

MY



The **MY HERO** Project

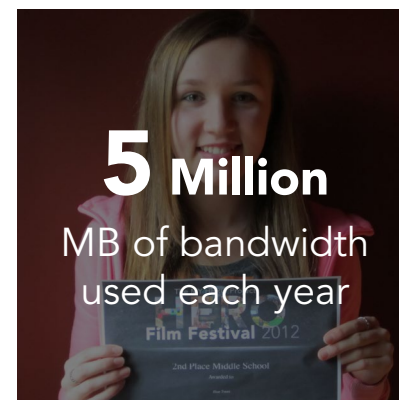
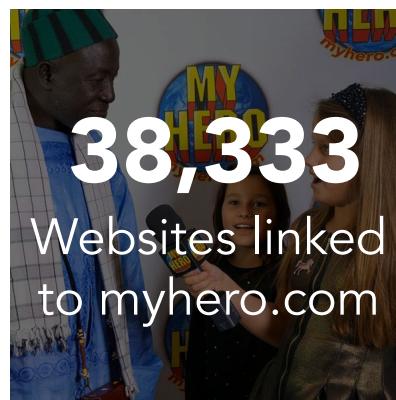
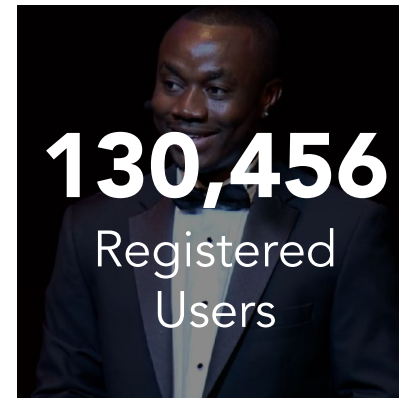
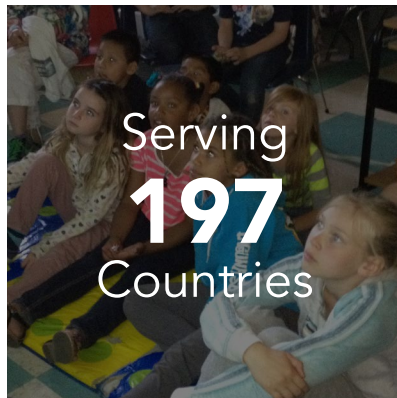
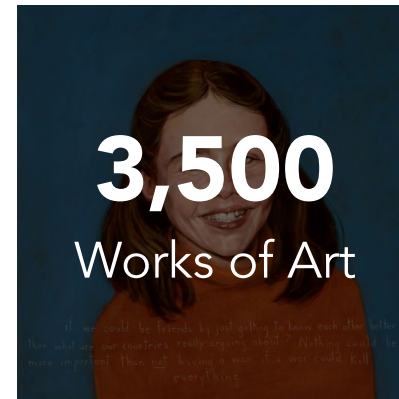
2020 Annual Report



The MY HERO Project's mission is to use media, art and technology to celebrate the best of humanity. Through our website, teacher training and educational outreach programs, we serve millions of students and life learners around the globe. Together we work to provide positive role models, hope and inspiration to a growing global learning community.

