

Spring 2023 “FUN” raiser Newsletter

Welcome to March 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 diverse 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 underrepresented 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 children from diverse backgrounds 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 up and the I-25 corridor and have collaborated in Colorado Springs with [The Garden](#), [KnobHill Urban Arts District](#), [Dear Summer Fest](#), [Southern Colorado Juneteenth Festival](#), [CC Mobile Arts](#), [Pikes Peak Library District's KCH center](#), and [Creations at the Edge](#) to host many successful story time events. These events including the 4th Annual Black History Month Story Time (2023), the 3rd Annual National Poetry & Jazz Month Story Time (2022), 3rd Annual AAPI History Month Story Time (2022), 3rd Annual Juneteenth, Pride, & Black Music Month Story Time, 3rd Annual Hispanic/Latine Heritage Story Time, and the 1st Annual Back to School Summer Fest, where we gave away nearly 80 backpacks to children in need in grades Pre-K-3 through 6. The remaining 120 backpacks we donate to Monroe Elementary School, a District 11 school with a neighborhood that the second lowest incomes families. This Summer, we are excited to have been invited back for a second time to be a part of the 3rd Annual Colorado Springs Juneteenth Festival aka 2nd Annual Southern Colorado Juneteenth Festival and the 3rd Annual Dear Summer Fest. In 2022, we were 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 had a busy Spring and Summer ahead of us and hope to add on more commissioned community events.

Once again, Lil' Miss Story Hour will be organizing the 2nd Annual Back to School Culture Fest, with vendors, a Philly-based musical headliner, live art, a kids chalk festival, free school supplies for all kid attendees, food trucks, a Lil' Miss Story Hour story time with guests, a rock climbing wall, 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 (2023 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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