TEDx ASUWest

COMMUNITY TRANSFORMED

x = independently organized TED event

September 24, 2020
YouTube Live Stream
newcollege.asu.edu/tedxasuwest

Table of Contents

Sponsors 2
What is TEDx? 3
TEDxASUWest History 5
Our Team 7
At a Glance 9
Hosts 12
Speakers 13
Recognition 21

connect with us: @TEDxASUWest
Sponsors

TEDxASUWest thanks our sponsors for their financial support of our virtual event.

New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
Arizona State University

School of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Arizona State University

College of Integrative Sciences and Arts
Arizona State University

Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions
Arizona State University

CommLabASU
Arizona State University

Our event would not be possible without the dedicated CommLabASU team. We are grateful for their expertise, time, and resources in coaching our TEDxASUWest speakers.
In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TED has created a program called TEDx. TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. Our event is called TEDxASUWest, where x = independently organized TED event. At our TEDxASUWest event, TED Talks video and live speakers will combine to spark deep discussion and connection in a small group. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events, including ours, are self-organized.

TED is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment, and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages. Meanwhile, independently run TEDx events help share ideas in communities around the world.

TED is a global community, welcoming people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world. We believe passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and, ultimately, the world. On TED.com, we’re building a clearinghouse of free knowledge from the world’s most inspired thinkers — and a community of curious souls to engage with ideas and each other, both online and at TED and TEDx events around the world, all year long.
This year, the TEDxASUWest team is back to showcase some of our community’s most inspired thinkers in Community Transformed. “Communities” are often presented as divisive groupings that pit one set of interests against another. In a time when individuals self-report increasing loneliness and anxiety, community can provide companionship and support.

This event celebrates transformational power and achievement. Speakers are encouraged to explore their own discoveries and value of shared experiences.

Speakers include researchers, students, and performers. The audience is challenged to examine their own beliefs, recognize the transformative nature of connections, and proactively seek out additional methods of engagement.
The New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University has been historically dedicated to innovative approaches to help shape and influence our culture. The first TEDxASUWest event, organized in 2011 by Theresa Devine, highlighted this commitment.

Our 2019 TEDxASUWest event, organized by Alexis Starks, provided a platform to share ideas in relation to dialogue, power, community, and discovery. The TEDxASUWest team gathered some of the best experts from our community to showcase their valuable research, ideas, and insights.
KATIE ARCHER
Speaker Mentor

TYLER MARTINEZ
Speaker Mentor
Tonight: At a Glance
Thursday, September 24

Introduction
Official TEDx Video
Companions Hurt, Companionship Heals
Opening Remarks

Session I
What Story does your Passport Tell?
We’ve Been Here Before
A People-Based Society
Finding and Giving a Shoulder

Intermission
Clint Smith: How to Raise a Black Son in America (TED)

Session II
Making Room for the In-Between
Loving Beyond Labels
The Stories We Don’t Acknowledge
Buck Up, Show Up, & Listen
Discovering Safe Community in Online Spaces
Intermission
DeAndrea Salvador: How We Can Make Energy More Affordable for Low-Income Families (TED)

Session III
Silencing Power
Creating "Personal Space" for your Identity
Out of your Head and into the World
The Church has Left the Building

Closing Remarks
MICHELLE TRAN
Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College/
Barrett Honors College
Host

KALEY ZEPEDA
New College/Barrett Honors College
Host
PATRICK BIXBY
*Expert in Travel & Mobility*

What Story does your Passport Tell?

Dr. Patrick Bixby is an Associate Professor of English at Arizona State University and Resident Director of the University Studies Abroad Consortium Summer Program at the NUI, Galway. While Dr. Bixby’s research falls primarily under the heading of Irish studies, it also addresses literary modernism, continental philosophy, and issues of travel, mobility, and the body.

JORDAN BROWN
*Student & Creative Writer*

Out of your Head and into the World

Jordan Brown is an undergraduate student at Arizona State University’s West campus, pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Communication. However, most of all, he hopes to find a way to positively change the lives of those around him through a deep understanding of language and how it motivates us. He also aims to reach people and impact their lives through his creative writing, a talent that he has been honing for many years and continues to practice.
**ALLAN COLBERN**  
*Expert in Citizenship*

**We’ve Been Here Before**

Dr. Allan Colbern is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Arizona State University, where he teaches in the political science and social justice & human rights programs. His work explores the vital role social movements and political parties play in mobilizing federal and state institutions to provide rights to both Black and immigrant communities, and it reconceptualizes citizenship as grounded in rights at the federal and state levels.

