

Michael



MICHAEL POPKIN

COUNCIL MEMBER
SINCE 2019

I'm a Canadian-Australian who has spent about a quarter of his life living and working in Asia (Thailand, Cambodia and now Hong Kong). I have been with my partner, Scott for 9 years. He is a photographer and I am a lawyer, practicing Cayman Islands and British Virgin Islands law and specializing in complex cross-border disputes, financial distress and restructuring.

If you had to write a book, what will the title be? Why?

Truthfully, I would probably be more likely to author a legal text than an autobiography or novel. That being said, over the years I've lived through some extraordinary times in extraordinary places. I'm sure I could cobble together enough true short stories to write a book that most would suspect to be fictional. It would have some sharp and clever title that I would have spent weeks agonizing over.



How did you get to know PS and how did you become involved?

A very old friend was aware of the time that had spent living in Cambodia in the 1990s and put Victoria in touch with me as someone who might be interested in becoming involved with PeopleStories.

Why PeopleStories?

It was the right opportunity and the right organization at the right time for me. I was looking for a way of 'giving back' that was outside of my busy professional life and that could make a real difference in the lives of people in need.

PeopleStories ticked all of my boxes and, as a bonus, focused on helping young people living in a part of the world that has had a great personal impact on my life.

You are very generous with your support to PeopleStories. What do you get out of it for yourself?

I work in a very high-stress, competitive and confrontational environment in the densely populated, bustling and exciting world city that is Hong Kong. Working with PeopleStories allows me to step outside of that world, gain inspiration from and work alongside of people like Victoria and the other PeopleStories volunteers who dedicate themselves to helping young people realize their potential and providing them with a greater opportunity to a quality education.

If you are granted 3 wishes to make the world a better place, what would those wishes be?

- 1) To reverse the damage that man has done, and continues to do, to our planet so that we will continue to have a home long into the future.
- 2) To give people the wisdom to actively seek to gain insight into the lives of others. I believe that empathy is the foundation of true understanding, and that from understanding ultimately flows respect and love.
- 3) To plant the seed of true curiosity and imagination in the mind of every young child. These are gifts that will drive a life in unexpected and fulfilling directions.



www.PeopleStories.net
contact@PeopleStories.net

