



## **Survivors Ball Showcase – Official Event Overview**

Presented as a featured segment of the 2026 Central Texas African American Family Support Conference (CTAAFSC), the Survivors Ball Showcase is a multidisciplinary, arts-centered production that integrates survivor testimony, creative performance, and fashion as a framework for reflection, learning, and community engagement. The showcase aligns with the conference theme, “Whole People. Whole Communities.” and is designed to honor lived experience through dignity-centered creative expression.

### **Purpose & Educational Intent**

This showcase is designed as a learning-centered, community experience that uses fashion, performance, music, and storytelling to explore themes of identity, recovery, and empowerment. Rather than presenting trauma for spectacle, the production is rooted in dignity, consent, and care—honoring each participant’s lived experience while prioritizing emotional safety and respect.

Through shared witnessing and creative expression, the showcase invites participants and attendees to reflect on how art-based practices can support mental wellness, recovery, and survivor-centered advocacy. The experience models how creativity, when guided by intention and responsibility, can complement traditional learning spaces and help foster connection, understanding, and collective healing.

### **Production Structure**

The Survivors Ball Showcase unfolds over a continuous 150-minute segment and is structured to support emotional continuity, operational clarity, and participant care.

### **Three-Act Experience**

#### **Act I – Voices That Heal**

Self-identified survivor testimony speakers share brief yet powerful, two-minute oratory moments delivered with intention and care. These are grounded in truth, hope, and dignity — inviting the audience into community listening rather than spectatorship. Introductions are limited to name only, reinforcing respect and allowing each voice to stand on its own.

## Act II – Rhythm of Resilience

Creative performance segments—including spoken word, music, and movement—translate lived experience into artistic expression, creating emotional momentum and communal uplift. These performances emphasize strength, growth, and becoming, while maintaining a family-friendly and conference-appropriate tone.

## Act III – The Runway Testament

A cinematic fashion finale where fashion becomes visual language — storytelling through silhouette, movement, texture, and symbolism. The goal is not perfection; it is presence. Not “fitting” a mold—but expanding what the runway can represent. Curated designers present collections as wearable narratives of transformation and identity. Survivor models walk to instrumental music layered with brief recorded reflections, allowing stories to be shared without interrupting flow. Collections are guided by themes of triumph, transformation, and resilience, expressed through cause-symbolic color narratives.

### Symbolic Color Framework

Silver = Physical disabilities /  
dismemberment

Teal = Invisible disabilities / chronic  
illness

Green = Mental health conditions

Pink = Medical recovery journeys

Black = Grief, identity-based  
trauma, or personal loss

Gold = Autism & neurodivergence

Rainbow = LGBTQIA+ identity,  
transitions, or rejection

Purple = Domestic violence / child  
abuse

White = Suicide loss

Red = HIV/AIDS / substance  
recovery

### Community & Representation

The showcase centers inclusive representation across race, age, body type, gender identity, ability, and lived experience. Participants may identify as survivors of physical or invisible disabilities, chronic illness, mental health conditions, medical recovery, grief or identity-based trauma, autism and neurodivergence, LGBTQIA+ identity-related harm or rejection, domestic violence, child abuse, suicide loss, HIV/AIDS, or substance recovery.

### Closing Context

The Survivors Ball Showcase offers a model for how creative production can function as both artistic expression and community learning. It invites attendees to witness with care, listen without judgment, and recognize that healing is supported through connection, presence, and shared responsibility.

### Call to action:

- To learn more about or Register for the full CTAAFSC conference experience and programming, visit [www.CTAAFSC.com](http://www.CTAAFSC.com)