

# ASHEVILLE IDEAS FEST

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

June 13 - 17, 2023

 UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA  
ASHEVILLE

# Asheville Ideas Fest Overview

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Asheville Ideas Fest (AIF) is rooted in a commitment to our shared humanity, and the belief that seeing the world's great challenges from new perspectives will drive positive change in our world. We must recommit ourselves to true engagement—with respected thought leaders, new voices, and fellow citizens with whom we agree, as well as those who hold beliefs very different from our own. Now and always, engaging in civil dialogue is among the most patriotic actions we can take to strengthen democracy.

History demonstrates that Asheville is an ideal setting for this discourse. Here, nature sustains us, and our time spent in *active outdoor pursuits* prepares our bodies and sharpens our minds for *rigorous intellectual pursuits*. The mountains of Western North Carolina have long been a gathering place. For centuries, the Cherokee people have known this land as Togyasdi or “Where They Race.” In the last century, leaders in arts and industry—from Thomas Edison and Henry Ford to Nina Simone and F. Scott Fitzgerald—have spent productive time within these weathered peaks. Visitors and residents alike find inspiration from Asheville itself—one of America's great cities— and we invite you to join us for Asheville Ideas Fest, a gathering of creative thinkers and doers.

Asheville is a place where we come to breathe the invigorating mountain air, to rest, recharge, and revive. A place where visitors and residents alike immerse themselves in one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on earth. Asheville is a destination for creatives, where writers, scholars, chefs, brewers, and others gather in a shared spirit of inspiration and innovation. While timber and manufacturing drove the regional economy in the past, today it is technological innovation, healthcare, and intellectual pursuits that light the path to the future.

We invite you to come to our mountains, where vistas abound, and today's South awaits. You'll experience the diversity of thought that inspires us, the arts that lift us, the natural environment that challenges us, and the local cuisine and craft beverages that sustain us.

Commit yourself to Asheville Ideas Fest as an investment in yourself and in our society, for the deep listening, respectful discussion, and genuine understanding that we all crave. These mountains have long served as a gathering place, and we invite you to join us.



# Asheville Ideas Fest Schedule

**\*Subject to Change**

## Tuesday, June 13

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*Welcome event hosted at The Restoration Hotel in Downtown Asheville*

- 6:00 pm**                      **Arrival and Check-In**
- 6:00 - 8:00 pm**            **Welcome Reception with Live Music**

## Wednesday, June 14

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*Daytime Events hosted on the UNC Asheville Campus at Highsmith Student Union's Blue Ridge Room*

- 8:30 - 9:00 am**            **Coffee & Networking**
- 9:00 - 9:15 am**            **Welcome** by Dr. Kimberly van Noort (Interim Chancellor, UNC Asheville)
- 9:15 - 10:15 am**        **I Never Thought of it That Way: Approaching Difficult Conversations with Curiosity and Joy** with Mónica Guzmán (Senior Fellow for Public Practice, Braver Angels) and John E. Jones III (President, Dickinson College)
- 10:15 - 10:45 am**        **Networking Break**
- 10:45 am - 12:00 pm** **Braver Angels Red/Blue Fishbowl Exercise**
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm**        **Lunch**
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm**        **Placing the Platform: Using 3D Technology to Pinpoint Lincoln at Gettysburg** Keynote with Christopher Oakley (Associate Professor of New Media, UNC Asheville)



- 2:00 - 2:15 pm**      **Quick Break**
- 2:15 - 3:30 pm**      **The Intersection of Freedom of Speech and Social Media: Are They Compatible With Democracy?** With Laura Edelson (Postdoctoral Researcher, New York University), Alex Abdo (Litigation Director, Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University), moderated by Seth Berlin (Senior Counsel, Ballard Spahr)
- 3:30 - 6:00 pm**      **Explore Asheville Afternoon Break**
- Stand-up Paddleboarding the French Broad
  - Braver Angels Red/Blue Debate
  - AIF'23 Visiting Artist Show
  - Historical Walking Tour of Asheville

*Evening Events are hosted at the [Highland Brewing Event Center at Highland Brewing Company's Old Charlotte Highway Location](#)*

- 6:00 - 7:00 pm**      **Reception**
- 7:00 - 8:00 pm**      **World War C: Lessons from the Covid-19 Pandemic and How to Prepare for the Next One** with Sanjay Gupta, M.D. (Emmy® Award-winning Chief Medical Correspondent, CNN)
- 8:00 - 9:30 pm**      **Live Music at Asheville's Original Brewery** with Graham Sharp (Grammy-winning guitarist and vocalist, *Steep Canyon Rangers*) and Josh Turknett, M.D. (Founder, The Brainjo Academy)

## Thursday, June 15

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*Daytime Events hosted on the [UNC Asheville Campus at Highsmith Student Union's Blue Ridge Room](#)*

- 8:30 - 9:00 am**      **Coffee & Networking**
- 9:00 - 10:00 am**      **Witness to History Literary Panel** curated by Wiley Cash, (*New York Times* bestselling author and UNC Asheville Alumni Author in Residence), with panel discussions by Shaun Assael (award-winning journalist, author, and correspondent,) Kevin Maurer (*New York Times* bestselling author of *No Easy Day* and *American Radical*), and Melba Newsome (award-winning journalist, editor, and writer)
- 10:00 - 10:30 am**      **Networking Break**
- 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**      **AI: The Risks, The Potential, & The Governance Needed To Steward Safer Development** with Daniel Schmachtenberger (co-founder, Civilization Research Initiative) and Zak Stein (Chief Education Officer, Civilizational Research Institute)



