

BIG TALK

**THE
EAST WEST STORIES PROJECT
PROGRAMME INFORMATION (SUMMER 2017)**

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Since 1949, U.S - China relations have evolved through phases of intense hostility to improved diplomatic relations and ever-increasing economic cooperation. Despite this, the prospects for U.S - China relations remain uncertain. Indeed, one of President Trump's first statements regarding China was that the infamous 'One China' policy will be up for negotiation. With these provocative statements setting the tone for the future of US - China relations it becomes all the more important to seek opportunities that can **transcend politics** and **facilitate balanced dialogue** between Chinese and US citizens.

The East West Stories Project has been designed to facilitate such an opportunity and will do so in the form of an **innovative storytelling project** whereby a select group of **talented university students from China and the US** will gather in **Los Angeles** and **Beijing** to collectively document their experiences and interactions. Through **cultural exchanges, roundtable meetings, collaborative activities** as well as **general travel**, the East West Stories Project aims to help promote mutual understanding and respect between the **future generations** of Chinese and the American leaders.



OVERVIEW

PROGRAMME DETAILS

PROGRAMME DATES

START: 8 JULY 2017
LOS ANGELES, USA

END: 23 JULY 2017
BEIJING, CHINA

The programme will officially commence on the 15th of June 2017 when delegates will be formally introduced to their storytelling partners. Delegates will then be responsible for establishing regular online meetings to plan their projects.

PROGRAMME DESTINATIONS



LOS ANGELES, USA



BEIJING, CHINA

FEES AND APPLICATION

USD 2,790
RMB 18,900

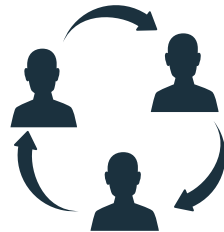
More information on programmes fees can be found on page 15

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

15th MAY 2017

APPLY

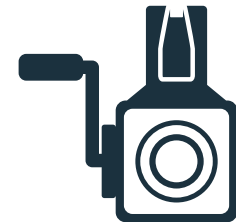
With the future of U.S – China relations becoming ever-more uncertain, it is all the more important to foster opportunities that can transcend politics and enable dialogue between Chinese and US citizens. **The East West Stories Project** will bring together select group of talented university students from China and the US for a two-week cultural exchange program in Los Angeles and Beijing with the aim of achieving the following three main objectives:



**FACILITATE
 DIALOGUE
 THROUGH
 EXCHANGE
 ACTIVITIES AND
 ROUNDTABLES**



**ESTABLISH
 CONNECTIONS
 BETWEEN
 CHINESE AND
 AMERICAN
 YOUTH**



**PLAN, PRODUCE
 AND PUBLISH AN
 COLLABORATIVE
 DOCUMENTATION
 PROJECT**

This is a basic, tentative schedule and subject to change. A detailed schedule outlining activity objectives as well as speaker profiles will be provided to participating delegates.

08 JULY 2017

During the morning and afternoon, delegates will begin to arrive into Los Angeles and will transfer from the airport to the hotel. A formal welcome and commencement dinner will be held at **C&O Trattoria Venice** where delegates will have the opportunity to meet their stories project partners for the first time.

09 JULY 2017

The programme will begin with a tour of the **UCLA Campus** before attending a **lecture on China-US relations**. Lunch will be followed by the programme's **first roundtable speaker**. The rest of the afternoon will consist of **BIG TALK activities** and a **cultural communication workshop**. Dinner will be at a local restaurants before evening activities

10 JULY 2017

The day will begin with a **Dimsum brunch** near LA's **Chinatown** accompanied by a **group of Chinese American immigrants** who will share their stories and experiences moving from China to the USA. This will be followed by a **guided tour of Chinatown** before a **heritage walk and lecture** on the **Cultural History of LA**. Delegates will have the evening free on **Olivera Street** and the **Grand Central Market**.

11 JULY 2017

Delegates will begin the day by attending a **roundtable brunch** with an **invited guest speaker** before heading to **Malibu Beach** for a series of **BIG TALK activities**. The rest of the afternoon will be allotted time to work on the stories project. Dinner will be at a **BBQ pit** near Malibu Beach before heading for a relaxed evening at a near by venue.

This is a basic, tentative schedule and subject to change. A detailed schedule outlining activity objectives as well as speaker profiles will be provided to participating delegates.

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JULY 2017

The day will begin with **company visits to several startups** in the LA area before heading to the **3rd Street Promenade** to carry out an **observation project**. Lunch will be accompanied by a **guest speaker**. The afternoon will include a visit to the **Getty Museum** and a **local walking tour of Beverly Hills**. The rest of the day will be free around **Hollywood**. The evening will include a **show in Hollywood**.

