

Sept. 26-28, 2017

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IdeaFestival Decides to Pause for 2018

As you know IdeaFestival® has been undergoing a complete reevaluation of every aspect of the enterprise. As part of this reimagining process, a shortened two-day event was held on September 27 – 28, 2017 at The Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, preceded by Thrivals 10.0, led by Dr. Nat Irvin, on Tuesday, September 26. During this year's event, over 20 world-class thinkers, innovators and leaders came to Louisville as part of the activity and energy during the IdeaFestival experience.

While we had another strong year, our audience has fundamentally shifted over the years and it is unclear at this point whether our "product" is still of sufficient value and relevance to a wide group of people, organizations and companies.

So after fifteen successful IdeaFestivals, we have decided to take a step back and not hold a Festival in 2018 to allow us time to determine whether there is in fact a sustainable program and financial model for IdeaFestival in Louisville.

It is important to note that Thrivals@IF, the first day of programming focused primarily on the local high school audience, is an independent event coordinated closely with IF but run by Dr. Nat Irvin at the University of Louisville and he is planning to continue Thrivals in 2018.

Also, other future student events like IF JCPS, an independent event organized by high school students for high school students with high school student speakers, is still scheduled for February 28, 2018 at The Kentucky Center and IF Bowling Green, in partnership with WKU, is still scheduled for February 15, 2018.

We remain passionate about our vision and mission to provide a "space" to promote the discussion and application of innovation, curiosity, discovery and disruptive thinking through a high-energy live event. We also remain committed to the open-source, accessible model that allows us to reach a highly diverse audience including young people.

Questions or comments may be addressed to idea@ideafestival.com.

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Kris Kimel
IdeaFestival® Founder



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