

# Storytellers Project

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2020

### **2020 Storytellers Project: All Storytellers Project shows through May 15<sup>th</sup> are postponed.**

PHOENIX —The USA TODAY Network, part of Gannett Co., Inc. (NYSE: GCI) as a precaution, has postponed all Storytellers Project shows through May 15, 2020, to help prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus. We are taking these steps out of an abundance of caution. Our newsrooms have worked hard to develop the trust that makes these nights possible and we feel like this is an important step in maintaining that trust.

Public health officials have not yet made this a requirement for events like these. And, we believe that creating empathy and understanding is vital in times of fear and uncertainty. Nevertheless, based on information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we think this is right for our partners, as well as our audiences, and for the journalists and community members who make these events possible.

This will affect 23 of our 107 total scheduled events. We are working rapidly reschedule all events and will honor original tickets. There are also

#### **Moving forward:**

- We are monitoring and following the recommendations of the CDC, city, county and state health officials.
- All events are canceled through May 15<sup>th</sup>. On April 15<sup>th</sup>, we will review this policy and either extend it or let it lapse.
- We are developing a series of livestreamed shows so the stories of our community members continue to be heard.
- We've removed all ads promoting the Storyteller Project shows during this period of time.
- We are happy to offer full refunds to any ticket holder, for any reason.

#### **More on the Storytellers Project:**

The Storytellers Project is a nationwide series of live storytelling nights in which neighbors and notables share true, first-person stories. These events combine oral storytelling and journalism to reflect and serve communities, as well as to develop connection and empathy in them. Journalists from USA TODAY Network newsrooms manage and host these nights in front of audiences of 75 to 1,200. The series has more than 100 nights in 2020, at venues ranging from the Rancho Mirage Library in Palm Springs, to Hoyt Sherman Place in Des Moines and the

Muhammed Ali Center in Louisville.

In less than 10 minutes each, everyday Americans share coached and curated stories that celebrate universal values while reflecting on themes chosen by the newsroom's staff to be broadly appealing, including food and family, love and dating, and growing up. The Storytellers Project celebrates the idea that when we share our stories, we become emotionally and financially invested in one another and in our community.

**About USA TODAY NETWORK**

The USA TODAY Network is the largest local to national media network in the country. Powered by integrated and award-winning news organizations with deep roots in 109 local communities, plus USA TODAY, the multiplatform news network informs and engages more than 110 million people every month through its diverse portfolio of digital, mobile, and publishing products.

**For media inquiries, contact:**

Evan E. Roberts

Marketing Manager, Storytellers Project and Storytellers Brand

Studio

602-622-9042

[evan.roberts@gannett.com](mailto:evan.roberts@gannett.com)