

ELLEN MUSIKANT

Ellen Musikant has been telling stories all her life. In 1995, something unexpected happened – she was given the opportunity to become an affiliated storyteller with Storytelling Arts. The work enabled Ellen to meld her acting training, years of writing and researching for documentary television, and her love of story into a new (for her) craft.

In her twenty plus years as a professional storyteller, Ellen was a performer, a teaching artist, a workshop facilitator, and story coach. Through her work with Storytelling Arts, she was a storyteller-in-residence in preschools, elementary, and middle schools, and a juvenile detention center. In addition, Ellen worked with Storytelling Arts' staff to develop programs and produce benefit performances. She also stepped in to serve as the Interim Executive Director, safely navigating a challenging transition. More recently Ellen provided important consulting services to Storytelling Arts, including mentoring one of its newest storytellers.

Ellen also partnered with the Education Department at the Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University, to develop its 'Adventures in Storytelling' program for preschoolers and their teachers. She was their storyteller-in-residence from the inception of the program until retiring in 2017. Ellen's freelance work brought her a myriad of experiences including the stage of NJPAC narrating "Snow White" with the New Jersey Philharmonic, and to a law firm working with the attorneys to shape narratives. Now retired, Ellen has been redirecting her creative energies in her work as a docent at The Montclair Art Museum and dabbling in the visual arts.