



The International Black Theatre Summit 2025: **Building Creative & Cultural Connections** *(over the first decade of the next 100 years)*

[The CRAFT Institute](#) presents the 4th Biennial convening of The International Black Theatre Summit in Ghana

Date: Sun, April 27 - Fri, May 2nd, 2025

Location: Accra, Ghana

Journey with us as we draw upon the original AI, Ancestral Intelligence, to strategize the future of Black storytelling across platforms through Africa and the diaspora.

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For General Inquiries: egoes@thecraftinstitute.org

WELCOME TO IBTS 2025

Hello beautiful people! Very soon we will be in Accra, Ghana for The International Black Theatre Summit 2025! Please read through this document fully to have the most up to date information about our programming and the ways you can prepare for the journey.

If you have not already, please share with us your emergency contact [here](#) and join the IBTS Whatsapp chat [here](#).

Please note the most up to date FAQs:

Should I exchange money before I arrive in Ghana?

We suggest you wait and change your money in Ghana. Forex bureaus are everywhere, including at the airport near Carousel 1 of Baggage Claim. Make sure to carry new \$50 and \$100 bills for a better rate. They will not take it if there are pen marks or they are old notes.

My accommodation is Best Western Plus. What does Ground Transportation and Check In look like?

If you're staying at the Best Western Accra Beach Hotel, complimentary airport transfers are provided on your arrival and departure days. Upon arrival, look for a Best Western staff member holding an IBTS sign or wearing a Best Western Plus name tag in the arrivals area. They have received your flight information.

Please note: while the hotel provides ground transportation, individuals may also offer to assist with your luggage. If you accept this service, be prepared to tip as this is their expectation.

Hotel check-in begins at 2:00 PM. While early check-in is not guaranteed, if your room is ready, you'll be welcomed in. Otherwise, the hotel can safely store your luggage, and you are welcome to explore. Feel free to ask the front desk for taxi assistance.

ABOUT THE IBTS

In June 1996, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright [August Wilson](#) delivered his now-famous keynote, *The Ground on Which I Stand*, at the Theatre Communications Group's annual conference. This powerful address, hailed as "a critical Black theatre manifesto" (Harry Elam Jr., *American Theatre*, June 2016), sparked a groundbreaking conversation about racial inequities in the theater world, addressing issues like casting, funding, and audience representation. The speech's impact led to public events including the debate between Wilson and American Repertory Theater Artistic Director Robert Brustein, moderated by Anna Deavere Smith at New York's Town Hall. Listen to excerpts of the conversation between Wilson and Brustein [here](#).

Inspired by the momentum of this discourse, Dartmouth Theater Professors Victor Leo Walker II and William Cook, encouraged by Paul Carter Harrison, invited Wilson to collaborate on a major conference for Black theater professionals. Held at Dartmouth in March 1998, this historic gathering brought together luminaries like [Ntozake Shange](#), [Clinton Turner Davis](#), [Robbie McCauley](#), [Ricardo Khan](#), [Thulani Davis](#), [Ed Bullins](#) and [Woodie King Jr.](#), and more, laying the foundation for the ongoing work of the Black Theatre Summit.

Rooted in the legacy of August Wilson's landmark 1998 *On Golden Pond* Black Theatre Summit, IBTS was reimaged in 2018 by Dr. Monica White Ndounou as a celebration and expansion of Wilson's vision. The 2018 gathering brought together industry leaders, scholar-artists, and practitioners to address the intersections of creativity and commerce in Black storytelling across theatre, film, and media.

IBTS Mission: The International Black Theatre Summit is a Think Tank, global network, and biennial convening that gathers scholars and practitioners working in theatre, film, television, and related media and tech to strategize the future of Black storytelling across platforms throughout the continent of Africa and the Diaspora.