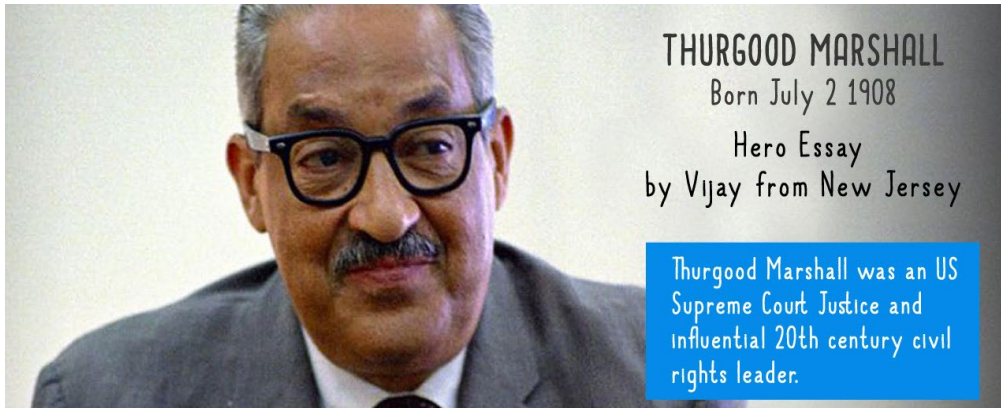


Impact and Reach



MY HERO Homepage

myhero.com



Artwork | "Artsongs" (2006) by Karen Derrico

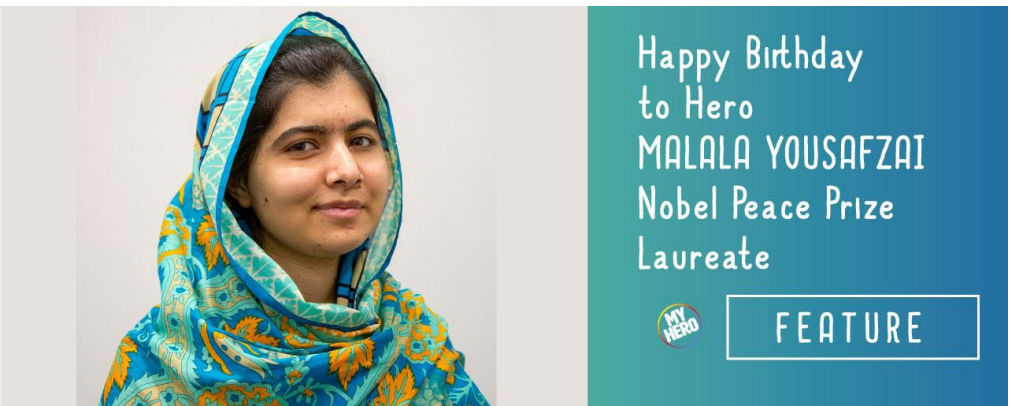
the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Poetry Contest

Call for Entries | Deadline 5/1

Seeking poems, as well as films, art and audio illustrating a poem, in celebration of heroes



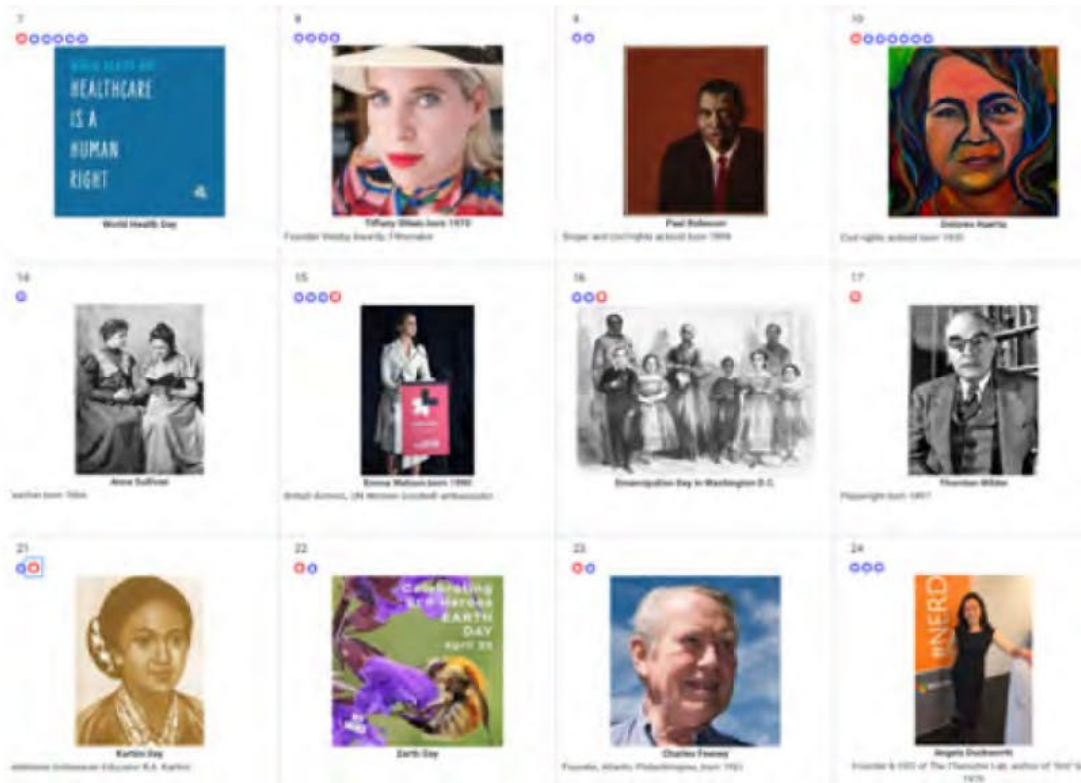
<https://myhero.com/mattie-stepanek-poetry-contest>



MY HERO'S homepage reflects our celebration of heroism. We take part in global and local observances celebrating human rights, earthkeeping, peacebuilding, inclusion, activism, media literacy, science and the arts. We feature the best content in the categories of essays, films, art and audio through our global community of creative spirits and activists -- like minds who believe in making a difference.

