

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5-8, 2025

Media Advisory

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COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS IGNITE DIALOGUE AT 10TH ANNUAL STORY CROSSROADS FESTIVAL

MURRAY, UT & VIRTUAL – Story Crossroads celebrates its 10th Annual Hybrid Summit & Festival from May 5–8, 2025, with a bold new feature: **"Courageous Conversations: A Respectful Story & Dialogue about Race."** This 2-hour event, supported by Utah Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities, blends performance with guided discussion to explore race, identity, and equity. Yet, these critical conversations are at risk—federal cuts threaten the very funding that makes them possible.

Facilitated by Gloria Mensah (GK Folks Foundation) and Greg Noel (Two Brothas Counseling), *Courageous Conversations* begins with story-centered learning, followed by a safe space for open dialogue and community reflection. It exemplifies Story Crossroads' mission to use storytelling as a tool for social growth and kindness—one of many programs available in both in-person and virtual formats.

"Storytelling gives us the space to listen and to heal," said Rachel Hedman, Founding Executive Director of Story Crossroads. "Without public support from groups like Utah Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities, these conversations—and the communities they empower—could be silenced."

The festival features 15 acclaimed storytellers from across the U.S., including the Twin Poets (Al Mills & Nnamdi Chukwuocha), Rachel Dunstan Muller, Sam Payne, and Tiffani Dean, whose multimedia work *Still Running* explores childhood trauma and mental health. Additional featured guests include global scholars like Stanford's Ato Quayson, University of Utah's Armando Solórzano, and BYU's Joy Sitawa Richards.

Virtual access remains a cornerstone, with programs streamed via Zoom or YouTube, and ASL interpretation available for most events. Dialogue continues through hybrid mingling sessions, including a Cinco de Mayo celebration focused on Mexican storytelling traditions.

WHAT: Story Crossroads Summit & Festival

WHEN: May 5-8, 2025, see full schedule online

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

COST: Summit & Festival - \$35/household plus two free events

For more information, please visit: storycrossroads.org/festival

Story Crossroads Funding: National Endowment for the Arts; National Endowment for the Humanities; Zoo, Arts & Parks (ZAP) of Salt Lake County; Utah Humanities; Creative West; Utah Division of Arts and Museums; City of Murray; Salt Lake City Arts Council; Utah Storytelling Guild and people like you.