



## Mesa Walking Tour Sessions

Day 1- Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> between 10:30am -12:30pm

### Option #1

**Key Focus Area:** Innovate and Reinvent

**Session Topic:** Building Space for New Businesses

**Description:** The Studios at Mesa City Center is a repurposed mid-century building renovated by the City of Mesa in collaboration with Arizona State University that houses programs and support services for local community entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and students. Mesa invests in the support of small businesses with the Mesa Business Builder toolbox and other assistance programs to help any new entrepreneur thrive. In this session, learn how we created a hub for leading-edge institutions to connect with startups and business incubators to grow new ideas and products.

**Format:** Walking Tour

**Capacity:** 50

**Location:** The Studios @ Mesa City Center, 59 E 1st St

**Moderator/ MHN Host:** Zenia Cornejo & Andrea Alicoate

**Speakers:** Kelley Keffer & Yvette Armendariz

### Option #2

**Key Focus Area:** Innovative and Reinvent

**Session Topic:** Transforming Downtown Mesa: Uniquely Local

**Description:** Downtown Mesa, the heart of the third largest city in Arizona, is driving new development while working to maintain its historical character and support a diverse mix of local businesses that set Downtown Mesa apart! Explore downtown Mesa's Main Street area, including the home of the future restaurant incubator – focused on equitable success for local entrepreneurs. Learn about downtown's growing locally-owned retail and nationally recognized cuisine and brew. Stroll past award-winning eateries, microbreweries, and cider house and get some samples along the way. Find out what tools the City of Mesa is using to drive this growth.

This session will be primarily walking, please wear comfortable shoes.

**Format:** Walking Tour

**Capacity:** 50

**Location:** Downtown Mesa

**Moderator/ MHN Host:** Angelica Guevara

**Speaker:** Jeff McVey, Downtown Transformation Manager



## Mesa Walking Tour Sessions

### Option #3

**Key Focus Area:** Community Culture

**Session Topic:** Preservers of the Past, Curators of the Future

**Description:** Nestled in the heart of Mesa, the Arizona Museum of Natural History brings Southwest history to life through curated art exhibits and realistic displays. The Museum's role is to interpret and preserve the record of the natural world and our place in it, to promote understanding and respect for Arizona artifacts including connections to ancient civilizations, and to nurture ongoing relations with our current tribal partners. Come learn about the native people and local cultures, and the responsibilities of the City to be stewards of the past. If you are a dinosaur enthusiast, you'll love Dinosaur Mountain where you can experience moving and roaring dinosaurs and a flash flood running down the three-story exhibit!

**Format:** Walking Tour

**Location:** Arizona Museum of Natural History, 53 N Macdonald

**Capacity:** 50

**Moderator/ MHN Host:** Lucy Hambright & MARRISA Ramirez-Ramos

**Speaker:** Dr. Ismael Sanchez Morales

### Option #4

**Key Focus Area:** Innovate and Reinvent

**Session Topic:** Get Into the MIX: The New Technologies Connecting Us

**Description:** The Sidney Poitier New American Film School inspires the next generation of diverse filmmakers and storytellers. It opened its doors right outside of Mesa City Hall in a joint project between the City of Mesa and Arizona State University in August of 2022. The new Media and Immersive eXperience Center (MIX Center) is open to film majors who have become valuable partners in helping change the way the City connects with stakeholders using virtual reality collaboration for our Mesa General Plan Update, and other community engagement activities. Come tour this state-of-the-art facility that fosters the latest technologies to design virtual worlds and create immersive media experiences capable of producing anything from blockbuster superhero movies to VR video games, all while teaching students the skills they need to succeed in a digital economy.

**Format:** Walking Tour

**Capacity:** 50

**Location:** Media and Immersive eXperience Center, 50 N Centennial Way

**Moderator/ MHN Host:** Lucy Lopez

**Speaker:** Jeff Robbins



## Mesa Walking Tour Sessions

### Option #5

**Key Focus Area:** Expanding Borders

**Session Topic:** Emotional Recovery and Resilience

**Description:**

INFO NEEDED

Provided by NFBPA and Florida Chapter

**Format:** Seated Panel Discussion

**Location:** Mesa City Council Chambers, 57 E. 1<sup>st</sup> St.

**Capacity:** 100

**Moderator:** Maylee

**Speaker:** Dr. Phillip Harris

### DAY 2 - Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> between 10:45am -12:30pm

### Option #1

**Key Focus Area:** Community Culture

**Session Topic:** Mesa Grande: An Ancient Treasure in Modern Mesa

**Description:** Take a tour of the Mesa Grande platform mound built and used by the Ancestral Sonoran Desert People, ancestors of today's Four Southern Nations, between AD 1100 and 1450. The mound was the public and ceremonial center for one of the largest Ancestral Sonoran Desert Peoples villages in the Salt River Valley, a residential area that extended for over one mile along the terrace overlooking the river. The City of Mesa purchased the Mesa Grande ruins in the 1980s to preserve Mesa's premier cultural treasure and to open it to the public as an educational and recreational facility. Learn about this ancient land, and why the City navigated the preservation of its history.

