

Media Connections

The International Storytelling Center transformed Tennessee's oldest town into the storytelling capital of the world and is using the power of storytelling to make a difference in communities worldwide. In addition to coverage from news outlets like CBS, PBS, *Al Jazeera America*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and NPR, our work and events have been featured in the following publications. Click any icon to read the full article.



Also seen in:



Connect

ISC has collaborated with many prestigious partners and collaborators in diverse fields such as technology, art, science, healthcare, education, and international development. We're excited to build on these existing relationships — and to explore new ones. Here are some of the partners we enjoy working with:



Testimonials

Media reports and listeners alike have great things to say about the International Storytelling Center and its signature event, the National Storytelling Festival. Here are a few of those voices:

Media

“For what New Orleans is to jazz . . . Jonesborough is to storytelling.” — *The Los Angeles Times*

“The trance came over the crowd without anyone being aware. A man’s iPod ear buds dangled, unused, around his neck. Potato chip bags lay untouched in teenagers’ laps. Two thousand people sat in folding chairs under a huge white tent, utterly still, listening.” — *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

“...the leading event of its kind in America.” — *USA Today*

“From all over America, people came to Jonesborough just to hear stories.”
— *Smithsonian*

“The old-fashioned art of storytelling has become a 21st-century sensation.” — *U.S. News and World Report*

“...where thousands of the faithful gather to take part in one of humankind’s most satisfying rites.” — *The New York Times*

National Storytelling Festival attendees

“Storytelling is the ultimate time and space travel. It’s the gift that I can share with my children as my parents and grandparents shared with me. There is true, genuine human connection involved, a thing which is becoming a rarity in our culture.”
— *Minda Rella*

“Storytelling is life; past, present, and future. It preserves our history, our heritage and our memories. It connects humanity across cultures and generations. It educates, empowers, and inspires future generations. It is the thread of existence that transcends time and space, interwoven with the joys and sorrows that are the human experience.”
— *Zumba Tama*

Continued

National Storytelling Festival attendees, continued

“Storytelling is a way to make connections, to build empathy, and to strengthen bonds. Our stories help us find what we share, rather than where we differ. Storytelling is also a vital way to bring our elders back to life for the young ones, to help shape their world, too.”
—*Snad Garrett*

At the very last minute I gave my speech students the assignment of watching the [National Storytelling] Festival live stream. Today several of them went on and on about how great all of the tellers were. They’re college students and I’m pretty sure that none of them have heard a professional storyteller before. I can’t begin to tell you how grateful I am, both personally and professionally, to be able to have participated and to be able to share it with my students. Thank you.”
—*Chara Watston, teacher*

Featured tellers from the National Storytelling Festival

“A great family reunion of tellers and fans.”
— *Donald Davis, storyteller*

“Getting invited to Jonesborough is like Broadway of an Oscar nod for storytellers... and the audience is 100-percent for you.”
—*Bil Lepp, storyteller*

“It’s a sacred trust to perform there.”
—*Susan O’Halloran, storyteller*