13

JULY 2017

After a **morning hike above LA**, delegates will visit a **Chinese-language school** in the LA area for a **language class** and other **exchange activities**. Delegates will then spend the rest of the day working on their **stories project**. Dinner will be a **home-cooked meal** with a **local family** who will host delegates for the evening.

14

JULY 2017

Delegates will reunite at **UCLA** for a workshop to assist with their **stories project**. The afternoon will include time in the local area to work on the stories project before heading to a final dinner at a local restaurant.

15

JULY 2017

Transfer to Los Angeles International airport for **flight to Beijing**.

SCHEDULE
(USA)

This is a basic, tentative schedule and subject to change. A detailed schedule outlining activity objectives as well as speaker profiles will be provided to participating delegates.

16

JULY 2017

Delegates will arrive together into Beijing during the afternoon and will transfer from the airport to the hotel to rest and recuperate. A welcome dinner will be held at a local **Beijing Roast Duck Restaurant**.

17

JULY 2017

Delegates will rise early to head to **Peking University** where they will receive a **guided tour**. A **History lecture** will then take place before taking lunch at the **University Canteen**. An **introductory Mandarin lesson** will be held in the afternoon followed by the first **BIG TALK Beijing workshop**. Dinner will be at a local dumpling restaurant followed by a **cultural performance**.

18

JULY 2017

After a **traditional breakfast**, delegates will make a visit to **Tiananmen Square** followed by a visit to the **Mausoleum of Mao Ze Dong** and the **Forbidden City**. After lunch, delegates will have a **roundtable discussions** session with a range of individuals familiar with **US-China diplomatic relations**. The afternoon and evening will be free. The evening also involve a **short observation project**.

19

JULY 2017

Delegates will rise early to head to the **Great Wall (Mutianyu Section)** where they will spend the morning working on the **stories project**. On the way back to Beijing the delegation will stop by the **Ming Tombs**. The rest of the afternoon will be allotted to work on the **stories project**. Dinner will be at a local hotpot restaurant with a **guest speaker from the media/entertainment sector**.

This is a basic, tentative schedule and subject to change. A detailed schedule outlining activity objectives as well as speaker profiles will be provided to participating delegates.

20 JULY 2017

The day will begin with a **series of company visits** to large Chinese companies with **meeting with directors**. After lunch the delegation will visit a local **English summer school** and participate in **language exchange activities** with local students. The rest of the day will consist of a **guided tour of Beijing's hutong alleys** followed by free time. Dinner will be with a **guest speaker**.

21 JULY 2017

The day will begin with an early morning **Tai-Chi class** with a **local community group**. The rest of the afternoon will consist of a final **BIG TALK-led workshop** and allotted time for **stories project work**. Dinner will be with **local families** who will **host delegates for the evening**.

22 JULY 2017

Delegates will reunite at the hotel in the morning and have time to rest. After lunch, delegates will head to the **Summer Palace to participate in activities** followed by allotted time for **stories project work**. Towards the end of the day there will be a **closing session** for discussion and sharing as well as the opportunity for delegates to **present an abridged version of their stories project to a small audience**. A **final banquet** will be held in the evening followed by farewell drinks.

23 JULY 2017

Delegates will gather to say their farewells and depart. US delegates will have the opportunity to independently **extend their stay** in China and visit other cities and provinces.

The East West Stories Project will involve a unique documentation project conducted by partnered delegates. Successful delegates will be partnered together based upon skills and interests. Partnerships will consist of one American student and One Chinese student. Partners will be introduced virtually to one another via a Skype conference call on and after the 15th of June 2017. There are three key stages to the stories project:

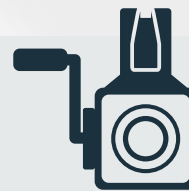


PLANNING STAGE



Partners will then beginning planning their stories project. Guidance will be provided by both Delegations For Dialogue and BIG TALK at this stage. Partners must choose a specific medium to present their project; film, interviews, articles, video logs, photography etc.

PROJECT STAGE



The project will officially begin on the first afternoon of the programme in Los Angeles with instructions and guidance provided by Delegations For Dialogue and BIG TALK. Various activities combined with a total of 12 hours of allotted work time will be assigned to the project throughout the programme.

PUBLISHING STAGE



Delegates can continue to finalise their projects after the programme ends. When completed, Delegations for Dialogue and BIG TALK will collectively publish and publicise the projects through various online channels within the USA and China. Suitable projects will also have the opportunity to be exhibited publicly.

