

IOWA INTERNATIONAL CENTER

DIALOGUE

ENGAGE LOCALLY. THINK GLOBALLY.

2017 DIALOGUE SERIES FREE PROGRAMS

**All programs will take place from Noon to 1:00 p.m.
in the Meredith Conference Core, 1716 Locust Street.**

Attendees may bring lunch or purchase food from the Meredith cafeteria.

Smiling and Singing: How Brazilian 2wins Overcame Adversity with Music and Positivity **Tuesday, March 7**

In a violent favela (shantytown) of Rio de Janeiro, Walter and Wagner Caldas' father, Jonas Caldas, a stringed-instrument maker, handcrafted violins for his twin sons. Jonas directed their focus away from crime around them, and, instead, fostered a love of music and desire to meaningfully impact the world. These passions eventually led the duo, now known as the Brazilian 2wins, to the United States, where they have toured as professional entertainers, motivational speakers, music educators and mentors, spreading their music and positivity. Their positive attitudes have helped them face much adversity in their lives—including cancer. Hear the Brazilian 2wins' unique style of music and the story behind the artists.

The Meeting Point: How the Organization Uses Journalism to Advance Diversity and Inclusion in Iowa **Tuesday, May 9**

Four years ago, Victor Ayara, an award-winning Nigerian broadcaster, voice artist and entertainer, came to the United States. In 2016, Victor, a passionate mentor of young people, established The Meeting Point, a media- and community-engagement platform to foster inclusion and increase awareness and understanding of the minority communities in Iowa and beyond. Now, in addition to working at Sammons Financial Group and completing his master's degree in communications, Victor is the Public Relations Officer for the Nigerian Association of Iowa, an advisor for Africans in Iowa for Empowerment, and the founder of Des Moines-based African band Ima Kulture. Victor will share his journey to creating The Meeting Point and expand on the promising journalism project.

Helping Hands: Stories from the 2017 Passport to Prosperity Honorees **Tuesday, September 12**

Each year the Iowa International Center hosts its annual Passport to Prosperity Awards Celebration and Gala, honoring immigrants and refugees who have made Iowa a better place to live through their contributions to the economic, social and cultural fabric of their communities. To celebrate these award recipients, the annual gala includes cultural entertainment and food samples representing their native countries. Learn more about Passport to Prosperity, meet the nominees before the event on September 23, and hear what makes each worthy of recognition.

Worth a Thousand Words: Bringing People and Cultures Together Through Photography **Tuesday, November 14**

At age 14, Mirza Kudic and his parents escaped the Bosnian War, fleeing to the United States. Mirza learned English, graduated from high school, and spent four years in the Army. He served in Iraq, and found readjusting to civilian life difficult. Six years ago, Mirza met a woman who helped him rediscover his purpose. Several years later, he picked up a camera and tapped into his creativity. Since then, Mirza has garnered a large following on social media for his Des Moines photography, and he formed Des Moines Photo Adventures. The organization brings people from all over Iowa for free photography lessons from Mirza. Des Moines Photo Adventures provides these photographers with a way to meet others who share their interests and passions; make new friends; and learn from one another. Mirza will discuss his photography program and the positive impact it's made on his own life.

PRESENTED BY



Welcoming the world to Iowa.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Free on-site parking is available in the Meredith parking ramp at 17th and Locust streets.