



Annual Report 2025



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www.storyknife.org

STORYKNIFE

WHO WE ARE

Overlooking Cook Inlet and the heart-stopping grandeur of the Aleutian Mountain Range, Storyknife Writers Retreat hosts residencies for women from Alaska, across the United States, and internationally. A literary nonprofit located in Homer, Alaska, Storyknife's 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 hosts 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 each day to their cabins.

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 2025 season, Storyknife has hosted two-hundred and forty women writers in residency. 1600 women applied in 2025 for the 2026 residency season, demonstrating the deep 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 viewpoints, culture of women, culture of writers, plurality of stories)
- Validation (acknowledgement, empowerment, lifting women's voice's, nurturing)
- Supportive (nourish talent, hearts and bodies, assist going forward)
- Openness (diversity, the big open landscape, possibilities, experimentation, explore)

Long-term Definitions of Success: Writers say, "I went to Storyknife and my whole life changed."

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2025, fifty women writers were in residence during the months May through October. They came from twenty-three different US states and two provinces in Canada.

Storyknife's 2025 direct organizational reach was approximately 340 individuals. Fifty women in residency, nineteen in free classes offered by writers in residence, 271 attending six months of free, online readings featuring each month's writers in residence.

Storyknife writers in residence in 2025 were:

- 28% fiction writers, 26% creative nonfiction and memoir writers, 26% poets, 6% playwrights and screenwriters, 6% children's literature writers, and 8% writers in other genres.
- Alaska Native 10%, Asian 16%, Black 18%, Indigenous (Native American) 16%, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 2%, Latina 16%, Two or More 10%, and White 12%.
- 6% aged 21-29, 54% aged 30-49, 38% aged 50-69, and 2% aged 70 and up.

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



Being a part of Storyknife has raised my self-esteem as a writer. The organization provided me the time and space to focus on my craft during a time when I felt adrift in my writing life. Storyknife provided me with a community that uplifts me and motivates me to give back in every way that I can. This was my first residency experience. I didn't know what to expect. I'd read about how other writers recommended the retreat, and now I understand: Magic absolutely does happen during one's time in Homer. From the nourishing food, to the community building, to the solitude surrounded by beautiful views--I met myself as an artist and discovered how I want to cultivate my writing practice moving forward. Storyknife has helped me affirm my path as an artist, and this confidence now inspires my work in immeasurable ways.

~ Stephanie Brown

Storyknife is truly a writer's heaven. The view is magnificent, the food amazing, and the staff phenomenal. They believe in their mission: Embrace diversity, lift women's voices, and change the narrative. I felt nourished and well taken care of. I had never been so focused and productive before. Some days, I would write myself into a corner, but the next day, I always found a new way to continue. It's just such a magical place.

~ Ning Sullivan



My time at Storyknife felt incredibly valuable, in large part because staff treated my time and attention with such care. So much so, that I began to do the same. In addition to my writing and research, I felt emboldened to reach out to archivists to request access to non-public facing digitized documents. The result being that I'm returning home with materials that initially felt out of reach for my project.

Equally important were the conversations I had with other writers in my cohort. Storyknife is a writers residency that brings together fellows at different stages of their lives and careers, and the conversations that result brought new and revealing questions to my work. I already know these are relationships I'm going to maintain well after I leave. Thank you so much for this experience!

~ Asa Drake

Words will never be enough to express the depth of my gratitude for the gift of Storyknife. I arrived carrying so much anxiety about my writing, unsure if I'd be able to put a single word on the page. But sitting at my desk, overlooking the breathtaking expanse of Kachemak Bay, something within me shifted. Surrounded by the beauty of Homer, Alaska, and held in a space filled with such love, care, and generosity from the staff, I found myself inspired in ways I hadn't imagined possible. Every detail—from the thoughtfully provided resources to the nourishing, incredible meals—created an environment where I could truly breathe, reflect, and create. Because of Storyknife, I've rediscovered the joy in my research and rekindled my passion for writing meaningful stories that honor and serve the communities I care so deeply about.

~ Renee White Eyes, Ph.D.



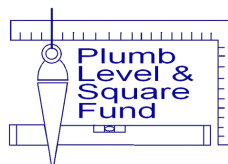
Grateful for the support of the following foundations, businesses, & individuals

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* indicates recurring donors! Thank you.

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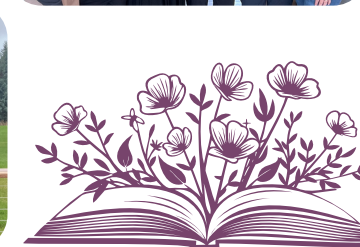
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SUPPORT WOMEN WRITERS

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 shares the vision that women writers deserve the time and space to devote to their craft. There are 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.*

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