Hero Calendar

myhero.com/calendar



Discover a New Hero
365 Days a Year!

MY HERO
CALENDAR

A year-long celebration of
hero birthdays and global observances

The MY HERO calendar is a destination on the website that serves to enrich learning for students and life learners 365 days of the year. The calendar chronicles heroes' birthdays, important celebrations and special events. The calendar is programmed with links to our rich multimedia library.

Newswire

myhero.com/newswire

The MY HERO Newswire features stories from Associated Press and The Christian Science Monitor.

Setsuko Thurlow survived an atomic bomb. Now she campaigns against them.



Hiroshima survivor Setuko Thurlow, seen here in Edinburgh in May 2016, during a campaign against nuclear weapons, advocates against nuclear armament. Ms. Thurlow was 13 when American forces dropped an atomic bomb on her home city in August 1945. Photo credit: Andrew Milligan/PA/AP/File

Newsletter

myhero.com/newsletter

Our monthly newsletter includes lesson plans and resources for teachers and parents.

Where Are They Now?
Geeta Malik, and other MY HERO Alumni, are making their mark on the world.



Geeta Malik directs a reading of Nicolls' Fellows Screenplay scenes in 2019 at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Stories

myhero.com/stories

MY HERO hosts more than 50,000 essays written by visitors of all ages. Each submission is reviewed by our staff to ensure it aligns with our mission of inclusivity and tolerance. Select essays are featured in our calendar and home page.

MY HERO essays celebrate individuals from all walks of life, from family members to global leaders.

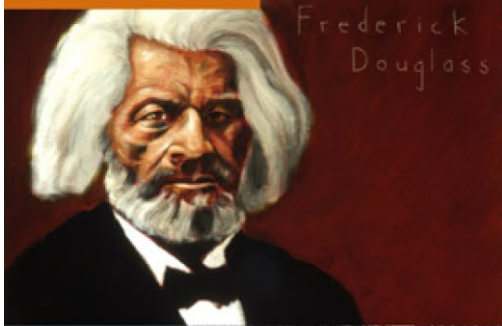


Art Gallery

myhero.com/gallery

The Gallery accepts online submissions of original artwork from children, young adults and professional artists. Visitors can explore a variety of artistic perspectives related to the theme of heroism and join in the celebration honoring heroes around the globe.

Painting



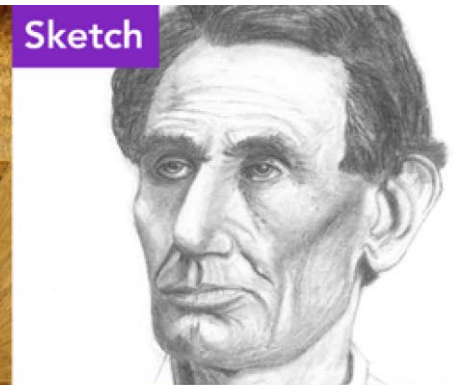
Crayon



Exhibit



Sketch



Charcoal



Mixed Media



Drawing



Collage



Credits (clockwise from top-left): Frederick Douglass by Robert Shetterly - AWTT.org, Jane Goodall by Samantha Gamble, May Peace Prevail on Earth by Nick Scrypnik - Peace Pals International, Jerry Garcia by Gail G. Slockett

Credits (clockwise from top-left): Feeding me for Life by Julio Lukwago, Abraham Lincoln by Christie Fisher, Self Portrait by Dan Eldon, Katherine Johnson by St George

Audio Studio

myhero.com/audio

Audio Studio is an online listening space with original music, poems, and essays celebrating heroes. For early readers, ESL and ELL learners MY HERO hosts a selection of short HERO stories to listen to while reading along.



Charlie Parker



Delicate Dreams



Hannah Taylor
Ladybug Foundation



Richard John McLaughlin



Student @ the Children's Foundation of
Technology in Sierra



Olivia Milch



Dana Williams

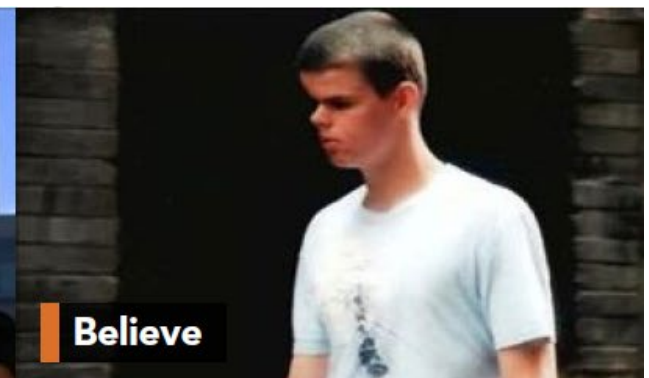


Louis (Sachmo) Armstrong

Films

myhero.com/films

The MY HERO Screening Room contains a collection of over 2,700 short films about heroes making a positive difference in our world. Hundreds of films are added every year from elementary school-age through professional contributors, in categories that include documentary, experimental, animation, music video and narrative.



