

KIRAN SINGH SIRAH
Speaker / Consultant / Peacebuilder
President, International Storytelling Center

“Kiran’s work building community and cross-cultural constructive ties among people through their most cherished and meaningful cultural assets is much needed in our globalized societies, in search of a creative, peaceful future. I applaud him for his talent, devotion, innovation, and energy in service of his cause—the cause of all of us.”

—Dr. Daniel Sheehy, Director Emeritus, Smithsonian Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage

“Kiran’s contributions explore culturally diverse approaches through working with communities affected by conflict and marginalization.”

—Joanne Orr, Chair of UK National Commission, UNESCO Scotland Committee

“With his background in the arts as well as an ability to teach effectively, Kiran gives individuals and communities new ways to approach collaborative efforts aimed at conflict resolution on any level.”

—Rebecca Popham, Managing Editor, Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation-USA

“Kiran’s kind of enthusiasm and support is greatly appreciated. He gave an outstanding talk about the power of stories for community building and peacemaking.”

—Nicole Saylor, Head of the Archive, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress

“Compared to other education and public relations professionals whom I have worked with, Kiran Sirah has a sharp instinct for presenting complex information from a relatable and fresh perspective.”

—Dr. Alice Wessen, Public Engagement Manager, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

“Kiran brought a fresh, creative energy to our team and helped us to think about creative storytelling in new ways. The toolkit he developed while he was with us continues to be a useful resource for the global network of Partners [for Democratic Change] Centers all over the world.”

—Julia Roig, President, Partners for Democratic Change

“Kiran is one of those thinkers whose ideas often seem, at first glance, brilliantly outside of the box; on closer examination, however, one realizes that they’re not so much outside of the box as busily re-framing the box, re-conceptualizing possibilities in strikingly original ways. What emerges is not necessarily what one expects, but instead what one couldn’t even have imagined . . . but which seems to make complete sense once it’s in place.”

—Dr. Glenn Hinson, Acting Director, Folklore Program, University of North Carolina

“Kiran’s presentation added significant depth to the program and encouraged the audience to view intercultural communities through a different lens – that of storytelling!”

—Jessica Trijburg, Melton City Council; Melton, Australia

"Kiran emanates joy and warmth! I'm excited to share his wise words and his recent talks with everyone..."

—Jan Elston, Vice President for Competitive Grant Programs, East Tennessee Foundation

"Kiran is truly an expert in the field of professional storytelling."

—Dr. Brian Noland, President, East Tennessee State University

"Kiran is an excellent communicator and people-person which makes him highly suited to tasks involving facilitation and mediation. He is able to relate to people on many different levels and is genuinely passionate about his work which contributes to his success in dealing with sensitive and often contentious topics."

—Dr. Rhiannon Mason, Director of the International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies and Senior Lecturer in Museum, Gallery and Heritage Studies, Newcastle University

"He is very creative and accomplished in a variety of visual and performing arts and uses these talents to facilitate the expression of identity by marginalized and troubled communities for which he demonstrates compassion and understanding. His work has shown the value of the arts in bringing together communities in conflict, promoting mutual understanding that lays a foundation for conflict resolution. Most important is that Kiran has the will and an abundance of charm needed to inspire others to support him in positive actions towards these ends."

—Frank Webb, D.Phil. Professor of the Practice of Public Policy, Duke Center for International Development, Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University

"Kiran's commitment to thoughtful dialogue, connecting people across difference and conflict, and creating transformative educational experiences is exceptional, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with and learn from him."

—Emily Chavez, Outreach, The Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University