About The IBTS 2025

Presented by [The CRAFT Institute](#), the 4th Biennial convening of The International Black Theatre Summit will take place in Ghana 2025. Journey with us as we draw upon the original AI, Ancestral Intelligence, to strategize the future of Black storytelling across platforms throughout Africa and the diaspora.

Event: IBTS 2025: Building Creative and Cultural Connections (*Over the First Decade of the Next 100 Years*)

Date: Sun, April 27 - Fri, May 2nd, 2025

Location: Accra, Ghana

The Goal of IBTS 2025: Imagine we succeed in achieving a brilliant future for Black storytelling (What does it look like and how does it work?) The IBTS 2025 convening should help establish the necessary foundations for the first decade of the next 100 years of Black storytelling.

To guide us in establishing the necessary foundations for the first decade of the next 100 years of Black storytelling, we have put in place a [Logic Model](#) that will be used for our week together.

As a Think Tank, it is so easy to dive in deeply during our convenings, and feel lost after the summit concludes. This model will be a step in doing something different and maintaining our momentum. We will have Notetakers and Respondents in place to document our collective genius!

PROGRAMMING AND AGENDA

The **PILLARS** that are shaping the IBTS 2025:

Pillar 1: Practice and Performance

Pillar 2: Education in and through the Arts

Pillar 3: Finance

Pillar 4: Marketing and Public Relations

Pillar 5: Cross-Cultural Collaboration

Schedule at a Glance*

*Subject to change. Please note all meals are included, excluding Wednesday in Elmina.

Key:

IBTS Programming	Shuttle Transportation	Optional Opportunities
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Tuesday, April 29 - Arts Education (Using Practice and Performance)

9:30 am - 11 am	Church (Topic: Using the Arts to Enrich Educational Experiences for Our Youth)	Best Western Plus Accra Beach Hotel Conference
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Think Tank: Arts Education Policies: What Exists in Your Ecosystem	
12:15 pm - 1:30 pm	Think Tank: Culturally Specific Training and Practices We Need to Know	
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Lunch	
3:00 pm	Bus Departure to Bayview Village from Best Western	
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Cross Cultural Circle	Bayview Village

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Open Hour Break	Bayview Village
Served at 6:00 pm	Dinner	Bayview Village
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Community Network Hour (Public) <i>Because we have an early rise the next day, we have scheduled the bus to return to Best Western at 8 PM, although you are welcome to stay and hang out at Bayview Village into the evening!</i>	Bayview Village
8:00 pm	Bus Departure to Best Western Plus Accra Beach Hotel	

Wednesday, April 30 - [Excursion Day](#)

5:00 am - 9:00 am	Early pickup from Best Western Plus Accra Beach Hotel	Best Western Plus Accra Beach Hotel
9:00 pm - 9:00 pm	WE WILL DREAM: Cross-Cultural Arts Education Excursion to Elmina, Ghana by IMPACT (Nia Weeks and Damien Smith) in partnership with No Dream Deferred and Wanda Academy (More details below)	Elmina, Ghana
9:00 pm - 1:00 am	Travel back to Best Western Plus Accra Beach Hotel	Best Western Plus Accra Beach Hotel

Thursday, May 1 - Cross-Cultural Collaboration (Reflection and Forward Movement)

11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Lunch and Learn Citizenship	Best Western Plus Accra Beach Hotel Conference
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Church (Topic: Echoes of Us: Reimagining and Sharing our Collective Stories, Healing, and Joy)	
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Think Tank: Arts Education Policies: The Art and Business of Storytelling: Get Money for Cross-Cultural Collaboration	
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Open Strategy Sessions	
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Dinner	