MY HERO International Film Festival

myhero.com/filmfestival

Since 2005 The MY HERO International Film Festival has been bringing together professional and student filmmakers to honor heroes from all walks of life. Winning films can all be viewed online.



Lynne Cherry, co-founder and director of **Young Voices For The Planet**, won 1st prize in the 2019 Film Festival for "**Words have Power**," featuring youth activist **Jaysa Mellers**.

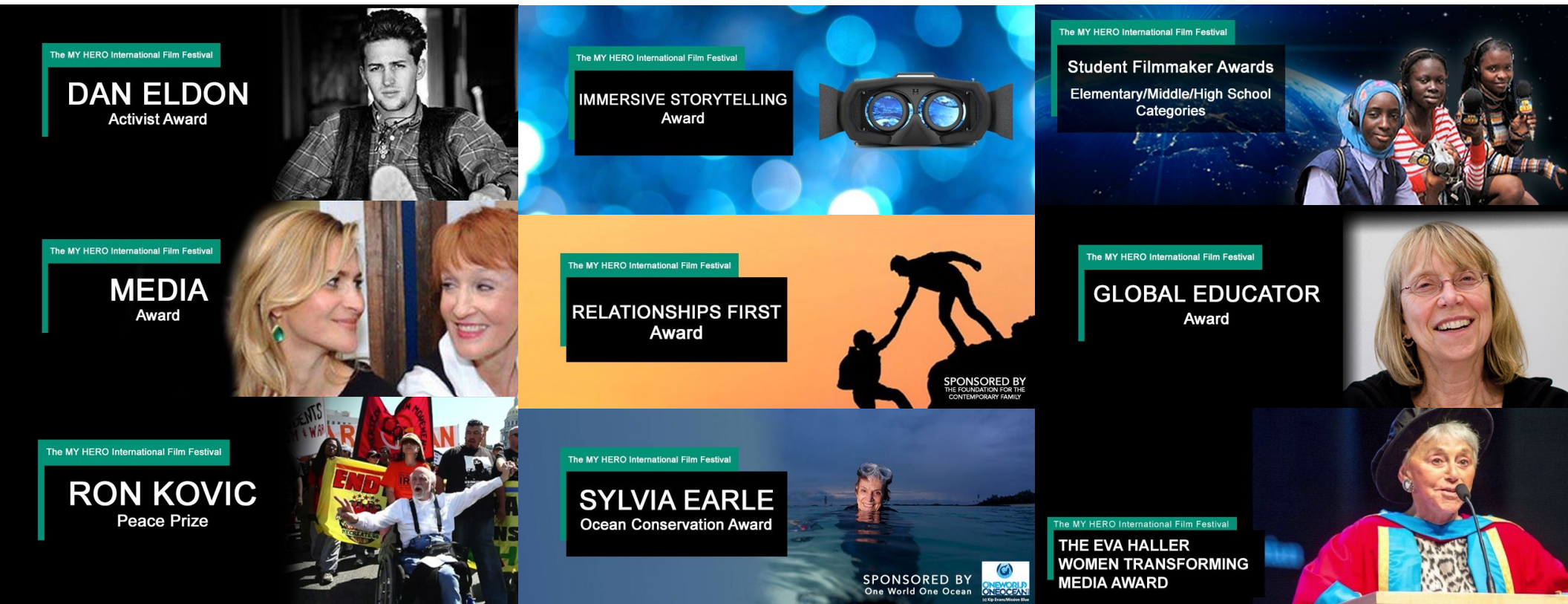


Sangeetha Sekar is the featured hero in the Peoples Choice Winning Film, "**Made in Madras**," created as part of a MY HERO Global Exchange with **Video Volunteers - ChangeChitra** in India. The program was funded with support from the US Department of State – Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

Film Festival Special Awards

myhero.com/special-awards

Thanks to the generosity of our film festival sponsors and donors, our special awards provide cash and prizes to winning filmmakers.



Award sponsors include: Peace activist and author Ron Kovic, Creative Visions founder Kathy Eldon, global leader Eva Haller, The Foundation for the Contemporary Family, and One World One Ocean Foundation.

Teachers Room

myhero.com/teachersroom

Teachers integrating MY HERO into their classrooms have shared lesson plans that cross various disciplines, including English, Social Studies, Art, Media Arts, Science and Environmental Studies, English as a Second Language (ESL), Character Education and more.

