

Draft Agenda for Rockford Summit on Racism 2025

Theme: Embracing Difference for a Change

Purpose

The purpose of the Rockford Summit on Racism is to develop a culture of unity in which every individual feels they belong and are valued.

Strategies

- Share efforts individuals have made to create a better community.
- Utilize the arts to highlight the unity inherent within the diversity of our community.
- Develop, in working groups, how to foster a culture of unity, belonging and value.

Outcomes

- Know what our community has done to improve our culture.
- Understand it is up to us to change ourselves and how we interact with others.
- Act with a sense of urgency to achieve our goal of “Embracing Differences for a Change.”

	Event	Notes
8:00-9:00am	Registration/Breakfast/Vendor & High School Art Exhibit	Court 1
9:00-9:20	Native American Drumming Welcome by MC, Shelton Kay Mayor Tom McNamara Moment of Silence	Stage Area Court #4
9:20-9:30	Star Spangled Banner Lift Every Voice and Sing	Stage Area #4
9:30-10:10	Results of 2023 Summit: Stories about changes since the 1 st Summit	Stage Area #4
10:10-10:25	Introduction of 2025 Theme: Embracing Difference for a Change: President of the NAACP: George Scott: The Reason Why We’re Here	Stage Area # 4
10:25-10:30	Call and Response Song	Stage Area Court #4
10:30-10:45	Transition to Facilitated Groups	Transition

Session#1 10:45-11:45 5	Facilitated Conversation Purpose: Relationship & Imagining A. Facilitator introduces self, discusses the Agreements and identifies timer and notetaker- 5 min B. Questions: 2 min for each person per question. Cross-talk at the end if time allows. Notetaker will fill out the Vision Chart. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce yourself and share something about your cultural background that you value. What has been your experience connecting/embracing people of various cultural backgrounds. Tell about a time in your life when you felt most valued and cared about. What made you feel that way? The Notetaker at your table will record your ideas.	Table Groups in 5 different Rooms
11:45-12:45	Lunch/Performances/Vendors	Table Groups
12:45-1:15	Main Stage Performance: East HS Choir?? Stories that HS students share about their vision of a community where everyone feels valued and feel like they belong.	Stage Area Court #4
1:15-1:30	Transition to Facilitated Groups	Transition
Session #2 1:30-3:15	Purpose: Identify actions (Short-term and Long-term) we could focus on to create a community where everyone feels valued Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What could you/we do in the Rockford area toward creating a culture of "Embracing Differences, for a CHANGE? What bold initiatives could Rockford (individuals and businesses, schools, organizations & leaders begin to create a thriving, beloved community? Each Room creates its own list of 1 Short-term Action & 1 Long-term Goal Vote with your dot in your room to identify 1 Short-term Action and 1 Long-term Goal, from all the lists created at each table, to present on the Main Stage starting at 3:30. <p style="text-align: center;">Short-Term An action that can start today by everyone.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Long-Term A Goal that will take planning and time to accomplish.</p> 1. 1.	Table Groups and Whole Room Activity
3:15-3:30	Transition to Stage Area #4 African Drumming	

Closing 3:30-4:30	<p>Call & Response Song</p> <p>Purpose: To inspire people to begin to act with a sense of urgency to achieve our goal of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Embracing Differences for a CHANGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Room Leader will present One Short-term Action and one Long-Term Goal from their room. • The total of 5 Short-term Actions and 5 Long-term Goals will become the Priority Focus of Rockford. 	Stage Area Court 4
	<p>Commitment Postcard</p> <p>Before people leave, they write their name and address on a postcard and their commitment to ACTION on the Commitment Postcard and place it in a Commitment Box. We will mail the postcard to you in 1 month.</p> <p>Closing Ceremony</p>	Stage Area Court #4

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