Nora Elliott
Paula J.S. Martin
Robert Rosenwald

Mount Iliamna Circle

Astrid Bear
Tracy E Blackstone*
Carolyn Bright
Pearl Brower
Becky Bunde
Richard Chiappone
Christina Chiu (24)
Stephanie G Cotsirilos**
Sarah Edwards
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Patricia Lyons

Claudia Mauro (22) **
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Sandra Nolfi
Ann Pontius
Cathy Rasmuson
Susan Retherford and Megan Murillo
Tina Seaton
Judy Short
Virginia Sims
Rhonda Sleighter
Catherine Stevens
Carol Sturgulewski

Mount Douglas Circle

Kelley Fricke Armstrong
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 Susan Brusehaber
 Susan Campbell
 Citizen Salmon
 Julie and Dave Derry
 Julie Ruth Dodds*
 Shelley Emerick
 Sharon Ann Genaus*
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 Molly Morrissey
 Lisa and John Mowery
 Dawn Peppinger
 Douglas Preston
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 Southwest Alaska Pilots Association
 Susan Sugai
 Lucky Wilson
 Nancy Martha Yeaton

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 Donna Robertson Aderhold
 Kathleen J Alcala
 Barb Angaiak
 Leslie Armstrong
 Sandy and Mark Auburn
 Teeka Ballas
 Judy Bangert
 Sarah Barton
 Dayna Bateman (23)
 Jan Beatty (22)**
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 Julia Bevins
 Jenn Bills
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 Jeff Brady
 Maura Brenin
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 Maureen Daher
 Karen Dale*
 Jodi E Darby
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 Debra Earling
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 Susan Elliott
 Daryl Farmer
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 Carolyn Forché (22)**
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 Linda Fritz
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 Scott and Monica Gere
 Renata Golden (23)**
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Heather Lende
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 Janet Trettner*
 Joan Unkel

* indicates recurring donors! Thank you.

** indicates Whetstone members. Thank you, alums for keeping Storyknife sharp!

Judy Voelker
Lila Vogt
Caroline Wang
Annie Wenstrup (21)**
Allison S Wheeler
Susan Wickstrom
Joyce Jean Wilcox
Virginia Wiles*

Mount Spurr Circle

Natasa Asik
Marey L Bailey
Ray Ball
Victoria Banales (24)
Kimberly Blaeser (22)
Rachel Blumeb(24)
Diana Botsford
Erin Bow (21)**
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Stephanie Brown
Susan Brown
Catherine Bryan
Christine Byl
Kathryn Campbell
Kathline Carr
Quinn Casey
Esther Cetina
Tierney Chapman
Cathleen Cody
Carol Comfort
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Mayra Cuevas (24)**
Katie Dawson
Ann R Dixon
Kathy Dodds
Catherine Doonan
Sandra Duncan
Felicia Etzkorn
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Christopher Frost

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Carol Kaynor
Karen Kowalski
Marleah LaBelle (24)**
Denise Lajimodiére (23)**
Laura Lasley
Kimberly M Lee
Gretchen Legler
Kelly Lenox
Maryann Lesert (22)
Caron Levis (24)
Martha A Lingua-Wheless
Carrie Longpre
Suzi Lowell
Faye Luppi
Anne Marie Lyall
Monica Macansantos (21)
Hannah Markley (24)**
Siwar Masannat (24)
Shirley Mc Fall
Josephine McEntee*
Paul A Medenci
Michael Mercurio
Melanie Merle

Christina Morrisett
Emilie Otis
Sarah Pape (22)
Jacqueline Parker
Amy Pence
Gretchen Potter (23)**
Penny Ramirez
Reema Rao-Patel (24)**
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Lynne Rotan
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Stan Sanvel Rubin
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Barb Scalzi
Wendy Scher
Jerry Scholand
Tina Schumann
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Jeb Sharp
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Rachelle Stults
Teresa Sundmark
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Kayla Taylor
Patricia Taylor
Nancy Temple
Pamela Uschuk (22)
Caroline Venuti
Lucy Wang (23)
Erica Watson (22)
Lesley Wheeler
Lora Wilson
Akilah Wise (24)**
Lisa Wolf
Jill Wolfson (24)**



