

**The 15th Annual Changing Suburbs Institute® Educational Forum**  
**Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners in the COVID-19 Era**  
**virtual multi-day conference**  
**March 6 – March 13, 2021**

**Saturday, March 6**

**12:00pm**

**Visual Storytelling with English Language Learners: Incorporating multimedia viewing and creating into traditional text-based literacy instruction**

Judith Aragon, ENL Teacher, and Amy Stern, PDS Liaison, Mt. Kisco Elementary School (Bedford)

*Workshop description:*

Visual storytelling allows all students to share their stories, regardless of their language proficiency. Using the Jacob Burns Film Center *Image, Sound, and Story Curriculum*, we taught fifth-grade students in a dual language school to analyze film, identify story elements, develop storyboards, and, use their new filmography skills to create personal narratives and tell their own stories. Tapping into 21st century skills, our young filmographers have learned to compose photographs, and create videos using a variety of camera techniques, enhanced with sound effects and music. In this workshop, we will share their photographic compositions, short stories, and documentaries, along with the creative processes and technology skills learned by our young filmographers.

*Presenter Bios:*

An experienced ESOL teacher, **Judith Aragon** has taught English Language Learners K-12 through content, project-based learning, theater, song and most recently film. A Jacob Burns Film Center-trained educator, she has implemented the Image, Sound, and Story curriculum incorporating multi-media viewing and creating into traditional text-based literacy instruction. Ms. Aragon is keenly interested in instructional technology, and has trained extensively on a variety of web-based digital tools, knowledge she has shared with her students, as well as other classroom teachers. In addition, she has taught topics such as co-teaching, differentiation, and enhancing academic vocabulary. Ms. Aragon has also given parent workshops on a variety of topics including digital citizenship and educational technology.

In addition to being a passionate social emotional learning consultant LLC, former K-12 classroom teacher, and teacher educator at Manhattanville College School of Education, professor **Amy Stern** is an avid cinephile and Jacob Burns Film Center-trained educator. She is also an experienced Language Arts teacher who understands the important role that film plays in building literacy for all students, especially English Language Learners. Known for her creativity and love of film and still photography, she is always experimenting with new activities to build literacy and inspire her students. A published author of curriculum, articles, and short stories, Ms. Stern enjoys all genres and phases of the writing and filmmaking processes from start to finish. Ms. Stern is a lifelong learner with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell University and a Master's of Science in Education from the Bank Street School of Education.