---

**MAKENNA FLYNN**  
*Scholar & Human Rights Activist*

**A People-Based Society: Everyday Steps to Reclaim our Humanity**

Makenna Flynn is currently an undergraduate student preparing to complete her bachelor’s of Global Management this fall at Arizona State University’s West Campus. Her passion for advocacy began in high school when she volunteered at a refugee organization in Arizona and put on a job fair for refugees in Phoenix. When not studying or working on her podcast, Makenna spends her time writing and traveling.
JUSTIN HAMILTON  
*Pastor & Mentor*  
**The Church has Left the Building**  
Justin Hamilton began his mentoring journey in 2012 as a high school basketball coach in Northern CA. He then became a youth pastor at his local church and served his community in both roles for four years. In 2016, Hamilton and his family moved to Scottsdale, Arizona where he continued to pastor and coach with a focus on building healthy relationships, spiritual growth, and leadership.

DEBORAH HALL  
*Expert in Psychology & Identity*  
**Making Room for the In-Between**  
Deborah Hall is an Associate Professor of Psychology in the School of Social & Behavioral Sciences at Arizona State University. Her research explores aspects of social identity, interactions, and relationships and is motivated by the goal of better understanding how people with diverse worldviews, values, backgrounds, and identities relate to one another.
KATARINA KUNERT
Scholar & Advice Connoisseur

The Stories We Don’t Acknowledge: Failure & Loneliness
Katarina Kunert has a huge passion for helping people and giving advice. As much as she loved talking about emotions and being the crying shoulder for people to lean on, Katarina hated communicating herself. She was against opening up to anyone about anything, but through college she learned the importance of opening up to people and showing her true self.

JOEL NISHIMURA
Expert in Dynamic Systems & Identity

Creating “Personal Space” for your Identity
Dr. Joel Nishimura is an Assistant Professor of Applied Mathematics in the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences at Arizona State University. As an applied mathematician, Dr. Nishimura investigates how simple ingredients can combine to create systems with complex mathematical structures. Meanwhile, as a person of mixed race, he has always been interested in exploring the ambiguity of identity.
CHRISTINA PEUGH
Scholar, Researcher, Ally & Kindness Enthusiast
Loving Beyond Labels
Christina Peugh is a student at Arizona State University pursuing a degree in Communication. After finishing her undergraduate degree, she hopes to continue her academic path at ASU with her work within the field of gender identity and sexuality.

BEULAH SUPRIYA
Poet
Companions Hurt, Companionship Heals
Beulah Supriya is an international student from Hyderabad, India. She is in her second year of the master’s program in Communication at Arizona State University. Beulah enjoys music and expressing herself through song and poetry. Before she learned the meaning of the word catharsis, poetry helped her process emotions and situations she was going through. She hopes to one day publish a collection of her poems.
Kim Toms is an instructor at Arizona State University, where she teaches a class on personal resilience. In a crash course on bereavement, she learned firsthand how to support those grieving, heartbroken, and otherwise sucker-punched by life. As a result, she has become a much better member of all her communities.

Dr. Paula Veach is a Lecturer in College of Integrative Sciences and Arts and holds 20 years of service as a police Commander with a local municipal Police Department. Her research interests include gender and identity formation within the constructs of self, work, and community. She has interrogated the manner in which power flows and retracts among people.
KIMBERLY VEHON  
CEO & Foster Care Advocate  
Finding and Giving a Shoulder  
Kimberly Vehon is the founder and CEO of Foster Arizona and Foster Arizona Housing Project, non-profit public charities focused on educating, encouraging, and empowering Arizonans to positively impact the lives of kids in foster care and those transitioning out of foster care.

MELODY YOON  
Student & Social Media Butterfly  
Discovering Safe Community in Online Spaces  
An extrovert of extroverts, Melody Yoon carries her charismatic nature through life on the internet as well as the real world. She is currently an undergraduate student at Arizona State University pursuing a bachelor’s degree in English with a certification in secondary education, and is excited to share her love of literature with the future generation of Americans.
Recognition

TEDxASUWest extends its sincere appreciation to the following for their generous support:

Alexis Starks  
Richard Holland  
George Gifford and Broadcast Rentals  
The Details Duo  
Student Activities and Conference Services  
Carolyn Starr  
Amber Orquiz  
Randi Tracer

Our event would not be possible without the dedicated CommLabASU team. We are grateful for their expertise, time, and resources in coaching our TEDxASUWest speakers.

New College  
of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Arizona State University

School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Arizona State University

College of Integrative Sciences and Arts

Arizona State University

Watts College  
of Public Service and Community Solutions

Arizona State University

CommLabASU

Arizona State University
TEDxASUWest

x = independently organized TED event