

NIGHT OF IDEAS 2026 CALL FOR SPEAKERS



Villa
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WHAT IS THE NIGHT OF IDEAS?

The Night of Ideas is an international diplomacy of ideas and knowledge French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, coordinated in the U.S. by Villa Albertine and the French Embassy. Held annually in cities across the globe, the evening brings together thinkers, artists, scholars, educators, and community members for public conversations and cultural programming centered around a central theme.

NIGHT OF IDEAS DENVER

The Night of Ideas Denver is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, April 16, 2026** (location TBA). The event will be organized by the Alliance Française de Denver, in partnership with Metropolitan State University of Denver and the Denver Project for Humanistic Inquiry. **This event is free and open to all;** even if you don't submit an application, please join us for evening refreshments and engaging discussions along with your family, friends, and students.

2026 NIGHT OF IDEAS THEME: "PAVING THE WAY"

Youth and Emerging Voices: Society's polarization profoundly affects young people; For them to drive meaningful progress, they need access to education (formal and informal), exposure to diverse and inspiring figures, and spaces where their voices carry legitimacy. How do we ensure quality education that fosters independence, critical thinking, and creativity? How do we make sure young people's voices are heard—and channeled toward dialogue across communities and opinions?

Inspiring Figures and New Solutions: At a time when political, scientific, and media authorities face deep mistrust fueled by misinformation, how do we restore legitimacy for bold new voices? How do we enable diverse opinions to flourish without opening the door to disinformation? What figures and social innovations deserve greater visibility?

Science and Technology as Sources of Hope: While AI raises legitimate concerns, scientific advances are still opening transformative possibilities. Sustaining this progress depends on scientific cooperation, independent research, and academic freedom. What conditions does forward-looking science require? How can science inspire new generations, and what models should guide the development of cutting-edge technologies?

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

We are seeking five educators, researchers, artists, and/or community voices to participate in the Night of Ideas Denver. Speakers will deliver a short presentation (5 minutes max) on a topic related to the 2026 theme. After all presentations are complete, the evening will continue with refreshments and members of the audience will join small group discussions led by each speaker, rotating between them. The five selected speakers will receive a \$200 stipend.

If you are interested in participating, please email dphi@msudenver.edu with a brief description of your proposed topic or question you would like to explore with the public by March 15th, 2026.

Speakers who are selected to present will be notified by email the first week of April.



Denver Project for
Humanistic Inquiry