Friday, May 2 - Marketing and Public Relations

9:30 am - 11 am	Church (Topic: Maintaining the Movement's Momentum)	Best Western Plus Accra Beach Hotel Conference
11:30 pm - 12:30 pm	Collective Sharing & Wrap Up	
12:30 pm - 1:45 pm	Lunch	
2:00 pm	Optional Offering 1: African Movie Box African Movie Box has invited IBTS to join for a gathering of creatives, taking place at Level Up Lounge. Cash bar & food for purchase available. Those who would like to attend will be responsible for their transport to and from.	Level Up Lounge, 92 Ndabaningi Sithole Rd, Accra
2:00 pm	Optional Offering 2: Bus Departure to Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum Park Area	
2:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Optional Offering 2: Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum Park Visit Open Time: Surrounding Attractions to Accra Art Centre, Independence Square, etc.	Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park and Surrounding Area
5:00 pm	Bus Departure to Best Western Hotel	
7:15 pm	Bus Departure to Afrikana Beach House	
8:00 pm - 11:00 pm	IBTS 2025 Closing: Dinner & Party	Afrikana Beach House
11:15 pm	Bus Departure to Best Western Hotel	

Transportation during IBTS:

Much of the program takes place at Best Western Plus Accra Beach Hotel. Although, we have a few exciting events built into the program that we have arranged transportation to and from the hotel for:

Shuttle drop off and pick up schedule (subject to change):

- Monday
 - 2:45pm GMT Pickup at Best Western for Silverbird Cinemas Accra Mall
 - 6:30pm GMT Depart Silverbird Cinemas Accra Mall for Dinner
 - 8:45pm GMT Depart Restaurant for Best Western
- Tuesday
 - 3pm GMT Pick up at Best Western for Bayview Village
 - 9pm GMT Depart Bayview for Best Western

- Wednesday
 - 5:00am GMT Pick up at Best Western for Elmina Beach
 - 9:00pm GMT Depart Elmina Beach for Best Western
- Friday
 - 2:00pm GMT (Optional Exploration) Pick up at Best Western for Kwame Nkrumah Memorial area
 - 5:00pm GMT (Optional Exploration) Depart Kwame Nkrumah Memorial area for Best Western
 - 7:30pm GMT Pick up at Best Western for Afrikana Beach House (dinner)
 - 11:00pm GMT Depart Afrikana Beach House for Best Western

Additional Notes:

- If you are staying elsewhere, we welcome you to arrange your Uber (bring cash!) or other transportation from locations convenient to you.
- If you miss the scheduled shuttle time, you will be responsible for your own transportation.
- Additionally, you will be responsible for your own transportation to any events and activities outside of the scheduled retreat activities.

If you are looking for additional excursions, check out Continent Tours [here](#).

WEDNESDAY EXCURSION

This excursion is included in your registration!

All participants will travel together to Elmina, Ghana, for a full-day experience curated by IMPACT ([Nia Weeks](#) and [Damien Smith](#)), in partnership with [No Dream Deferred](#) and [Wanda Academy](#). This thoughtfully planned journey will include beachside meals, immersive workshops, moments of celebration, and collective support as we engage in the Elmina/Cape Coast Dungeon Tour with deep intention and shared reflection.

Expenses Include:

- I. 150 - 200 cedis for Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner (Buffet style with dietary restrictions accommodated)
 - A. Paid on Site
- II. Optional: We will be in community with the students near St. Elsewhere. Bright Beginning Academy will be accepting any art supplies, children's books, and/or stationary donations!
- III. Optional Beach Activities: Photoshoot, Paint and Sip, Massage (Info Below)

