



# INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING CENTER

## ISC's Year in Review



*In 2018, ISC made great strides in cultivating and serving our young audience, strengthening regional ties, and reaffirming our position as a cultural leader on the national and international stages. Here's the highlights reel from the last 12 months.*

### Empowering Young People

ISC launched two brand new youth empowerment initiatives in 2018. Over the summer, we piloted **Stories for Change**, an eight-week leadership program for local young people. The concept was to create a series of workshops related to storytelling and storytelling-adjacent arts like dance, poetry, and photography. Our dynamic group of kids worked with master storytellers, working artists, and other guest teachers to learn about new ways to share their stories and to notice the stories unfolding around them every day. Our 2018 Stories for Change advisory board included specialists from East Tennessee State University, the local Boys & Girls Club, and other community partners.



On December 14, we launched a special conference for young adults, **Young Appalachian Story Summit**. Held on the ISC campus, this daylong event helped young leaders hone their skills, and taught them how to use storytelling to affect positive change. The event included a keynote from ISC President Kiran Singh Sirah, a workshop led by popular storyteller Adam Booth, and a special program from Appalshop's Appalachian Media Institute.

These new initiatives complement ISC's long-standing commitment to entertain, but also support and educate, young people. Both programs will be renewed in 2019—and we hope to scale up soon.

### YOUNG APPALACHIAN STORY SUMMIT



MY VOICE.  
OUR PLACE.  
12.14.2018

A STORIED LEADERSHIP  
SUMMIT FOR YOUNG  
APPALACHIANS

### Serving the Region and Strengthening Ties

As the health care industry warms to holistic care, more medical professionals are acknowledging the healing power of a story well told. Building on ISC's longstanding relationship with the newly merged health system Ballad Health (which serves 29 counties of Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, Northwest North Carolina, and Southeast Kentucky), we established a formal relationship with Unicoi County Hospital, a brand new state-of-the-art facility in nearby Erwin, Tennessee. We're involved with a variety of programs, including training and performance efforts, the hospital's "junior board," and a new arts and community health initiative.



ISC also reaffirmed its strong relationship with Dollywood's DreamMore Resort & Spa, our first Storytelling Site of Excellence, by co-hosting the second annual Lyrics & Lore storytelling and music event in January. This event provides an economic and cultural boost to the region by bringing together two time-honored Appalachian traditions.



## Exciting Developments in Digital

In October, ISC launched its new podcast, **StoryVault**, a program highlighting archival footage from the National Storytelling Festival. Our first episode examined the life and work of National Storytelling Festival fan favorite Kathryn Windham, who passed away in 2011. StoryVault blends entertainment, education, and preservation into a format that storytelling fans of all ages can enjoy. We're very proud of it, and so far it has been quite well received.

We have worked hard to revamp the ISC website, an update that will bring information about our events, programs, and resources to a whole new audience (and make info easier to find for everyone). We're actively pursuing grant support to get our digital library up and running, making decades' worth of Festival performances available to storytelling fans, academics, students, and folklorists around the world. It's one of the largest and most important collections of oral recordings in the world—and we want to make sure that everyone has open access to it.

Finally, we built on our success in years past with the National Storytelling Festival livestream, a live webcast that beamed programming from the Festival's Family Tent directly into the homes of far-away fans, students, and other watchers. This footage will soon be available on our website for fans and educators to enjoy free of charge.



## World-Class Programming

ISC's best-known audience outreach tool is our live events, most of which fall under the umbrella of our two signature programs, the National Storytelling Festival and the Teller-in-Residence (Storytelling Live!) series. It is a delight and a pleasure to produce storytelling concerts for an audience that includes new faces as well as the folks who have been with us since the very beginning of the storytelling revival in Jonesborough.



*In 2019, we will continue to push the boundaries of what's considered storytelling while spending time with the familiar faces that our listeners have come to know and love. We're also thinking hard about new opportunities for sharing stories with people both here at home and far away. After all, we believe that storytelling has the power to change the world.*

*Thank you for being part of the ISC story.*

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*In association with the Smithsonian Institution*