HOMESCHOOL PROJECTS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

EXPLORE OUR FREE CURATED MEDIA RESOURCES & DIGITAL STORYTELLING TOOLS

Science

Language
Arts

Social
Studies

Environmental
Education

Poetry

Social
Justice

Ocean
Conservation

ESL

Women's
Studies

Sustainable
Development
Goals

Art

Media
Arts

Peace
Studies

Human
Rights

Filmmaking



VISIT MYHERO.COM/TEACHERSROOM

Teachers access mentors, tutorials, resources and online tools to help manage classroom content published on MY HERO. Our team of educators work to provide curated Multimedia Thematic Lesson Resources to use in classrooms and online for distance learners throughout the year.

Digital Storytelling Tools

MY HERO provides mobile-friendly digital storytelling tools so that students can easily create and share their inspiring media.

Teachers curate and publish playlists of selected films, art, stories from MY HERO's multimedia library for students to view at home or at school. MY HERO's team of Media Arts Educators share resources and conduct workshops.

Teachers manage students' work on MY HERO using the "Class Code" system. When students complete assignments on MY HERO teachers publish a "Classroom Directory" webpage linking all their students' work to be shared online with classmates and parents.



Lishan High School - MY HERO Winning Stories Teacher Lillian Liu Classroom Webpage



Tarana Burke

By: Winnie Liu

Tarana Burke is a civil rights activist who created the #MeToo movement.



Katherine Commale

By: Vivian Chou

Katherine Commale founded Nothing But Nets, a nonprofit that fights malaria.



Shen Xin-ling

By: Wenchih Liu

Shen Xin-ling creates computer programs to support education.



Hiromu Arakawa

By: Yunung

Hiromu Arakawa is a self-taught artist who creates juvenile manga.



Kyung Yoon Kang

By: Claire Huang

Kyung Yoon Kang is a reporter who exposes criminal activity among male celebrities.



Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

By: Austin Chuang

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was the first Russian composer to make a longstanding international impression.

Contests for Students Throughout the Year

myhero.com/contests

Contests for essay writing, poems, songs and art submissions are held throughout the year to reward students' outstanding work and to share their creative spark with our online global learning community. MY HERO provides online mentors, workshops and a selection of [Media Arts Resources](#) online to help teach digital storytelling skills to young media makers.



SUBMIT A HERO PORTRAIT TO THE
THE ROBERT SHETTERLY PORTRAIT PRIZE
Call for Entries
Deadline 5/1

Pete Seeger by Robert Shetterly, AWTT.org



Call for Entries
DIGITAL SUSTAINABILITY MURAL CONTEST
DEADLINE 6/1
Go to: <http://myhero.com/MuralContest>



Artwork | "Artsongs" (2006) by Karen Derrico

the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Poetry Contest

Call for Entries | Deadline 5/1

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<https://myhero.com/mattie-stepanek-poetry-contest>

Coronavirus Community Heroes

Call for Entries

Submit an essay about someone you know helping others during the coronavirus outbreak. It can be a leader, worker, or even a neighbor!

Submission deadline: May 1



ORIGINAL SONG CONTEST
CALL FOR ENTRIES **UNSUNG HEROES**
Deadline: May 1st
myhero.com/songcontest
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GUITARS IN THE CLASSROOM

January National Mentoring Month

Call for Submissions

Submit an essay about your mentor hero for a chance to be featured on the story homepage and a cash prize!

Deadline extended to January 21.



Global Education Outreach



MY HERO Editor and Story Director **Shannon Luders-Manuel** represented MY HERO at the **UCLA Center X** teacher training conference "With Different Eyes."



MY HERO Educator and Learning Circle Director **Laura Nietzer** presented MY HERO at the ISTE 2019 Conference and at The Global Education Conference.



MY HERO hosted a media production training session for staff and students in LAUSD High Schools taking part in **UCLA's Green Shorts Environmental Film Contest**. The program was held at **New Roads School** and we are grateful for their generous support of MY HERO's educational outreach programs.



With support from a grant from the **Max Factor Family Foundation**, MY HERO mentored teachers and students at the UCLA Mann Community School.

Global Education Outreach

USA



The City of Laguna Beach Hero Fest was held at the Boys & Girls Club and featured Trey Carlisle from Soka University's Dance for a Cause Club.

India



In a program funded by a grant from the US Department of State – Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, filmmaker Marc Ostrick presented a series of MY HERO workshops for Video Volunteers' ChangeChitra program that focuses on film making for social activism.