Schedule at a Glance

5:00 am - 9:00 am	Departure from Accra
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Air-Conditioned Bus picks up guests from Best Western Plus Accra Beach Hotel - Dtd, 51 Beach Dr, Accra, Ghana • Arrival: St.Elswhere 3H54+GC, Komenda, Ghana - Ampenyi, Elmina https://maps.app.goo.gl/XkKnQt9Y5xt62f8P7
9:00 am - 10:00 am	<p>Beach Arrival & Welcome Breakfast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Ceremony: Drumming and traditional dance. • Stretching with Sara body re-alignment after Bus Ride • Beachside Breakfast
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	<p>Naming Ceremony</p> <p><i>Pre-Registration required. Please bring White African/plain outfit for the ceremony.</i></p> <p><i>For those not experiencing or choosing not to witness the Naming Ceremony, we welcome you to partake in one of the vendor-led experiences listed below. If possible, please let us know (egoes@thecraftinstitute.org) in advance.</i></p>
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	<p>Lunch with a Paramount KING Okatashki - Holding Court with a KING discussion</p>
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	<p>*****Choose Your Activism*****</p> <p>Participants may choose to participate in either the workshop with the 11 teenage girls from Wanda Academy or the elementary aged students at Bright Beginning Academy next door to St. Elsewhere or intimate conversation with Joe from World Aids on Theater & Ghanaian Activism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wanda Academy: Workshop with girls from Putibew • Joe World Aids conversation - Joe (Theater & Ghanaian Activism) • Bright Beginning Academy (Kids Programming & Development)
2:45 pm - 5:45 pm	<p>Travel to Dungeon Tour with Guest Speaker - Rabbi Kohain (Dungeon Tour is 2 hours, travel time to and from are calculated into the total time allotment)</p> <p><i>While we encourage all participants to join for this tour, we understand if you would like to abstain from the Elmina and Cape</i></p>

	Coast Castle Tours. Please let us know (egoes@thecraftinstitute.org) if you would like to partake in one of the vendor-led experiences listed below.
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Fireside Dinner Chat Rabbi Kohain
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Conversation with an Artist, Music & Bonfire Celebration
9:00 pm - 1:00 am	Police Escort via bus back to Accra

Throughout the Day Participants may choose additional cultural immersion experiences.

(Optional vendor-led experiences paid directly by guests on-site.)

Option	Description	Add-On Cost (USD)
Pamper & Relax	Beachside Massage	\$60 full hour / \$45 half hour
Create & Connect	Beachside Sip and Paint	\$40
African Dress Photo Shoot	Styled Shoot with Ghanaian Dress, Makeup & Hair	\$100 Dress / \$25 Hair/MU
Beach Leisure	Swimming, relaxation, Executive lounge at St. Elsewhere	Free (may order drinks or snacks at/to the house for an additional price)

Anchors

For some, this may be your first journey to The Motherland, and for others, it may not. We recognize that no matter where this trip exists on the continuum for you, you may encounter emotions, thoughts, feelings, or other intelligences that may need to be processed. To support you in your journey, we will daily identify two individuals in association with the IBTS team, who will serve as “Anchors” for you along your journey. Consider these “Anchors,” friends, fellow journeyers available to hold space for you, process with you, and provide a kind of built-in kind of support for you as needed. They will be vigilant, available, and easily accessible for your support.

Additionally, throughout our time together there will be an alternative space made available for you to be used as a “quiet room” or “processing room” should the need arise. Feel free to utilize the space however best serves your digestion and processing.

TRAVEL TIPS

[Here is the Ghana Travel Guide created by Continent Tours, our Travel Host.](#) Please note COVID-19 policies have shifted since this document was created.

Travel Checklist:

- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Visa
- ☐ Proof of Yellow Fever Vaccination

Recommendations:

- ☐ Electrical Adapter (Ghana uses Power Sockets D & G)
- ☐ Malaria prophylactics prescription
- ☐ Insect Repellent containing DEET
- ☐ Carry clean \$50 and \$100 bills for exchange in Ghana
- ☐ [Travel Insurance](#)
- ☐ Antiseptic/Antihistamine Cream
- ☐ Band aid & bandage
- ☐ Imodium & other anti-diarrhea medicine, Aspirin, Allergy medicine
- ☐ Sunscreen/blocks
- ☐ Small first Aid Kit
- ☐ Lightweight/Tropical clothing
- ☐ Trousers and Long sleeves at night
- ☐ An umbrella or light rain coat for occasional showers
- ☐ A hat that shades your neck and forehead
- ☐ A pair of good walking shoes
- ☐ White African/plain outfit for Ceremonies
- ☐ Light Jacket
- ☐ Luggage Lock

