

**May 8-11, 2023**

**Media Advisory**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **LOCAL STORYTELLING NONPROFIT INVITES JEWISH, ISLAMIC, & DEAF COMMUNITIES AS PART OF HYBRID FESTIVAL**

**SALT LAKE COUNTY, UT & Virtual** – Story Crossroads celebrates “state of the art” for a worldview of the past, present and future of oral storytelling for the Jewish, Islamic, and Deaf communities as part of its hybrid summit and festival from May 8-11, 2023. Utah and worldwide audiences can use both the computer screen as well as venues such as the Murray City Park, Murray, Utah.

Story Crossroads is committed to remaining hybrid despite the ease of simply focusing on in-person events. This local nonprofit doubled its impact in the last two years and continues to work towards World Story Crossroads, an Olympic-level event in 2030. In preparation for this transformation, Story Crossroads is establishing ambassadors locally and from other continents with a multi-broadcasting and extreme hybrid experience.

Since its inaugural festival in 2016, American Sign Language interpretation has been available to attendees. The goal is to have Voice interpreters to feature more from the Deaf community. Having the “state of the art” addresses and performances are steps to build the bridge of understanding and respect.

Story Crossroads took training through the Utah Division of Arts & Museums called “Breaking Barriers” to be more conscientious and active in being accessible to all people. “We want to do more than take trainings,” said Rachel Hedman, executive director of Story Crossroads. “We want to put those trainings into action and continue to foster creative and compassionate communities locally and globally.” Story Crossroads prepares for their hybrid festival along with 15 story artists from Delaware, Oregon, and Utah and 40 youth tellers with various backgrounds and abilities.

**WHAT:** Story Crossroads Summit & Festival: The Hybrid

**WHEN:** May 8-11, 2023, see full schedule online

**WHERE:** Your computer and/or Murray City Park, 495 East 5300 South, Murray, UT

**COST:** Summit & Festival - \$15/family now or \$20/family after May 1 as well as 3 free events

**For more information, please visit:** [storycrossroads.org/festival](https://storycrossroads.org/festival)

**### Story Crossroads Funding** Thanks to our Academy & Festival Funders: National Endowment for the Arts; Utah Legislature/Utah Division of Arts & Museums; Western States Arts Federation; Utah Humanities; Zoo, Arts, and the Parks of Salt Lake County (ZAP); City of Murray-Cultural Arts; Salt Lake City Arts Council; Ashton Family Foundation; and many businesses and individuals.