Senegal



Cheikh Darou Seck, a MY HERO Global Educator, is now the principal of a middle school in Dakar, Senegal. We are working to support his need for media arts education tools. The MY HERO suitcase arrived with cameras and books for his students.

Moldova



High school students from Theoretical Lyceum "Ion Creangă" in Moldova take part in the MY HERO Learning Circle.

MY HERO Educational Partnerships Include:



Creative Visions is a global community of impact media makers. The project celebrates the Dan Eldon legacy and promotes human rights through Rock Your World program.



iEARN is a non-profit organization made up of over 30,000 schools and youth organizations in more than 140 countries... Over 2,000,000 students each day are engaged in collaborative project work worldwide.

The Global Education Conference is an initiative involving students, educators, and organizations with an emphasis on promoting global awareness.



ISTE's mission is to empower learners to flourish in a connected world by cultivating a passionate professional learning community, linking educators and partners, leveraging knowledge and expertise, advocating for strategic policies, and continually improving learning and teaching.



Guitars in the Classroom seeks to train and equip classroom teachers in order to integrate singing and playing guitar into the daily school experience. Founded in 1998, GIRC produces programs over 30 states and several foreign countries.

Peace Pals is an International program designed to encourage youth, ages 5-16 to become peacemakers dedicated to living in the spirit of the words "May Peace Prevail On Earth."



Robert Shetterly's Americans Who Tell the Truth portraits and narratives highlight citizens who courageously address issues of social, environmental, and economic fairness...to inspire a new generation of engaged Americans who will act for the common good, our communities, and the Earth.

ART MILES MURALS PROJECT facilitated the creation of more than 4,000 5x12 ft canvas murals by over 1.5 million people from more than 100 countries to share messages of peace from the hearts of many.

