

## Speaking, Training, and Workshops

Thank you for your interest in speaking, training, and workshop services. This document is intended to provide an overview of Kiran's services, but is not a finite list. Kiran prides himself on working with each patron individually to help craft the best experience possible based on the scope, needs of your event.

### About Kiran Singh Sirah

KIRAN SINGH SIRAH is a Folklorist, Peacebuilder, Storyteller, and Past President of the International Storytelling Center (ISC), an educational and cultural institution dedicated to enriching the lives of people around the world through storytelling. Between 2013 – 2023, Kiran led ISC's work to organize the world's premiere storytelling event, the National Storytelling Festival, and supported applied storytelling initiatives across a wide variety of creative industries. Prior to his appointment at ISC, Kiran developed a number of award-winning arts, cultural and human rights initiatives in cultural centers across the UK and Ireland. These programs have received recognition from UNESCO, Her Majesty the Queen's Authority in Education, and the European Commission. He has spoken at the Library of Congress and the Kennedy Center, led stories for peace-based discussions with the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, led workshops for the US State Department, the US Department of Defense's force directorate, and led trainings for US commanders at Fort Benning military base in Georgia. He is widely recognized for advancing storytelling as a tool for building social empathy and intercultural understanding. In 2015, he was invited to the White House in support of storytelling efforts for national grassroots peace building efforts. An advisory member to UNESCO Scotland and a Rotary Peace Fellow, he has developed articles, talks and conference papers about interdisciplinary approaches to relationship building in communities around the globe. Kiran emphasizes his interest in "the power of human creativity, arts, storytelling and social justice, and the notion of a truly global multicultural society." In 2017, he was awarded the "Champion of Peace" recognition at the Rotary International ceremony at the United Nations Peace Week in Geneva. His *Telling Stories that Matter* toolkit aims to raise storytelling from a form of entertainment to an ethical art tool for social justice and empathy building, and as a global force for peace. Kiran firmly believes storytelling not only has the power to enrich lives, but it also holds the key to building a conflict free society.

Kiran's ISC vision aims to use storytelling as a grassroots empowerment tool, an instrument of global peacebuilding, and an international development strategy that seeks to empower everyone's potential to tell a story. Kiran firmly believes storytelling not only enriches lives, it can change the world. Read more about his work in "[Fostering Peace through Stories](#)," an article by Jeff Ruby in *The Rotarian*.



Speaking at Pathways to Peace at the United Nations in Geneva. 2017.

### **Talk and Workshop Descriptions**

All talks and workshops from ISC can be fully customized for your event, helping to ensure a truly unique experience. Below are descriptions of some of our more popular talk and workshop themes.

**The Transformative Power of Storytelling: A Social Force for Social Change**—Kiran Singh Sirah discusses the power and artistry of storytelling as an ancient art form and as the world's oldest form of communication. He also discusses what he describes as one of the greatest community-building tools that we can use to foster, cultivate, and strengthen peace and collaboration in our communities, and will also explore how we might collectively use new storytelling forms in the arenas of peace, health, and community development to help establish a healthier culture.

**Your Values, Your Impact, Your Stories**—How can personal relationships developed through storytelling help us frame discussions aimed at building stronger, more cohesive communities? This talk explores the role of storytelling as a tool to transform what you do every day into stories that help to strengthen and inspire your work and role in building community.

**Creating Home: Building Community through Storytelling**—Kiran Singh Sirah explores the role of storytelling as a tool for conflict prevention, community development, and social change. Through examples of social justice, race relations, and community cooperation, Sirah explains how personal relationships developed through storytelling can help us frame open and honest dialogue to help build stronger, more cohesive communities.

**Building Community Resiliency through Storytelling**—Storytelling has tremendous power to transform the way we see ourselves and each other. Kiran Singh Sirah discusses storytelling for community building, and how it can help to build stronger, healthier, more cohesive communities. Sirah discusses storytelling's unparalleled ability to transform the way we see ourselves and others—how it links us, not just despite our differences, but because of them.

## Talk and Workshop Examples

### [Kiran Singh Sirah's Speaker Profile](#)

"[Telling Stories that Matter](#)," a short talk which explores how storytelling can help foster peace, tolerance, and understanding.

"[Storytelling: A Peaceful Power](#)" a talk presented at TEDxNashville in 2016.

"[Cultivating Community through Story](#)," a keynote address at the City of Charleston Public Library as part of a community- wide healing initiative following the massacre at Mother Emanuel AME Church in 2015.



Kiran (in Tennessee) leading a workshop in Melton, Australia via video-conference, Sept. 2019.

## Talk and Workshop Formats

Below are descriptions of our most popular offerings. Fees\* vary for each, and final costs depend on a number of factors including the number of participants for each event, the length of time each event will run, the amount of preparation time involved, the overall scope of the event, and the final needs and budget of the host agency.

Keynote talk with Q&A	Perfect for a public address or similar event, our keynote talks generally focus on applied storytelling and its role in your work. Keynotes typically include a 30 to 40-minute talk with a 10 to 20-minute open Q&A session, but are flexible depending on the host agency's needs.
Stand-alone workshop	This half-day session (3 hours) is developed in concert with the host agency, and offers a deep dive look at the roles of story and storytelling as tools for social change. Participants have a hands-on experience both working solo and in small groups, and leave with concrete ideas they can immediately utilize in both personal and professional settings.
Keynote and workshop	A popular choice for conferences and multi-day events, this talk-workshop grouping combines the workshop experience as described above with a keynote including Q&A. The workshop can be shortened to a 2-hour time frame, or left at 3 hours. The talk can be given either as a pre-cursor or a follow-up to the workshop.

A “Weekend Experience”	For those wanting an all-inclusive package, the “weekend experience” offers two whole days of applied storytelling training. This option provides opportunities for invite-only components, public events, and informal coffeehouse-style chats. Keynotes and workshops are often embedded in this experience, and all components are developed in concert with the host agency.
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\*Fees do not include travel and lodging expenses. Travel expenses including lodging, meals, and flights are billed at actual cost. Mileage is billed at the current IRS-approved rate.

Thank you again for your interest. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. We look forward to working with you!

**For booking inquiries, please contact:**

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