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Storyknife Writers Retreat

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2024

Dec 31, 24

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

AKUSA Checking 812	195,875.81
AKUSA Savings	10,606.19
Deferred Maintenance Savings	16,956.44
Petty Cash	278.33
Schwab Investment General	324,385.30
Schwab Investment Reserve	328,306.47

Total Checking/Savings

876,408.54

876,408.54

Total Current Assets

Fixed Assets

Building Construction	937,818.79
Building Design/Engineering	44,561.75
Furnishings/Equipt- cabins	69,065.31
Furniture and Equipment-office	
Furn and equipt- accum deprec	-449.96
Furniture and Equipment-office - Other	681.71

Total Furniture and Equipment-office

231.75

Land

177,700.00

Total Fixed Assets

1,229,377.60

Other Assets

Marketable Securities	-5,176.33
Organization costs	
Org. Costs- Accum amort.	-449.02
Organization costs - Other	850.00

Total Organization costs

400.98

Start-Up Costs

Start Up costs- accum amort	-7,350.00
Start-Up Costs - Other	15,750.00

Total Start-Up Costs

8,400.00

Utility deposits

3,797.11

Total Other Assets

7,421.76

TOTAL ASSETS

2,113,207.90

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Net Assets	737,162.19
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,297,547.82
Net Income	78,497.89

Total Equity

2,113,207.90

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

2,113,207.90

10:14 PM

01/19/25

Cash Basis

Storyknife Writers Retreat

Profit & Loss

January through December 2024

	Jan - Dec 24
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Grants	24,000.00
Individ, Business Contributions	252,287.14
Program Income	
Program Service Fees	31,159.43
Total Program Income	31,159.43
Total Income	307,446.57
Expense	
Endowment Contribution	2,500.00
Bank Service Fees	78.50
Contract Services	
Accounting Fees	2,575.00
Total Contract Services	2,575.00
Development Expense	1,517.04
Dues and Fees	864.80
Facilities and Equipment	
Equip Rental and Maintenance	10,133.51
Facility Equipment	3,362.80
Total Facilities and Equipment	13,496.31
Insurance	10,000.00
Insurance - Liability, D and O	8,349.00
Payroll Expenses	155,799.77
Postage, Mailing Service	203.14
Program Expense	
Resident Food	38,066.38
Resident Stipend	14,250.00
Resident Supplies - Other	2,780.88
Submission Fees	5,872.50
Program Expense - Other	26.30
Total Program Expense	60,996.06
Supplies	
Office Supplies	710.11
Supplies - Other	129.28
Total Supplies	839.39
Taxes and Licenses	1,129.95
Telephone, Telecommunications	2,817.23
Transportation	
Car Insurance	1,884.00
Car Repairs	21.63
Gas	243.62
Transportation - Other	25.00
Total Transportation	2,174.25
Travel, Meetings, Conferences, Con	2,814.58
Utilities	3,062.48
Total Expense	269,217.50
Net Ordinary Income	38,229.07

SUPPORT WOMEN WRITERS

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Storyknife Writers' Retreat is funded by several streams of income: grants from foundations, individual donations, and revenue from applicant submissions.

Storyknife depends on a community that share the vision that women writers deserve the time and space to devote to their craft. There are so many ways that individuals and organizations can help. We appreciate all levels of giving.

Individual donors can make a huge impact. Tax-deductible donations can be given online at www.storyknife.org and via check to Storyknife at PO Box 75, Homer, AK 99603. Our online donation system allows you to make recurring donations as well. Monthly donations make budgeting easier for both the donor and the recipient.

Make a Bequest and Leave a Legacy of Art and Community, the Heritage Club of Storyknife

For those looking to play an important role in securing Storyknife's future, a planned or deferred gift is the ultimate way to help.

By establishing a planned gift with Storyknife, you become a Storyknife Visionary, one of a group of donors who have provided for Storyknife in their will or other estate plans.

Planned gifts not only benefit Storyknife, but they can also greatly benefit you through tax savings. Please contact us if you would like to learn more about this option.

*Storyknife is an IRS-certified 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. EIN#: 90-0863403
Your donation is fully deductible.*

2024 Board

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Paula Martin, Vice President
Rhonda Sleighter, Secretary
Patrice Krant, Treasurer
Pearl Kiyawn Brower
Esther Cetina
Julia Ruth Dodds
Claudia Mauro
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Key staff

Erin Coughlin Hollowell, Executive Director
Maura Brenin, Chef and Site Manager
Katie Emerick, Assistant