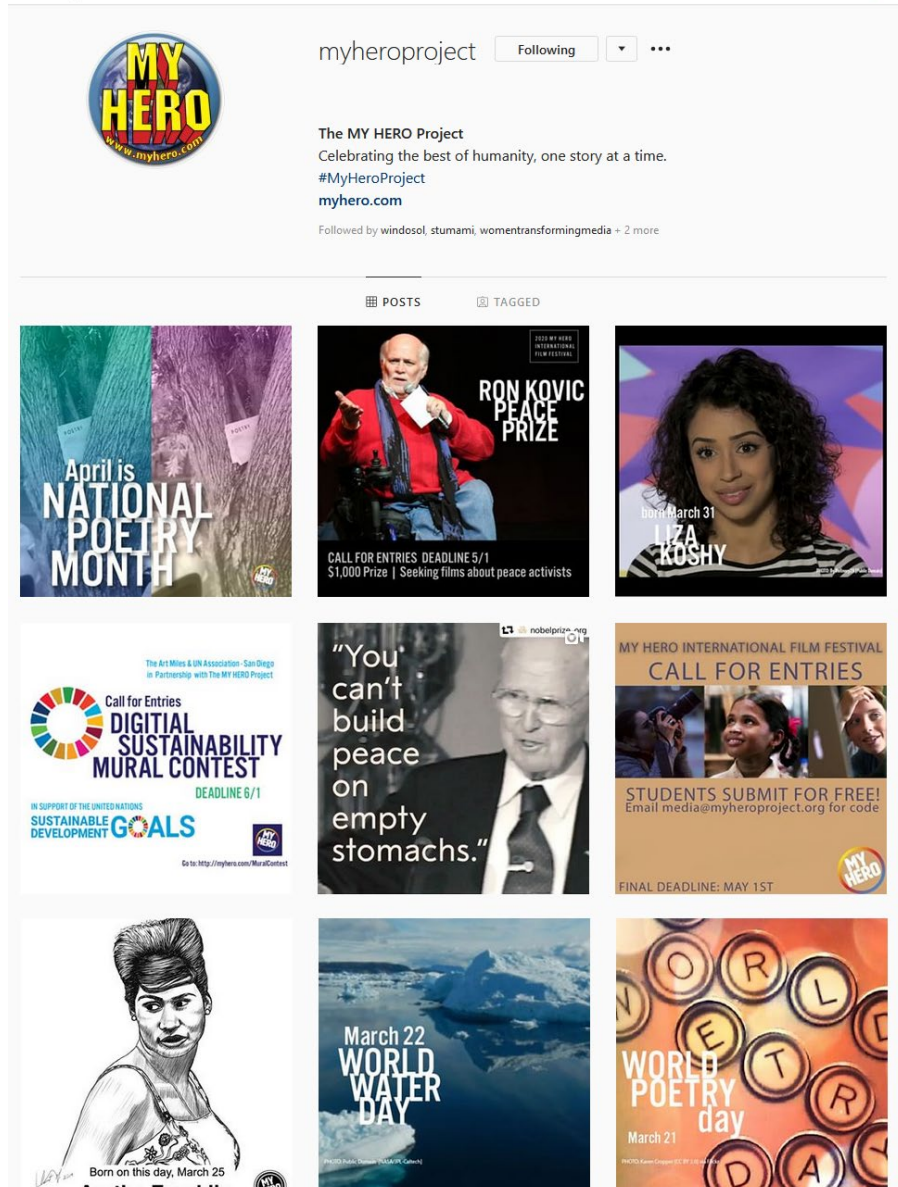


Institute of the
Environment & Sustainability

Social Media



Instagram



The MY HERO Project @myhero · Feb 25

Our regular deadline is almost here! Submit for a chance to win our Immersive Storytelling Award!

Learn more: myhero.com/immersive-stor...

Submit: filmfreeway.com/MYHEROIFF

#VR #immersive #filmfestival #myhero



The MY HERO Project

Published by Jeanne Meyers [?] · February 22 at 9:46 PM ·



COLLECTIVE-EVOLUTION.COM

8 Year-Old Mexican Girl Invents A Solar Water Heater & Wins Nuclear Science Prize

Board of Directors

Jeanne Meyers | Laguna Beach, California – Film producer and multimedia artist; Co-founder and Director of The MY HERO Project since its inception in 1995.

Mark Cavanagh | Chepachet, Rhode Island – Screenwriter and founder of Youth Vision, Inc. Recipient of the Action for Children's Television Award; Director of projects for Public Broadcast.

Leanne Mella | New York, New York – Specialist in American contemporary art. Served as the manager of International Visual Arts Programs in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Cynthia Costas Cohen | Beverly Hills, California – Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Beverly Hills, California, specializing in EMDR and hypnosis; on the board for the Trauma Resource Institute

Judith Zucker Anderson, Ph.D. | Laguna Beach, California – Clinical psychologist and Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the UCI College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior. President of the Foundation for the Contemporary Family (FFCF).

Carolyn Hodge-West | Dowagiac, Michigan – Serves on the board of trustees for a regional health care delivery system; Innovative business leader with extensive board leadership and civic involvement.

Eva Haller | Santa Barbara, California – Philanthropist and adviser to humanitarian organizations that include Asian Initiatives, Women for Women International, Free the Children and The Jane Goodall Institute.

Jennifer Borland, M.A. | Bloomington, Indiana - Manages evaluations for media producers, museums, game developers, and educational institutions, with grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services for Rockman Et Al - A Research and Evaluation Company. Jennifer was one of the evaluators for the MY HERO Global Exchange Media Arts Project funded by the U.S Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. She has participated as a volunteer Judge at The MY HERO International Film Festival ever since.

Founders

The MY HERO Project was created by the visions of its three founders: Karen Pritzker, an advocate for literacy and children and film producer; Jeanne Meyers, a film and multimedia producer who continues to develop and direct the MY HERO website; and Rita Stern, an artist and Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker.



Staff

Stephanie Cole



Administrative Manager

Betty Bailey



Writer & Communications

Xenia Shin



Editor & WTM Producer

Laura Nietzer



Director of Learning Circles and Teacher at MY HERO

Stu Pearlman



Audio Studio Curator & Musician

Saint George Thompson



Artist & Illustrator in Residence

Wendy Milette



Director of Media Arts Education & Film Festivals

Anthony Pouw



Software Design & Development

Nathan Smith



Director

Giselle Villatoro



Art Editor

Mohamed Sidibay



Global Education Outreach

Shannon Luders-Manuel



Story Editor

INTERNS

Trey Carlisle



SOKA University

Rachel Priebe



USC School of Cinematic Arts

Becca Han



USC School of Cinematic Arts

Dorothy Lie



USC Annenberg School of Journalism

Support

Foundations & Grants

The Seedlings Foundation
Massen Greene Foundation
The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation
The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
Foundation for the Contemporary Family
Laguna Beach Community Foundation
City of Laguna Beach
Orange County Community Foundation
Irving Harris Foundation
Puffin Foundation
Festival of Arts Foundation
California Arts Council
Cox Cares Foundation
American Association of University Women
U.S. State Dept. Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs
Rotary Club Laguna Beach
Max Factor Family Foundation
mediaThe Foundation

Corporate and In Kind Support

Google Adwords
Kingston Technology
Associated Press
Barracuda
MacGillivray Freeman Films
[seven-degrees]
Big View Pictures, Inc
Oculus
Shure
LRG
Loews Hotel
Jazz at Lincoln Center
The Four Seasons Biltmore

