



INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING CENTER

Connecting the World through the Power of Storytelling

Speaking, Training, and Workshops

Thank you for your interest in speaking, training, and workshop services from the International Storytelling Center (ISC.) This document is intended to provide an overview of our services, but is not a finite list. We pride ourselves on working with each patron individually to help craft the best experience possible based on the scope, needs, and budget of your event.

About the International Storytelling Center

The International Storytelling Center (ISC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of people around the world through the art of storytelling. It is our organization's goal to inspire and empower people to capture and tell their stories, listen to the stories of others, and use storytelling to produce positive change. The Center's campus includes the 14,000 square foot storytelling facility including a 95-seat theatre, conference rooms, and outdoor space, all surrounded by a three-acre park in the heart of historic downtown Jonesborough.

ISC's flagship event, the National Storytelling Festival occurs annually during the first weekend of every October. It is the oldest and most prestigious event of its kind in the world and ignited the modern day storytelling revival in America. In venues ranging from our intimate theatre to tents that seat 1600, festival attendees are treated to compelling performances from over 30 world-class, professional storytellers.

Programming at the Center also includes the renowned teller-in-residence series, Storytelling Live!, which boasts a 26-week lineup of nationally- and internationally-known storytellers in Jonesborough, Tennessee—the storytelling capital of the world. From April to October, a different artist appears each week in live matinee and evening performances at the Center Theater.

ISC's work in applied storytelling can be seen in its community engagement, peacebuilding, and trauma-informed storytelling initiatives. These include Freedom Stories: Unearthing the Black Heritage of Appalachia, a program focused on hosting progressive, expert-led community dialogue on a range of difficult yet important subjects; Stories as Medicine, a training initiative for healthcare workers of all kinds; Shero's Journey for at-risk young girls; and the Young Appalachian Story Summit, an empowerment program promoting civic engagement and leadership.

About Kiran Singh Sirah



Kiran Singh Sirah is President of the International Storytelling Center (ISC.) Prior to his appointment at ISC, Kiran developed a number of award-winning arts, cultural and human rights programs in centers across the United Kingdom and Ireland. These programs have received recognition from UNESCO and Her Majesty the Queen's Authority in Education, as well as the European Commission.

While at the ISC, 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 and US Department of Defense, and in 2019 was invited by Dolly Parton to provide training for her Imagination Library team and global affiliates. Kiran is widely recognized for advancing storytelling as a tool for building social empathy and intercultural understanding.

As an advisory member to UNESCO Scotland and a Rotary Peace Fellow, he develops articles, talks and conference papers about interdisciplinary approaches to relationship building in communities and around the globe. In 2012, Kiran was invited to give a keynote address at the Rotary International United Nations Day at the UN headquarters in New York City. There he launched his *Telling Stories that Matter* toolkit, which is now used in more than 18 countries. In 2017, Kiran received a “Champion of Peace” recognition at the Rotary International ceremony at the United Nations Peace Week in Geneva.

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*.

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.”](#) explores how storytelling can help foster peace, tolerance, and understanding.

[“Storytelling: A Peaceful Power”](#) 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 leading a workshop in Melton, Australia, via video-conference, September 2019.

Talk and Workshop Formats

Below are descriptions of our most popular offerings, along with price ranges for each. Prices are suggestions with some inherent flexibility. 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. All revenue generated here is directed to our arts and education programming, and it is our aim to make our work equitable and accessible while still supporting our programs. We fully believe in the power of story to make the world a better place; as such, we prioritize initiatives that align with our values and commitments to social justice, equity, diversity, and peace for all.

NOTE: At this time, all talks and workshops are designed for virtual delivery via video-conference.

Scenario	Description	Price Range Suggestions*
A one-hour talk including Q&A	Perfect for a keynote address or similar event, our virtual talks introduce the concept of applied storytelling and the work of the ISC. This talk typically include a 40-minute talk with a 20-minute open Q&A session, but are flexible depending on the host agency's needs.	\$1,500-\$2,000
A 3-hour workshop	This half-day session is developed in concert with the host agency, and offers a deep dive look at the role 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 tools they can immediately utilize in both personal and professional settings.	\$2,500-\$3,000
A one-hour talk with Q&A and a 2-3-hour workshop	A popular choice, this talk-workshop grouping combines the workshop experience as described above with a one-hour keynote including Q&A. The workshop can be shortened to a 2-hour time frame, or left as is. The talk can be given either as a pre-cursor or a follow-up to the workshop.	\$4,500-\$5,000
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 small group training with its invite-only components, as well as public events open for everyone. All components are developed in concert with the host agency, with invite-only trainings geared toward the specific needs of the group. (Note: although this is called a "Weekend Experience" it can be booked for any two-day time period.)	\$7,000-\$8,500

*Prices do not include travel and lodging expenses. Travel expenses including lodging and meals 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!

Lynnea Salinas

Assistant to the President | International Storytelling Center

1.800.952.8392 x271 | Lynnea@StorytellingCenter.net

www.StorytellingCenter.net

Pronouns: she/her ([What's this?](#))

In association with the Smithsonian Institution

116 West Main Street T 423-753-2171 800-952-8392
Jonesborough, TN 37659 F 423-913-1320 www.storytellingcenter.net

Updated:
April 20, 2021