STORIES PROJECT

DELEGATION SIZE



The delegation will consist of a maximum of 20 delegates. Half of the delegation will be US citizens while the other half will be Chinese citizens. The female to male ratio will be approximately 1:1

APPLICATION PROCESS

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Application to Delegations For Dialogue's programmes are competitive and we employ a rigorous election process to build each delegation. Requirements for the East West Stories Project are the following:

- A citizen of either the USA or China
- Currently enrolled student at university level
- Fluent in English
- A clear sense of social responsibility
- An open-mind and genuine curiosity to learn more about other cultures
- A demonstrable interest in journalism and story telling.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
15 MAY 2017**

APPLY

FOUR-STEP APPLICATION PROCESS



APPLICATION FORM

Applicants must first submit a 250 word statement of interest via Delegations For Dialogue's website: <http://www.delegations.org/apply/>



REVIEW PERIOD

Delegations For Dialogue and BIGTALK will jointly review all applicants and provide a response within 14 days.



ONLINE INTERVIEW

Selected applicants will be invited for a 30-minute Skype interview with staff from Delegations For Dialogue or BIGTALK. Interviews will be conducted in English.



OFFER AND DEPOSIT

Successful applicants will be offered a place within 5 days of their online interview. A deposit is required to secure a place in the delegation.



TOTAL FEE

USD 2,790

RMB 18,900

PROGRAMME FEE COVERAGE

Delegations For Dialogue is a self-sustaining non-profit organisation and receives no external funding from governments or third-party organisations. As such, participation in any of our overseas programmes carries a programme fee.

The programme fee includes the following:

- Double occupancy accommodation for the duration of the programme
- Three meals per day
- All domestic transportation
- All entry tickets.
- All activity costs and resources

The programme fee excludes the following:

- Flight between Los Angeles and Beijing,
- Chinese or USA visa
- Alcoholic drinks
- Travel insurance
- Personal spending on souvenirs and anything not mentioned under included.

**PROGRAMME
FEE**

**PROGRAMME
ORGANIZERS**



DELEGATIONS FOR DIALOGUE

Delegations For Dialogue is a UK-based non-profit, non-partisan, non-religious organisation that equips future generations of global leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the causes of conflict. Each year they organise a series of "travelling symposiums", fact-finding programmes and sports and cultural diplomacy missions within contentious regions divided by conflict. They also organize conferences and events locally within a growing network of university campus associations located around the world. Delegations For Dialogue was established in 2015 and has since nine global dialogue programmes engaging over 114 students and professors from 29 different countries.

More information: www.delegations.org

A black and white photograph of two women sitting on a wooden bench and laughing. The woman on the left has long dark hair and is wearing a light-colored top. The woman on the right has short, curly hair and is wearing a dark top with a floral pattern. The background is a simple wooden wall.

**PROGRAMME
ORGANIZERS**

BIG TALK

BIG TALK is a US-based initiative striving to connect individuals on a deeper level by skipping the small talk. The concept grew out of an online video series, which has since garnered hundreds of thousands of views, into a card game which doubles up as a communication facilitation tool for workshops, orientations, and events. Today BIG TALK partners with a range of private organizations, non-profits and academic institutions to explore new ways to not only help connect individuals but to help them engage in deeper, more meaningful conversations.

More information: www.makebigtalk.com

ALAN GREGORY

FOUNDER, DELEGATIONS FOR DIALOGUE
CHINA LEAD CO-ORDINATOR

Alan is a mixed British-Chinese graduate of the University of Hong Kong. Following graduation Alan gained professional experience in strategic consulting and academic research. Prior to co-founding Delegations for Dialogue, Alan was based in Beijing where he organised more than a dozen student programmes in North Korea. He has since organised all of Delegations For Dialogue's programmes in NE Asia and Myanmar. He most recently established a coffeeshop in Taipei, Taiwan and currently works as a freelance writer and analyst. Alan speaks English and Mandarin Chinese.

**PROGRAMME
STAFF**





KALINA SILVERMAN

FOUNDER, BIGTALK
USA LEAD CO-ORDINATOR

American born and culturally mixed, Kalina is the founder of BIG TALK, a project about skipping small talk to make meaningful life connections with people. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from Northwestern University and is passionate about cross-cultural communications, having worked as a documentary filmmaker in Germany and Ecuador, as well as a commercial model and host in Los Angeles. Kalina speaks English and Chinese.

**PROGRAMME
STAFF**

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT US AT INFO@DELEGATIONS.ORG

WWW.DELEGATIONS.ORG

WWW.MAKEBIGTALK.COM