<b>12:00 - 1:00 pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:00 - 2:00 pm</b>	<b>Restoring Public Trust in Journalism</b> with Charlie Sykes (Founder and editor-at-large of <i>The Bulwark</i> ; NBC/MSNBC contributor), Paula Kerger (President and CEO, PBS) and Amna Nawaz (co-anchor, PBS NewsHour), moderated by David Crabtree (CEO of PBS North Carolina)
<b>2:00 - 2:15 pm</b>	<b>Quick Break</b>
<b>2:15 - 3:15 pm</b>	<b>The Critical Role of Literature in Troubled Times</b> with Kwame Alexander ( <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author and Newbery Medal winner) and Wiley Cash, ( <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author and UNC Asheville Alumni Author in Residence)
<b>3:15 - 6:00 pm</b>	<b>Explore Asheville Afternoon Break</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cognitive Cross Training: Sustaining Brain Health Through Neuroplasticity with Dr. Josh Turknnett</li> <li>• e-Biking the French Broad River</li> <li>• Biltmore Gardens Tour</li> <li>• Good Conversations Curate Good Ideas: Making Conversations 100% Better Workshop</li> </ul>

**Evening Events hosted at the Omni Grove Park Inn**

<b>6:00 - 7:00 pm</b>	<b>Reception</b>
<b>7:00 - 8:00 pm</b>	<b>Resilience, Forgiveness, Unity</b> with Chris Singleton (speaker and author)
<b>8:15 - 9:45 pm</b>	<b>From Baltimore to Broadway</b> with vocalist Bryan Terrell Clark (of Broadway's <i>Hamilton</i> and <i>Motown</i> ) and the Asheville Symphony Orchestra

**Friday, June 16**

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**Daytime Events hosted on the UNC Asheville Campus at Highsmith Student Union's Blue Ridge Room**

<b>8:30 - 9:00 am</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; Networking</b>
<b>9:00 - 10:00 am</b>	<b>Writing A Round with Golf's Legends (Literary Panel)</b> with Pete McDaniel (bestselling author and Tiger Woods's biographer) and James Dodson (Founding editor of <i>O. Henry Arts and Culture Magazine</i> , <i>New York Times</i> bestseller, and Arnold Palmer's biographer), moderated by Wiley Cash, ( <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author and UNC Asheville Alumni Author in Residence)
<b>10:00 - 10:30 am</b>	<b>Networking Break</b>

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**10:30 am - 11:30 am** **The Future of Medicine and Technology** with Patrice Harris, M.D. (Co-Founder and CEO, eMed; former President, American Medical Association), Jeff Immelt (Former CEO, GE), Jason Cook, M.D. (co-founder and Chief Medical Officer at Olfax), and Sean Bellefeuille (CEO, Med Dimensions)

**11:45 am - 1:15 pm** **Food Truck Lunch**

**1:15 - 2:30 pm** **Second Amendment Perspectives: Constitutional, Policy and Cultural** with Ashley Hlebinsky (Senior Fellow, University of Wyoming Firearms Research Center), Kelly Sampson (Senior Counsel and Director of Racial Justice, Brady Institute) Chris Singleton (speaker and author) and David Joy (novelist and writer), moderated by Joseph Blocher (Director, Duke Center for Firearms Law)

**2:30 - 2:45 pm** **Quick Break**

**2:45 - 3:30 pm** **The Civilization/Biosphere Relationship: Causes Of Self-Induced Environmental Impacts (And How To Mitigate Them)** with Daniel Schmachtenberger (co-founder, Civilization Research Initiative ), Nate Hagens (Director, The Institute for the Study of Energy & Our Future (ISEOF)), and Joseph Owle (Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians)

**3:30 - 6:00 pm** **Explore Asheville Afternoon Break**

- e-Biking the French Broad River
- Historical Walking Tour of Asheville
- Listening for Connection Workshop (w/ Adrienne Shoch)

**Evening Events hosted on the [UNC Asheville Campus](#)**

**6:00 - 7:30 pm** **The Big Trends Shaping the World Today: Economics, Technology, and Geopolitics** with Thomas L. Friedman (Bestselling author and Foreign Affairs Columnist, *New York Times*)

**7:30 - 9:00 pm** **AIF'23 Closing Reception** with William Paul Thomas (AIF visiting artist) and live music



## Saturday, June 17

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### All Day:

### Explore Asheville with a curated list of events and activities Including:

- Whitewater Rafting on the Nantahala
- Blue Ridge Parkway Jeep Tour
- Ziplining the Blue Ridge
- Guided Hike of Mount Pisgah
- Behind the Scenes at Dykeman House w/ Wiley Cash
- Asheville Food Tour
- Artist Studio Tour of the River Arts District
- Biltmore House & Garden Tour
- North Carolina Arboretum Tour
- Exclusive Golf Round at Asheville Country Club or Grove Park Country Club