



DRAFT Mesa Walking Tour Sessions

Day 1

Option #1

Key Focus Area: Expanding Borders Or Innovate and Reinvent

Session Topic: Building Space for New Businesses

Description: The Studios at Mesa City Center is a repurposed mid-century building that houses programming and support services for local community entrepreneurs, industry leaders and students. The Studios is housed on the ground floor of a building that was originally the Mesa Public Library and has since been renovated by the City in support of Arizona State University's entrepreneurship programs. The Studios help develop entrepreneurs, innovators and small businesses at every stage with shared workspace envisioned as a hub for leading-edge institutions to connect with startups and business incubators to grow new ideas and products. On the second floor, the City of Mesa invests in the support of small businesses with the Mesa Business Builder toolbox and assistance programs to help any new entrepreneur thrive.

Format: Walking Tour

Moderator/ MHN Host:

Presenters:

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 resource. 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 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 special feature on the THINKspot, a makerspace where the community can collaborate, innovate, explore, and learn with access to high-tech equipment.

Format: Walking Tour

Moderator/ MHN Host:

Presenters:



DRAFT 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 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. And bonus exhibits if you are a dinosaur lover!

Format: Walking Tour

Moderator/ MHN Host:

Presenters:

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 represent the creative diversity of our country, with more than 40 of its students from under-represented backgrounds. Already faculty and students have become a valuable partner is helping change the way the City connects using virtually 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

Moderator/ MHN Host:

Presenters:



DRAFT Mesa Walking Tour Sessions

DAY 2

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 temple mound built and used by the ancient Hohokam, ancestors of today's Akimel O'odham people, between AD 1100 and 1450. The mound was the public and ceremonial center for a one of the largest Hohokam 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. Come learn about this ancient land, and why the City navigated the preservation of its history.

Format: Walking Tour

Moderator/ MHN Host:

Presenters:

Option #2

Key Focus Area: Innovative and Reinvent

Session Topic: Transforming Downtown Mesa: Uniquely Local

Description: Downtown Mesa is the upcoming urban redevelopment center in the Phoenix-Mesa metro area. Right in the heart of the third largest city in Arizona, downtown Mesa is home to the technologies of tomorrow and one of Arizona's oldest and largest historic commercial districts. Bring your walking shoes to go up and down Main Street to see a major city in the midst of a transformation, not to mention acquaint yourself with some of the local award-winning eateries and microbreweries. Learn about facade improvement, small business incentives, Innovation District and more that have revitalized our suburban living to a thriving urban hotspot.

Format: Walking Tour

Moderator/ MHN Host:

Presenters:



DRAFT Mesa Walking Tour Sessions

Option #3

Key Focus Area: Managing Diverse Communities

Session Topic: IDEA Museum: Imagination. Design. Experience. Art.

Description: Mesa's IDEA 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 needs of their wide-ranging target audience. In addition, tour the latest exhibition that unique interactive tactile art and STEM activities.

Format: Walking Tour

Moderator/ MHN Host:

Presenters:

Option #4

Key Focus Area:

Session Topic:

Description:

Water Conservation or Environmental Sustainability Based Session

Format: Walking Tour

Moderator/ MHN Host:

Presenters: