

Spring 2022 “FUN” raiser Newsletter

Welcome to April and spring! If you are not aware of Lil' Miss Story Hour's mission and background, we are a grass roots Colorado Springs, Colorado-based donation-run educational organization, providing literacy themed programming and entertainment for children. It was founded in 2019 by Vanessa Little, a Colorado native and educator with more than 30 years of experience teaching infant through college-aged individuals in the Colorado, Washington DC, Virginia, and Maryland areas. Lil' Miss Story Hour hosts monthly community story times that present a diverse range of children's literature, written and illustrated by remarkable authors and illustrators from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) communities.

Because Lil' Miss Story Hour saw that in Colorado Springs specifically, there was a need for more representation and inclusion in children's literacy and Arts focused events, our focus is to expose children to books written and illustrated by a wide range of individuals, especially those from BIPOC communities, individuals with disabilities, military individuals, specifically women, and individuals from LGBTQIA communities. Every day that this program lives on, we hope that showcasing diverse books will encourage BIPOC children to grow up, become authors, and write their own stories and the stories of people who look like them for the next generations.

Since its inception in 2019, Lil' Miss Story Hour has grown from 40-minute story sessions to a two-hour program that includes special guests and artists ranging from dancers, singers, musicians, yogis, healers, poets, authors, illustrators, visual artists, workshop presenters, educators, entrepreneurs, motivational speakers, and more. Because of the support of wonderful local and out of state attendees, Lil' Miss Story Hour has had the opportunity to be featured in local newspapers, [the Gazette](#) and [The Colorado Springs Independent](#) and in 2022, Lil' Miss Story Hour was featured in the [Minnesota Voyager](#). We continue to gain momentum and recognition in Colorado Springs, as well as a handful of cities throughout the U.S. Since the last FUNraiser, we have featured artists from all over the U.S. and have collaborated in Colorado Springs, with the [The African American Historical and Genealogical Society of Colorado Springs](#), [The Garden](#), [Meadows Park Community Center](#), and [Creations at the Edge](#) to host many successful story time events. These events including the 3rd Annual Black History Month Story Time, the 3rd Annual Women's History Month Story Time, the Arts Month Story Time, and Fall Fun Story Time, to name a few. In 2021, we reached more than 200 children locally through our events.

This Summer, we are excited to have been invited back for a second time to be a part of the 2nd Annual Colorado Springs Juneteenth Festival and Dear Summer Fest. In 2022, we have also been commissioned to host story time events for two local bookstores, a local maker's space venue, the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS) Child Development Center, and the Brighton, Colorado Library District. So, we have a busy Spring and Summer ahead of us and hope to add on more commissioned community events.

One of the most exciting events that Lil' Miss Story Hour will be spearheading and organizing this Summer will be a Back to School Culture Fest, which will include more than 50 vendors, a musical headliner, live art, a kids chalk festival, a kids bike ride, free school supplies for all kid attendees, more than ten food trucks, a Lil' Miss Story Hour story time with guests, the Pikes Peak Poet Laureate, and many other activities. Knob Hill Urban Arts District and a host of other local organizations are supporting our efforts to put on this event. Events such as this one and the many others mentioned above in this newsletter would not have been possible without your support during the "FUN"raisers over the past few years. Lil' Miss Story Hour and the children of Colorado Springs and the world appreciate you for making it possible to keep this programming alive!

Please take a moment to visit our website lilmissstoryhour.com, peruse our photo and video galleries of past events (2022 event photos have not yet been updated), check out upcoming events, or write a review!

Thank you so much for your sponsorship and support!

Sincerely,

Vanessa Little
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