

2027 UNITY MIDYEAR CONFERENCE

UNITY Talks: From Issue to Story. From Story to Action.

DRAFT PUBLIC AGENDA | FEBRUARY 12–15, 2027 | SHERATON PHOENIX DOWNTOWN
Phoenix, Arizona | Schedule subject to change

All participants will explore five styles of digital storytelling — Vlog, Podcast, UNITY News, Public Talk, and Creative Campaign. For each style, participants first watch a Native professional model the format in the Main Ballroom. They then move to Breakout Rooms 1–4 to complete a guided handout, practice the skills, create and edit a short reel, and share their work with their breakout group before repeating the cycle with the next storytelling style. Participants will then select a final project to develop and showcase on Monday.

ROOM FLOW

MAIN BALLROOM — General assemblies, Native professional keynotes/panels, live storytelling demonstrations, final project kickoff and final showcase

BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — Guided handouts and skill-building, hands-on Story Labs, reel creation and editing, small-group sharing, speed workshops and final project production

PRECONFERENCE | FEBRUARY 10–12, 2027

Wednesday, February 10

9:00 AM–5:00 PM — National UNITY Council Summit Pretraining — Day 1

Thursday, February 11

9:00 AM–5:00 PM — National UNITY Council Summit Pretraining — Day 2

Friday, February 12

9:00 AM–12:00 PM — National UNITY Council Summit Pretraining — Day 3

1:00–3:00 PM — Potential Cronkite School of Journalism / Site Visit

4:00–6:00 PM — Conference Registration Opens

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 | LEARN + PRACTICE

7:00–8:00 AM — National UNITY Council Executive Committee Business Meeting — Part I

7:30 AM–5:00 PM — Conference Registration

8:00 AM–5:00 PM — College & Career Fair, Exhibitors & Vendors

8:30–9:00 AM — DJ Morning Music

9:00–9:25 AM — MAIN BALLROOM — Opening Cultural Blessing & Welcome

9:25–9:50 AM — MAIN BALLROOM — UNITY Talks Opening: Story Sovereignty, Consent & Accuracy

9:50–10:00 AM — Break

10:00–10:30 AM — MAIN BALLROOM — Native Professional Keynote/Panel + Live Demonstration:
Vlog / First-Person Storytelling

10:30–10:55 AM — BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — Vlog Lab: Guided Handout + Skill Practice

10:55–11:40 AM — BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — Create + Edit Your Vlog Reel
11:40 AM–12:00 PM — BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — Vlog Reel Sharing + Feedback

12:00–1:00 PM — Lunch
1:00–1:30 PM — MAIN BALLROOM — Native Professional Keynote/Panel + Live Demonstration:
Podcast / Audio Storytelling
1:30–1:55 PM — BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — Podcast Lab: Guided Handout + Skill Practice
1:55–2:40 PM — BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — Create + Edit Your Podcast Reel
2:40–3:00 PM — BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — Podcast Reel Sharing + Feedback

3:00–3:15 PM — Snack & Exhibitor Break
3:15–3:45 PM — MAIN BALLROOM — Native Professional Keynote/Panel + Live Demonstration:
UNITY News / Youth Journalism
3:45–4:10 PM — BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — UNITY News Lab: Guided Handout + Skill Practice
4:10–4:55 PM — BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — Create + Edit Your UNITY News Reel
4:55–5:15 PM — BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — UNITY News Reel Sharing + Feedback

5:15–7:00 PM — Dinner on Your Own
7:00–9:30 PM — UNITY Social Dance / Round Dance Night
12:00 AM — Youth Curfew

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 | COMPLETE THE 5-STORY CHALLENGE

7:00–8:00 AM — National UNITY Council Executive Committee Business Meeting — Part II
8:00 AM–5:00 PM — College & Career Fair, Exhibitors & Vendors
8:30–9:00 AM — DJ Morning Music
9:00–9:15 AM — MAIN BALLROOM — Morning Cultural Blessing & Story Check-In
9:15–9:45 AM — MAIN BALLROOM — Native Professional Keynote/Panel
+ Live Demonstration: Public Talk
9:45–10:10 AM — BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — Public Talk Lab: Guided Handout + Skill Practice
10:10–10:55 AM — BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — Create + Edit Your Public Talk Reel
10:55–11:15 AM — BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — Public Talk Reel Sharing + Feedback
11:15–11:30 AM — Brain Break
11:30 AM–12:00 PM — MAIN BALLROOM — Native Professional Keynote/Panel + Live
Demonstration: Creative Campaign / Digital Media
12:00–12:25 PM — BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — Creative Campaign Lab: Guided Handout + Skill
Practice
12:25–1:10 PM — BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — Create + Edit Your Creative Campaign Reel
1:10–1:30 PM — BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — Creative Campaign Reel Sharing + Feedback
1:30–2:45 PM — MAIN BALLROOM — UNITY Luncheon & Mock Pageant
2:45–3:05 PM — MAIN BALLROOM Table Tops — UNITY Talks Speed Workshops — Round 1 (20
min)
3:05–3:10 PM — Transition to Next Table

3:10–3:30 PM — MAIN BALLROOM Table Tops — UNITY Talks Speed Workshops — Round 2 (20 min)
3:30–3:35 PM — Transition to Next Table
3:35–3:55 PM — MAIN BALLROOM Table Tops — UNITY Talks Speed Workshops — Round 3 (20 min)
3:55–4:00 PM — Transition to Next Table
4:00–4:20 PM — MAIN BALLROOM Table Tops — UNITY Talks Speed Workshops — Round 4 (20 min)
4:20–4:35 PM — MAIN BALLROOM — Final UNITY Talks Project Kickoff: Choose Your Story, Style & Team
4:35–5:30 PM — BREAKOUT ROOMS 1–4 — Final Project Handout, Team Planning, Storyboarding + Production Start
5:30–7:00 PM — Dinner on Your Own
7:00–10:00 PM — UNITY Intertribal Round Dance
12:00 AM — Youth Curfew

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 | CREATE + SHOWCASE

8:30–9:00 AM — MAIN BALLROOM — DJ Morning Music
9:00–9:10 AM — MAIN BALLROOM — Morning Cultural Blessing & Final Story Huddle
9:10–9:40 AM — MAIN BALLROOM — Final Story Polish + Showcase Prep
9:40–10:30 AM — MAIN BALLROOM — Youth Project Showcase
10:30–10:40 AM — MAIN BALLROOM — Brain Break
10:40–11:15 AM — MAIN BALLROOM — Final UNITY Talks Showcase
11:15–11:30 AM — MAIN BALLROOM — Youth Reflection & Community Commitment
11:30–11:45 AM — MAIN BALLROOM — UNITY Leadership Message & Next Steps
11:45 AM–12:00 PM — MAIN BALLROOM — Closing Prayer & Friendship Circle

UNITY TALKS: FIVE STORYTELLING STYLES

Vlog — First-person issue storytelling
Podcast — Interviews and audio storytelling
UNITY News — Youth journalism and field reporting
Public Talk — Idea, story and call to action
Creative Campaign — Visual and digital media for sharing your story

DRAFT — Program times and activities are subject to change.