



2018 Appalachian Storytelling Summit for Young Adults

My Voice. Our Place.

December 14, 2018

- 8:00 am – 9:00 am: Registration/Breakfast
Coffee & tea + local pastries & breads from [The Corner Cup](#)
- 9:00 am – 9:45 am: Welcome & Keynote Address with ISC President and UN
Peace Champion [Kiran Singh Sirah](#)
- 10:00 am – 12:00 pm: Stories in Action with [Appalshop Media Institute](#)
- 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm: 100-mile lunch provided by [Boone Street Market](#)
- 2:00 pm – 3:45 pm: Storytelling Workshop with [Adam Booth](#)
- 3:45 – 4:00 pm: Closing Remarks

My Voice. Our Place.

Appalshop Media Institute (AMI)

Since 1988, AMI has prepared generations of young people to work in their communities and to confront persistent problems. In learning how to examine and represent critical community issues, youth in AMI develop a range of verbal, artistic, and technological skills that connect them civically to their homes. Join us as Appalshop Media Institute walks us through the profound effect the organization has had of youth storytelling in Appalachia. AMI will offer a glimpse at their story circle techniques and share video documentaries on stories in action from their students.



Storytelling Workshop with Award-Winning Storyteller and Educator Adam Booth

Our stories won't be told unless we speak for ourselves, and who knows Appalachia better than Appalachians? Let's take our communities back into our own hands and tell our stories with our own voices. This workshop will guide participants toward identifying the change they wish to see in their communities with story, including finding the right language to engage our people and inspire them to action. We will aim for a broad network of local operations aimed at telling a better, fuller story of our places with change for our future in mind. Appalachia is our place, so let's use our voices to guide it as we see best.

Adam Booth's storytelling blends traditional folklore, music, and an awareness of contemporary Appalachia. His original cinematic style, both humorous and touching, is influenced by generations of diverse storytellers from West Virginia. His telling appearances have included

Teller-In-Residence at the International Storytelling Center (three times), New Voice at the National Storytelling Festival, Timpanogos Storytelling Festival, resident at the Banff (Alberta) Spoken Word program, multiple events in twenty-three states, and collaborations with the West Virginia Dance Company, Goose Route Dance Company, Frederick Chorale, and Hagerstown Choral Arts Society. Equally at home as a teller and educator, his research and presentations have included the Berea Appalachian Sound Archives Fellowship, the National Academy of Medicine, Ghost Ranch, the National Storytelling Conference, the Appalachian Studies Association Conference, and the National Endowment for the Humanities Voices from the Misty Mountains summer seminars and institute. He teaches Appalachian studies at Shepherd University and is the founding director of the Speak Story Series. Adam is most at home sharing stories and music with the next generation of listeners and tellers throughout Appalachia.



INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING CENTER

KIRAN SINGH SIRAH is president of the International Storytelling Center (ISC), an educational and cultural institution dedicated to enriching the lives of people around the world through storytelling. ISC organizes the world's premiere storytelling event, the National Storytelling Festival, and supports applied storytelling initiatives across a variety of creative industries.

Prior to his appointment at ISC, Sirah developed many award-winning arts, cultural and human rights programs in cultural centers across the United Kingdom and Ireland. These programs have received recognition from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the European Commission. He has spoken at the Library of Congress and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and has led stories for peace-based discussions for the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, for United States commanders at Fort Benning Georgia, for the U.S. Department of State, and for the U.S. Department of Defense. Sirah is widely recognized for advancing storytelling as a tool for building social empathy and intercultural understanding.



In 2015, Sirah 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 and around the globe. His interest lies in the power of human creativity, arts, storytelling, social justice, and the notion of a truly global multicultural society. In 2017, Sirah was named a Champion of Peace during Rotary Day at the United Nations.

Sirah believes that storytelling not only has the power to enrich lives, it also holds the key to building a conflict-free society.



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