Other Helpful Tips

- Money Exchange: We suggest you wait and change your money in Ghana. Forex bureaus are everywhere, including at the airport. Make sure to carry new \$50 and \$100 bills for a better rate. They will not take it if there are pen marks or they are old notes.
- Do not receive or give with your left hand: This is considered impolite/ disrespectful as that is the hand assigned to bathroom activities. If you decide to eat with your hands, also only use your right hand
- Cash is preferred: Outside of restaurants and brick and mortar shops, cash is preferred and likely your only option. There are ride-share apps such as Uber and Bolt available,

but you should make sure you switch to cash. Carry clean \$50 and \$100 bills for exchange in Ghana.

- **Bartering:** Bartering is common and encouraged in outdoor market spaces. Pricing may begin higher if you are a tourist, but also keep in mind the privilege of the American dollar.
- **Respect:** Titles are very important, especially when speaking to elders. Always use “Mr.” or Mrs.” “Uncle” or “Auntie” can be used when there is a certain level of familiarity. “Please” is used not just for requests, but as a sign of respect. You may often hear it at restaurants. “Please, we are out of jollof.”
- **Hydration:** Ghana is extremely humid. We highly recommend you stay well hydrated. There are no public fountains or refilling stations, so we highly recommend making sure having a filled water bottle on you before going out.

Note on Safety:

Being Queer in Ghana: The Executive Policies may cause fear, but please note they should not be of concern. If you do not trust that you in a safe, supportive environment, follow: No Kissing = No problem.

Traveling with Electronics: Fortunately, those in our network who have traveled between the US and Ghana have not had any issues with their devices searched or questions. If you are concerned, we understand, and encourage you to turn off your devices or turn on airplane mode, remove Face ID and/or remove any data that you'd like to keep protected before going through immigration.

Recommendations:

Food & Drink

+233 Jazz Bar & Grill	Restaurant/Music Venue
Afrikana Beach House (IBTS Opportunity to Visit on Friday 5/2)	Restaurant/Music Venue
Bliss Family Entertainment	Restaurant/Bar/Family Center
Bôndai	Restaurant
Jamestown Coffee Company	Cafe/Restaurant
Kukun	Cafe/Coworking Space
The Republic Bar & Grill	Restaurant/Music Venue
Starbites East Legon	Restaurant
Mango's	Restaurant

Music & Nightlife

+233 Jazz Bar & Grill	Restaurant/Music Venue
Afrikana Beach House (IBTS Opportunity to Visit on Friday 5/2)	Restaurant/Music Venue
Bloom Bar	Nightlife

[Exhale Lounge](#)
[The Republic Bar & Grill](#)
[Sandbox Beach Club](#)
Twist Nightclub
[The Woods](#)
[Zen Garden](#)

Nightlife
Restaurant/Music Venue
Nightlife
Nightlife
Live Music
Live Music

Family

[Bliss Family Entertainment](#)

Family Game Center

Culture and History

[Accra Zoo](#)
[Kakum National Park](#)
[National Museum of Ghana](#)
University of Ghana
[Vidya Bookstore](#)

Family Center
National Park
Museum
Public University
Bookstore

Shopping

[Accra Arts Centre](#) (IBTS Opportunity to Visit on Friday 5/2)
Accra Mall (IBTS Opportunity to Visit on Monday 5/1)
Oxford Street Mall Osu

Shopping
Shopping
Shopping

Emergency Contact

Continent Tours Local Tour OPERATIONS Manager: +233 202 099 970
Continent Tour Alternate Number: 233 501 633 428
Family Health Hospital - +233 507 261 262 / +233 201 456 214
Inkoom Hospital - +233 540 667 774
The Bank Hospital - +233 599 211 311
The Trust Hospital - +233 200 437 078