



TOMODACHI Story Jam for Youth with Disabilities

We'd love to hear your story!

Are you a student or a young professional with a disability?



**Join TOMODACHI Story Jam
and share your story with other
Japanese and American youth!**

What are digital stories?

Digital Stories are true, first person (the “I” voice) video stories - not essays, presentations, or journalistic reports.

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

What is TOMODACHI Story Jam?

In Story Jam, you will **identify a moment or moments related to overcoming barriers** as a college student or young professional with a disability. You will learn how to **write and create a 2-3-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 2021 Story Jam participant for cross-cultural peer mentoring**.

Why participate in TOMODACHI Story Jam?

BUILD COMMUNITY.

Meet other Japanese and American students and young professionals with disabilities and learn about each other's cultures.

SHARE YOUR STORIES.

Collectively explore experiences of breaking down barriers. Learn how to use digital storytelling to advocate for change and improve accessibility!

LEARN FROM PROFESSIONALS IN THE FIELD.

Guest speakers working on disability inclusion will share their stories and advocacy practices.

What do Story Jam Storytellers talk about?

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

Important Dates: Application & Selection Process

June 30

Close application

A panel of ICI and StoryCenter program staff will review all applications and select candidates.

Early to mid-July

Hold candidate interviews

We will invite candidates to participate in a brief, 20-minute interview with ICI program staff on Zoom.

August 15

Announce finalists

The panel will select the 10 finalists.

Sept. 16 – Nov. 11

TOMODACHI Story Jam (Storytelling) Program

What does the Story Jam program involve?

TOMODACHI Story Jam is a 9-week digital storytelling program. We will accept 10 Story Jam participants for 2022. The Story Jam program includes:

- Nine 2-hour group sessions from September through November
- 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

Participants will need to attend all scheduled group sessions.

We will host group sessions on Fridays via Zoom on the following dates from 7 – 9 AM Eastern Standard Time, which is 8 – 10 PM Japanese Standard Time.

Session 1 – September 16

Session 2 – September 23

Session 3 – September 30

Session 4 – October 7

Session 5 – October 14

Session 6 – October 21

Session 7 – October 28

Session 8 – November 4

Session 9 – November 11 (Final event) will be from 6 – 8 AM EST, which is still 8 – 10 PM JST.

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

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

Who can apply for TOMODACHI Story Jam?

To qualify for Story Jam, you must:

1. Be a Japanese or American individual with a disability between the ages of 18 and 35
2. Be a student enrolled at a Japanese or American college, or a young professional working part-time, full-time, or self-employed
3. Have basic English language skills (conversation, reading, and writing), or if you are Deaf, have basic English language reading and writing skills and basic ASL skills
4. Have a compelling story about your experience of breaking down barriers at college, work, or other areas of life (e.g., relationships, family, community), and lessons learned
5. Be willing to attend all scheduled group sessions
6. Give permission to have your digital story be shared at a public online event and published elsewhere

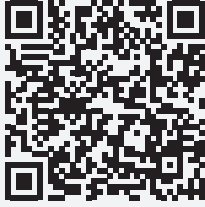
What do you need for TOMODACHI Story Jam?

To participate in TOMODACHI 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), Google Chrome browser
- A smartphone or digital camera
- Headphones (optional)

How can I apply for TOMODACHI Story Jam?

Apply online:



OR

Download the application and email completed form to Heike.Boeltzig@umb.edu



Deadline: June 30, 2022

Just listening to the questions that came up in the sessions made me realize what we have in common, whether that's vulnerability, security, or just interests. That was my favorite part of the program.

AYAKA



I really liked the guest speakers. They were empowering and helped me think what I want to say in my story and what I am passionate about.

NOAH



What the 2021 Story Jam participants are saying...

This program gave me a chance to self-reflect on how far I've come as an advocate. I would not be here without those who supported me in this journey, so I am thankful to everyone.

MIKU



For more information or questions, contact:

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