

The Creativity World Forum opened yesterday at the Cox Convention Center Arena in downtown Oklahoma City, celebrating the Native American history of Oklahoma with dance, drumming and song before diving into the issues facing creativity today. Attendees from more than 17 countries and 35 states were at the introductory event. The Creativity World Forum is a two-day conference that examines how creativity drives commerce, culture and education and features more than 65 speakers from around the world. International renowned speaker Sir Ken Robinson kicked off the morning and spoke with Oklahoma native and astronaut John Herrington. Robinson was part of the first plenary session of the day, as he, author Daniel Pink and New York Times columnist David Pogue took on the issue of creativity in the 21st century. In their roundtable discussion, the three got right to the heart of one of creativity's biggest barriers: the state of the education system. "Schools are about routines, right answers and standards at just the time when the business world is not about routines, right answers and standards," said Pink, who is the author of four best-selling books. "We are preparing kids for my past rather than their future." Several sessions followed, touching on everything creative, from the future of museums and public policy to creative solutions for clean water, innovations in digital technology design and agricultural discoveries. Yesterday wrapped up with dinner and entertainment at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.