Hands On Offsite Experiences

Our off-site experiences will showcase the best of St. Louis while creating meaningful, real-world connections to our theme that attendees can bring back to their communities and work. You'll have a chance to choose one of these incredible examples of diverse organizations that build spaces where people feel seen, valued, and essential to others.

Choice 1: Spend the afternoon at an off-site arts center, where educators and artists-in-residence will lead us through hands-on workshops. We'll explore how the arts can help every person feel valued, connected, and empowered to contribute. The center's founding belief that art belongs to everyone, not just professional artists, models what it means to build a community where everyone matters. This visit is designed to inspire us as educators, spark new ideas, and strengthen our connections to the arts.

Choice 2: Jewish wisdom teaches us that how a society treats its most vulnerable reveals who matters. Join us for a panel and conversation exploring efforts to address gun violence, poverty, homelessness, and anti-immigrant actions, as well as participate in a service project sending messages of hope to people in immigration detention. We will have the chance to reflect on how we can expand our impact as educators to build a more connected and just society in our local communities.

Choice 3: Mattering has always been part of being human, and history shows us whose stories get remembered and whose get overlooked. Board the bus with expert historians from a leading regional history institution for an interactive tour of St. Louis neighborhoods that brings Jewish life in the region to life. You'll trace the story from early immigrants and the first congregations to the institutions that shaped the community. Then go behind the scenes into a private archive, where you'll get hands-on time with historical artifacts most visitors never see. Along the way, we'll talk about how preserving history honors the people who built our communities, and you'll leave with fresh ideas for bringing local Jewish history into your own classroom!

Choice 4: How can we transform places of division into spaces of connection and possibility? At an innovative community hub in St. Louis, bringing together nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and public-sector partners, we'll explore how collaboration can help people feel seen, valued, and supported. The afternoon includes a panel, an opportunity to learn about the space and its work, and reflection on how intentional community-building creates spaces where everyone matters.

Choice 5: Calling all media fans! Go behind the scenes at a local public media newsroom and see how journalists and storytellers bring their community's voices and experiences to the airwaves. We'll look at how thoughtful interviewing and personal storytelling can bridge divides and help people feel seen and heard. The highlight: you'll take part in a live recording of a newly launched podcast, helping create an episode inspired by our conference and what "mattering" means in the Jewish community today! Along the way, we'll ask whose voices make it into the stories we tell, whose perspectives might be missing, and how we can bring the power of creative journalism back to our own educational communities so every person feels they matter.