

# Women Leading Together: Solidarity in Storytelling

## WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR STORY!



We're looking for **Japanese and American women**, or persons who identify as women, to share experiences of marginalization from school, work, or other areas of life.

We want to provide **space for diverse women to share their stories** and acknowledge the complexity of their lives.

Join the **Women Leading Together: Solidarity in Storytelling, or "Story Jam,"** and share your story with other Japanese and American women!

### WHAT ARE DIGITAL STORIES?

Digital Stories are true, first-person video stories — not essays, presentations, or journalistic reports. You will use the "I" voice to tell your personal story.

*Stories like these can foster connection with people all over the world!*



## WHAT IS STORY JAM?

In Story Jam, you will identify a moment or moments when you overcame barriers and marginalization. You will learn how to **write and create a three- to four-minute digital story**.

Our facilitators from StoryCenter will guide you through the steps of how to write your impactful story, record your narrative, create visuals, and edit everything together to create a short video.

We will invite **guest speakers** to help you engage more deeply with your story. We will also match you with a Story Jam participant from the opposite country for **cross-cultural peer mentoring**.

## WHY PARTICIPATE IN STORY JAM?

### **BUILD COMMUNITY.**

Meet other Japanese and American women and learn about each other's cultures.

### **SHARE YOUR STORIES.**

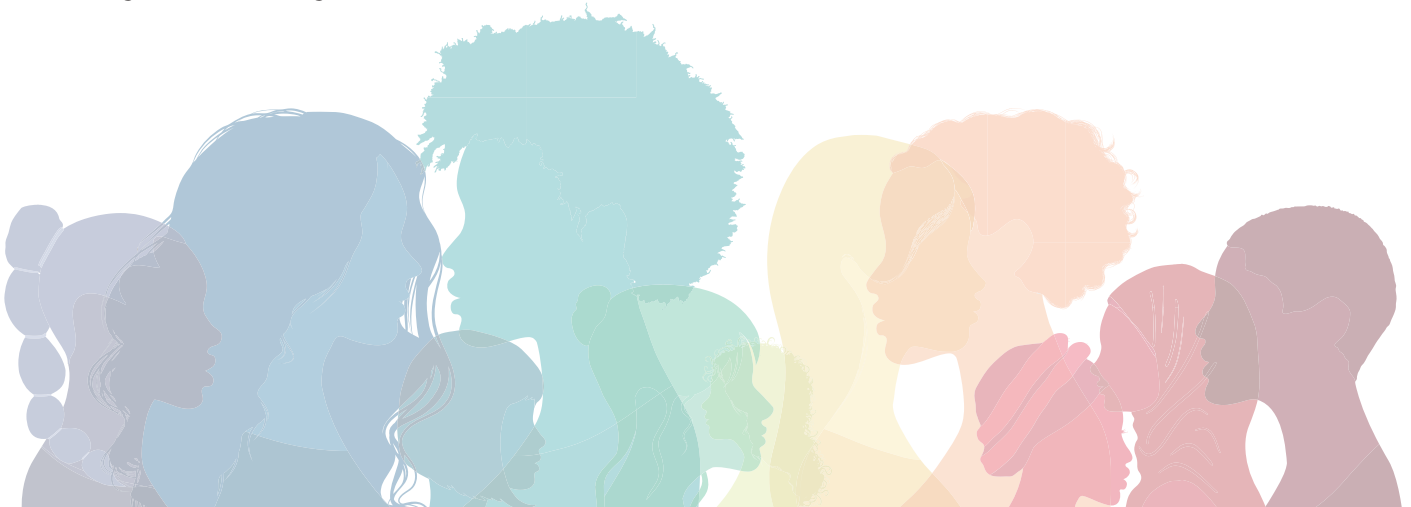
Collectively explore experiences of marginalization. Learn how to use digital storytelling to advocate for yourself or for others.

### **LEARN FROM PROFESSIONALS IN THE FIELD.**

Guest speakers working on diversity, equity, and inclusion, or DEI, will share their stories and advocacy practices.

### **PRACTICE LEADERSHIP SKILLS.**

Apply newly-gained cross-cultural communication and digital skills in your day-to-day advocacy efforts.



# WHAT DO STORY JAM STORYTELLERS TALK ABOUT?

- Tell us about a moment when you **witnessed or experienced injustice or marginalization**. How did it change you and the trajectory of your life?
- Have you ever **questioned your identity or sense of belonging** as a woman? How did you overcome this feeling and what did you learn about yourself?
- Share about a time when you have **shown solidarity with other women**. What sparked your feeling of solidarity?
- What are some **challenges you have faced and overcome** at college, work, or other areas of life?

## WHAT DOES THE STORY JAM PROGRAM INVOLVE?

Story Jam is a nine-week digital storytelling program. We will accept 10 Story Jam participants for this program. The program includes:

- Nine 2-hour group sessions from February 2023 through April 2023 (see table with session dates below)
- 3–5 hours of individual support from facilitators, as needed
- 5–8 hours of independent work on script, audio recording and editing, capturing or creating visuals, and video editing

We will host group sessions via Zoom on Thursdays from 7–9pm Eastern Standard Time, which is Fridays 8–10am Japanese Standard Time.

<b>Session 1</b>	February 23	February 24
<b>Session 2</b>	March 2	March 3
<b>Session 3</b>	March 9	March 10
<b>Session 4</b>	March 16	March 17
<b>Session 5</b>	March 23	March 24
<b>Session 6</b>	March 30	March 31
<b>Session 7</b>	April 6	April 7
<b>Session 8</b>	April 13	April 14
<b>Session 9 – Final Event</b>	April 20	April 21

\*English live captioning and American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation will be provided upon request.

# WHO CAN APPLY FOR STORY JAM?

## To qualify for Story Jam, you must:

- Be a woman, or identify as a woman, between the ages of 18 and 35
- Be a Japanese or American national
- Have basic English language skills; or, if you are Deaf, have basic English language reading and writing skills and basic American Sign Language (ASL) skills
- Have a compelling story about your experience of marginalization as a woman at college, work, or other areas of life, such as relationships, family, and community
- Be able to attend all scheduled group sessions
- Give permission to have your digital story be shared at the Final Event

You don't need any experience in digital storytelling and related aspects (e.g., video editing) in order to apply. Our facilitators will teach you everything you need to know.

# WHAT DO YOU NEED FOR STORY JAM?

## To participate in Story Jam, you will need:

- A computer or laptop (the program cannot be completed on phones or tablets)
- High-speed WiFi
- Google Docs (requires a Gmail account), using a Google Chrome browser
- A smartphone or digital camera
- Headphones

# HOW CAN I APPLY FOR STORY JAM?

Submit your  
application online



OR

Download the application and email the  
completed form to [Heike.Boeltzig@umb.edu](mailto:Heike.Boeltzig@umb.edu)



**DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2023**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Heike Boeltzig-Brown, Program Director | [Heike.Boeltzig@umb.edu](mailto:Heike.Boeltzig@umb.edu)

Saori Kusumoto, Program Coordinator | [Saori.Kusumoto@umb.edu](mailto:Saori.Kusumoto@umb.edu)



UMass  
Boston



The Story Jam (Storytelling) program is funded by the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and implemented by the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston in partnership with StoryCenter.