Media

Google Cultural Institute
Cox Channel 3 - OC
KOCE - OC
TV Santa Barbara
Huffpost RYOT
Digital Hollywood
KX 93.5
Stu News Laguna
USC - Media Institute for
Social Change
LAUSD-Grand Arts Festival
World Children's Festival
The American Pavillion Cannes
Coast Magazine
Laguna Beach Independent
AFI - SilverDocs

Educational Organizations

iEARN
ISTE
New Roads School
Crossroads School
Herb Alpert Educational Village
UCI Bren School of Information
& Computer Sciences
USC School of Cinematic Arts
Baycat
Peace Pals International
Americans Who Tell the Truth
Francis W. Parker School
Journeys in Film
Freedom Writers Foundation
BellaGaia.com
UCLA Center X
Gertrude Lempp Kerbis Foundation

Taft High School
Foshay Learning Center
Weemes Elementary School
Laguna Art Museum
Laguna College of Art
Laguna Beach Boys and Girls Club
Soka University
Guitars in the Classroom
Art Miles Mural Project
Creative Visions
Glasgow Caledonia University
Global Education Conference
Mattie J. T. Stepanek Foundation
Santa Barbara Middle School Teen
Press
One World One Ocean
Coalition for Engaged Education
Royal Film Commission - Jordan
Palo Alto High School Media Center

Friends

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Ken Koslow & Jeanne Meyers
Robin & Mark Cavanagh
Helene Cavanagh
Eva & Yoel Haller
Sandi & Ken Malamed
Laird Malamed
Dorothy Meyers
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Erin Slattery
Jessica Baron
Jerrilyn & Matthew
Jacobs
Barbera Kaplan
Will Parrinello
Mali Bickley
Robert Shetterly
Kenji Williams
Erin Gruwell
Peter Anderson
Rita Stern
Olivia Milch
Carrie Maloney
Chris Cain
Kathy Eldon

Financial Report

The following information is a condensed version of our audited financial statements prepared by Piazza, Donnelly & Marlette LLP for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles.

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$690,825
Grant receivable	\$326,000
Prepaid expenses	\$3,803
Property/equipment.....	\$95,381
Deposits.....	\$1,200
Total Assets.....	\$1,117,209

CURRENT LIABILITIES

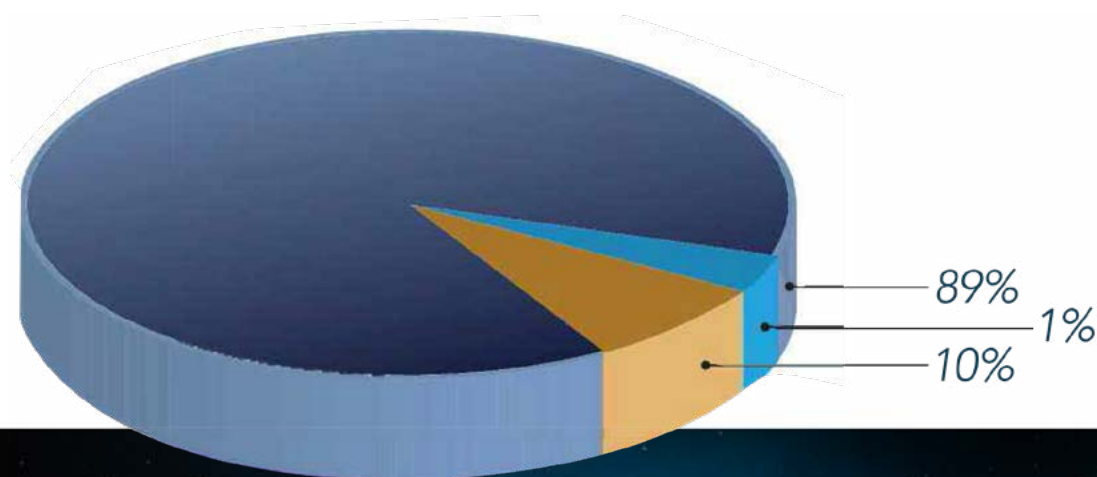
Accrued expenses.....	\$24,248
Net assets	\$1,092,961
Total Liabilities and net assets.....	\$1,117,209

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Contributions	\$674,598
In-Kind	\$221,810
Interest and other	\$1,620
Total Revenue and support.....	\$898,028

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Program	\$699,606
Fundraising	\$7,924
General and Administrative.....	\$74,119
Total functional expenses.....	\$781,649



- PROGRAM
- FUNDRAISING
- GENERAL/ADMINISTRATIVE

The MY HERO Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations to this nonprofit project are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



The MY HERO Project Inc.
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myhero.com/donate