



Trained Facilitator in Digital Storytelling Master Class

Background and History

The Center for Media and Social Impact is proud to announce an exciting new Master Class where a select group of highly skilled students will be trained to facilitate digital storytelling in community settings. Digital stories are four-minute self-told films by community members about a transformational moment in their lives.

The **Community Voice Project (CVP)** is a community storytelling initiative led by American University Filmmaker-in-Residence Nina Shapiro-Perl that connects members of American University's student population with communities in the Washington Metropolitan area to produce short documentary films and digital stories. The CVP partners with a local community organization to focus on a topic and tell the stories most important to that community.

Facilitators Training Master Class

This year the CVP will continue its work with an existing partner, the Anacostia Community Museum, to engage in a new program to train highly skilled storytellers to become Digital Storytelling Facilitators. During Master Class sessions in Digital Storytelling, conducted by Professor Shapiro-Perl, selected students will train to become facilitators in the art and method of digital storytelling in the community. Over the course of 10 months, selected students will work with members of communities facing change, such as Anacostia and other communities East of the River. In participating in this project, students and community members whose paths might rarely cross, will collaborate and learn from each other. Digital storytelling is the bridge.

Students will be trained to help community members "find" the stories they wish to tell, taking us into the lived experience of community residents, in their own words. Their stories help break down a sense of "Otherness" from both sides, changing the storyteller and the witness in the process. In its place are people, in all their complexity, with nuanced narratives of segregation and poverty for example, interwoven with beauty, spirituality, connection and hope. This is the transformative potential of the digital story -- both in its capacity to effect personal and social change from the side of both storyteller and witness. It allows us to listen deeply to each other, across the divides of neighborhood, class, race and culture, allowing us to connect as people.

The Community Voice Project contains two main components:

- **Training** with Nina Shapiro-Perl to become a CMSI Trained Facilitator in Digital Storytelling.
- **Story Collection.** Students will then use their newly acquired Digital Storytelling skills to work with individuals selected by the Anacostia Community Museum to tell their own stories of community change.

Digital stories created will be included in public screenings at American University, the Anacostia Community Museum, and other venues to be determined. Selected works may also be included in a future exhibit at the Anacostia Community Museum.

For examples of past work:

<http://www.american.edu/soc/communityvoice/index.cfm>

As a CMSI Trained Facilitator in Digital Storytelling, students can:

- Develop an understanding of one's own story in order to more effectively connect with collaborators and participants
- Develop effective pathways of communication
- Work with nonprofits to capture participant's stories
- Develop interviewing skills
- Develop emotional sensitivity when working with community or documentary participants
- Organize and train community storytellers
- Teach community storytelling in educational and community settings.

Ideal Applicants are:

- Interested in giving voice to marginalized communities and exploring inequality in all its forms.
- Interested in working in education at various levels.
- Interested in community building.

Requirements: Video editing skills at an intermediate to advanced level. Intermediate audio and videography skills a plus.

In order to be considered for the Community Voice Project, individuals must submit a completed Application Packet.

Application Packet Requirements:

- A completed application form
- A one (1) page personal statement detailing the following:
 - Why applicant wishes to participate in the program
 - How participation will help in your future career
- One (1) Letter of Reference from someone familiar with your work.
- Five (5) minute work sample
 - Work sample should demonstrate technical and storytelling abilities

Application Due December 15, 2015.

Applicants will be notified by January 15, 2016.

Tentative Meeting Dates (subject to change):

The sessions will be held from 12 to 4pm. Attendance for all sessions is **MANDATORY**. In addition to the dates below, selected students will also be required to schedule individual sessions with their partnered community storyteller.

<u>On campus Training</u>	<u>Training at Anacostia Community Museum</u>
February 7, 2016	June 5, 2016
February 21, 2016	July 10, 2016
March 20, 2016	July 24, 2016 - Screening
April 3, 2016	

Questions?

Mitra Arthur, Program Coordinator
Ma6166a@student.american.edu

Brigid Maher, Program Director
bmaher@american.edu

Nina Shapiro-Perl, Creative Director and Lead Instructor
shapirop@american.edu



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Application Due December 15, 2015. Please submit application by email to Brigid Maher @ bmaher[at]american.edu. In addition to this application, please send a one-page recommendation from a faculty or professional who is familiar with your work.

Applicant Information

Name	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Home Phone	
Cell Phone	
E-Mail Address	
Program & Year	

Special Skills or Qualifications

Summarize special skills and qualifications you have acquired from employment, previous volunteer work, or through other activities.

Work Sample

Please list work sample link below (YouTube or Vimeo):

Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I understand that if I am accepted as a participant, any false statements, omissions, or other misrepresentations made by me on this application may result in my immediate dismissal.

Name (printed)	
Signature	
Date	