

The Syracuse University Humanities Center presents

# dreams

Syracuse Symposium 2026-2027

An annual initiative of the Syracuse University Humanities Center, **SYRACUSE SYMPOSIUM** engages wider publics with innovative, interdisciplinary work in the humanities by renowned scholars, artists, authors, and performers, tied to a particular theme.

This year's programming engages the meaning and impact of **"DREAMS"** from diverse perspectives and genres, locally and globally, and all are welcome!

Visit [humcenter.syr.edu](https://humcenter.syr.edu) to explore further!

## ALL 2026-2027 SYMPOSIUM EVENTS:

- are free and open to the public: check our online [CALENDAR](#) listings for locations, registration links, and other developing details;
- provide content-appropriate accessibility assistance, such as captioning for films and real-time CART translation for conversational events;
- are occasionally modified due to unforeseen circumstances; please refer to the Humanities Center website for any updates to the activity you may be interested in.

# FALL 2026

SEPTEMBER 24 | 6-7:30 P.M.

## Seeds in a Rapid River: Kao Kalia Yang's Collective Storytelling

SUNY Upstate Medical University hosts author **Kao Kalia Yang**, whose collective memoirs incorporate sung Hmong poetry, storytelling, and visual art. Her stories show how creative, embodied practices remake home and belonging in the wake of war and displacement and in the face of the discrimination and material hardship that often accompany resettlement.

OCTOBER 1 | 4-5:30 P.M.

## Accessible Play: Imagining the Future of Inclusive Gaming

Co-organized by faculty in English and the School of Education, this interactive lecture features **victoria l. braegger** (Missouri University of Science and Technology) and **Brian A. Smith** (Columbia University), whose research focuses on accessible and inclusive game design.

OCTOBER 14 | 4-6:30 P.M.

## The Archive Is a Dream Machine: a Workshop in Speculative Archival Research

**Tamika Galanis** leads a hands-on Urban Video Project workshop in which participants produce short films and spoken word pieces to construct narratives through a process akin to dream work.

OCTOBER 15 | 6-8 P.M.

## Dream Deep Enough to Remember: The Films of Tamika Galanis

Urban Video Project's screening of short films by **Tamika Galanis** includes the experimental *By the Skin of Her Teeth*, inspired by scant archival evidence of Harriet Powell's escape from enslavement in Syracuse in 1839.

OCTOBER 19 | 4-5:30 P.M.

## Digital Sanctuaries: Where Joy and Healing Intertwine

**Desmond Patton** explains how engaging youth as collaborators and storytellers can bring technology into the realm of human connection and co-creation, to foster well-being. Rather than being passive consumers of technology or "red-flagged" as "at risk," students are positioned as agents of change, using digital tools to craft new futures.

OCTOBER 22 | 6-8 P.M.

## Beyond the Dress: Quinceañera Dreams and Cultural Identity

Acclaimed author **Yamile Saied Méndez** explores how the *quinceañera* tradition shapes identity, family, memory, and belonging across generations. Join La Casita for engaging conversation on this coming-of-age ritual, with a celebratory reception.

OCTOBER 23 | 10-11:30 A.M.

## The Work of Being Human Together

Author-activist **Kelly Hayes** draws on their experience as an organizer, movement educator, and storyteller to inspire other world-changing work we can dream into existence. This talk complements the current Special Collections Research Center exhibition, "We Demand! A Legacy of Activism in America."

OCTOBER 23 | 3-4 P.M.

## Meet the Scholar Coffee Hour: Activist, Author, and Educator Kelly Hayes

Syracuse University students, faculty, and staff are invited to network and converse with **Kelly Hayes** over coffee about their own interests, experiences, or scholarly inquiry related to activism. *Space is limited; RSVP recommended.*

OCTOBER 24 | 11:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M.

## Storytelling in Protests and Direct Actions

**Kelly Hayes** has photographed—and trained—thousands of activists and participants in direct actions. Syracuse University Libraries' Special Collections Research Center hosts a workshop with Hayes, for those engaged or interested in pursuing similar work. *Registration required.*

NOVEMBER 15 | 4-5:30 P.M.

## We Hold These Truths: A Choral Celebration of America's 250th

The Malmgren Concert Series presents an afternoon of music that reflects the nation's enduring ideals, evolving identity, and shared aspirations, featuring the voices of **Ensemble Sonora**, **Syracuse University Vox Salina**, the **Spirit of Syracuse Chorus**, the **Syracuse University Oratorio Society**, and singers from **Nottingham** and **Liverpool High Schools**.

For more information,  
visit [humcenter.syr.edu](https://humcenter.syr.edu)