

[Photo: The video opens with a photo of the Anacostia River, facing up the river to the north. The bike trail is on the righthand side winding into the horizon. Clouds are overhead. The title banner appears.]

[Video: Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum presents the following audio interview with conservation photographer and writer Krista Schlyer, “Being a Story Teller and a Photographer.” The interview takes place in Washington, DC. The audio interview is overlaid with photographs illustrating the landscape and events described by Krista Schlyer.]

[Photo: A young woman reaches out to accept debris from a man. The pair are completing restoration work in the Anacostia River, among cattails and tall grass.]

Krista Schlyer: One of the experiences that I've had that I think was really helpful – I went and did a slide-show presentation for the D.C. Department of Environment. And during that slide show and after,

[Photo: Eight individuals of varying ages are canoeing in a large canoe on the Anacostia River. In the background, the grassland and trees line the river. A dock is visible at the foreground, to the right.]

I could sort of see the experience that people were having of, you know, the depiction of the watershed and the depiction of the clean-up efforts and history.

[Photo: A man and young boy are in a canoe with a medium sized dog. The man is facing forward, smiling as he paddles. The boy is facing away- looking out in the background. The dog is looking out over the boat towards the foreground.]

And I don't think that most of the people there had seen the watershed depicted in quite that way before.

[Photo: A couple is canoeing, while a group of six individuals are completing restoration work on the shoreline. The grass contains vibrant shades of green and yellow. There are trees lining the background.]

And part of the slide show is to talk about the efforts, the kind of ongoing efforts that are happening.

[Photo: Two young ladies are picking up trash and recyclables. The young lady to the left has a clear large bag tied to her waist, while she holds out a large yellow bag. The young lady to the right places an item in the yellow bag being held out, while holding onto a clear bag, blowing in the wind. Five additional youth are shown picking up trash along the shoreline.]

And I just got a lot of people coming up to me afterwards that



said how much it meant to them to see the work that they were doing shown in these pictures and to feel, I think, just a sense of pride and, you know, to see that somebody is out there kind of watching what they're doing

[Photo: A young lady standing on a rock leans down to pick up trash with a grabber.]

and being inspired by the progress that's been made. And also just a connection to the story of the river itself. You know, a lot of people work in their own, you know, pockets,

[Photo: A large brown turtle with long claws is laying on a fallen tree over the Anacostia River. The trees are barren. Wooden debris in the water.]

and, a lot of times, they don't see the bigger story of what's happening. They know they're a part of it,

[Photo: A young lady is smiling. She is wearing vibrant red glasses and flower silver stud earrings. Her hair is straight and falls above her shoulders. The river is visible behind her.]

but they don't see it all kind of laid out, and there's something really powerful, I think, about seeing

[Photo: A young person is smiling, with the river behind him. He has short straight black hair and dark eyes. He is wearing black brimmed glasses.]

the trajectory, like, the story line

of a place

[Photo: A man is smiling, with the Anacostia River and docks behind him. He has white and gray hair.]

and knowing that even if you're getting frustrated at this moment,

[Photo: A young lady is smiling. There is a parking lot behind her. She has dark straight hair with red highlights and side bangs. She is wearing black brimmed glasses.]

there was a before that was a lot worse, and that means there's a future that could be a lot better and that you're playing your part in that.

[Photo: A man is smiling, with the river and docks behind him. He is wearing a vibrant light green baseball hat. He has short white and gray hair beneath.]

And, so, I think, you know, being a storyteller and a photographer

[Photo: A young lady is smiling while paddling in a blue canoe. She is wearing a poncho. It is raining. Trees line the Anacostia river in the background.]

can really help get you connected to people that need to hear that. Like, they need to feel encouraged about what they're doing.