This session will take place outdoors. Transportation will be provided to the location.

**Format:** Walking Tour

**Location:** Mesa Grande Cultural Park, 1000 N Date

**Capacity:** 25

**Moderator/ MHN Host:** Cynthia Ezcurra & David Pena

**Speaker:** Dr. Ismael Sanchez Morales



## Mesa Walking Tour Sessions

### Option #2

**Key Focus Area:** Innovate and Reinvent

**Session Topic:** A Whole New World! Changing the Way Libraries Serve

**Description:** One thing is for certain; libraries support lifelong learning and empower the community by providing free information and access to resources. But for libraries, it's the community needs and users that they serve that are changing, forcing them to break outside of the mold. Innovation is the only way they can adapt to meet the public's needs and aspirations for both now and into the future.

This tour offers snapshots of real innovation in action showcasing ideas and initiatives from Mesa Public Library that will inspire ideas for your changing community. From Seed Library, Museum To-Go boxes, and other educational and play kits, to self-service express and mobile libraries and even exploring AI technologies- they are doing it all! With a special feature on THINKspot, a maker space where the community can collaborate, innovate, explore, and learn with access to high-tech equipment.

**Format:** Walking Tour

**Location:** Mesa Public Library Main Branch, 64 E. 1<sup>st</sup>

**Capacity:** 50

**Moderator/ MHN Host:** Lucy Lopez

**Speaker:** Mesa Public Library Staff

### Option #3

**Key Focus Area:** Managing Diverse Communities

**Session Topic:** Inclusive Inspiration: Exploring Mesa's i.d.e.a. Museum - Where Art, Innovation, and Accessibility Unite

**Description:** Mesa's i.d.e.a. Museum is a premier place inspiring children of all ages to experience their world differently through art, creativity, and imagination. Where this museum truly shines is through its inclusive experiences and welcoming environment from the outside in. It is a priority to create spaces that are accessible, such as adaptive use, and being the first Autism Certified City, features diverse representation, particularly from local voices, and has a focus on inclusive programming for all ages (and we mean all!). Hear best practices from staff on how they have adapted and designed the museum to meet the diverse needs of their extensive audience. Learning from their adaptive design and inclusive programming can inspire other tourist destinations to create equally welcoming and accessible spaces. In addition, tour the latest exhibition that unique interactive tactile art and STEM activities.

**Format:** Walking Tour

**Location:** IDEA Museum, 150 W Pepper Pl

**Capacity:** 50



## Mesa Walking Tour Sessions

**Moderator/ MHN Host:** Vanessa Gonzalez & Aaron Garcia

**Speaker:** Jarrad Bittner, i.d.e.a. Museum Director & Visit Mesa

### Option #4

**Key Focus Area:** Innovate & Reinvent

**Session Topic:** Mesa Urban Garden: From Grassroots Efforts to Flourishing Community Gem

**Description:** The Mesa Urban Garden, located in the heart of Mesa's Downtown, has a mission to inspire sustainable urban living through education, community involvement, and creative cooperation. Celebrating its 11th year, the garden enhances and beautifies the neighborhood. It is firmly rooted as a gathering place for gardening events, classes, celebrations, music, art, entertainment, and more. Learn about the city/community collaboration, local engagement, placemaking efforts, and sustainability practices that brought this garden to reality and continue to ensure its success.

This session will take place outdoors. Transportation will be provided to the location.

**Format:** Walking Tour

**Location:** Mesa Urban Garden, 212 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave

**Capacity:** 50

**Moderator/ MHN Host:** Erica Navarro & Angelica Guevara

**Speaker:** Ryan Winkle & David Crummey

### Option #5

**Key Focus Area:** Expanding Borders

**Session Topic:** Critical Conversations: How Tough Conversations Lead to Career Growth

**Description:** Navigating a career isn't always easy, and neither are the conversations that come up along the way. In this session, hear from accomplished local leaders about conversations that shaped their careers, built them as leaders, and tested their communication skills as much as they tested their self-awareness in constructive, safe-space ways. Learn what worked, what didn't work, and how to create relationships based on trust to ensure these conversations begin and end well.

**Format:** Seated Panel Discussion

**Location:** Mesa City Council Chambers, 57 E. 1<sup>st</sup> St.

**Capacity:** 100

**Moderator/MHN Host:** Andrea Alicoate

**Speaker:** Forrest Smith