



forest llc
dba empathy stories

Owner
forest chaffee. they|them.

Contact
forest@empathystories.org
www.empathystories.org
(503) 877-5892

Location
Portland, Oregon

Service Area
United States

CAGE: 9FBU5
UEI: N2GWD8M4R1R5
NAICS: 711510
Independent artists, writers
PSC: T001
Photo, publication, arts
NAICS: 541613
Marketing services
PSC: R426
Support - professional services, public relations, communications services

Certifications
COBID: Oregon Cert No.: 14041
ESB: Emerging Small Business
WBE: Women Business Enterprise
DBE: Disadvantaged Business Enterprise

Payment:
ACH, check.
Mastercard, Visa.

Company Summary:

We help government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and social enterprises who contribute to social equity. We move communities to action by providing a platform for beneficiaries and stakeholders to speak their experience. Our first-person narratives and portraits: foster culture; integrate community needs into solutions; and inspire people to expand your impact.

We raise up voices in these areas:

1. **Culture.** Team members share their experience and values to **foster connection and community.**
2. **Design.** Beneficiaries share needs + feedback so your team can **provide responsive solutions.**
3. **Inspire.** Beneficiaries + stakeholders **share impact of successes** and meaning in reshaping systems to build social equity. These stories inspire people to **expand your impact.**

Capabilities:

Produce first-person narratives + portraits ◦ Celebrate and engage your beneficiaries’ voices in defining change ◦ Listen, photograph, transcribe, edit, and revise in empathy and respect for your beneficiaries’ needs, consent, and meaning ◦ Move people to see what is needed for an equitable world ◦ Inspire people to join you in fostering well-being for all.

Areas of Expertise:

25 years of experience integrating empathy + design ◦ Production of over 65 empathy and portrait stories ◦ Design background in minimalist architecture, New York City ◦ Extensive training in empathy, interpersonal neurobiology, nonviolent principles, trauma integration, systems healing ◦ 12 years of client experience in somatic empathy.

Past Performance:

Worked with community in rural Alabama to co-create a book of empathy stories and portraits about need for community space. Developed community group; community building; and community programs ◦ “Our Wholeness:” an empathy and portrait series honoring our diverse truths ◦ Co-designed and built literacy center with Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

Testimonial:

“As an administrator in nonprofit and government organizations, it is easy to try to convey success through data and statistics. But what is missing is vital: human connection, experience, warmth, and care. forest’s empathy is folded into each aspect of their story creation—from interview, to photograph, synthesis, design, and complete story compilation. ‘empathy stories’ fosters rich narrative storytelling that communicates true impact, supporting individuals who comprise organizations and the people they serve in creating positive change.”

Work Sample Excerpt:

“When we were growing up you could go to bed or go to town and leave the door open. We farmed all this land in back: peas, corn, watermelon, okra, hogs, and chickens. Some people’s fields didn’t turn out, but everyone shared. Anything I could give a person I was glad to give. If I didn’t have food someone gave me food. If I needed to go to the doctor and didn’t have money someone would take me. We shared work and helped each other. We could go to everyone’s houses. We’d be there all day: sit and talk; quilt; help garden; and sing. All five houses sharing, quilting together, and helping each other in the fields. We lived in old shack houses. Now we have electricity and water but we have lost something: love and caring for one another. It’s still possible. It is valuable. Coming together and talking to each other is important.”

Irene and Johnny Lewis. Newbern, Alabama.

