TEDxCOLOMBO

SPEAKER CALLOUT

2026

Here is where your journey begins

BUT WHAT IS TED?

TED is an annual event where some of the world's leading thinkers and doers are invited to share what they are most passionate about.

"TED" stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design — three broad subject areas that are, collectively, shaping our future. In fact, the event is broader still, showcasing ideas that matter in any discipline. Attendees have called it "the ultimate brain spa" and "a four-day journey into the future."

The diverse audience of CEOs, scientists, creatives, and philanthropists is almost as extraordinary as the speakers, who have included former President Bill Clinton, Bill Gates, Jane Goodall, Frank Gehry, Paul Simon, Sir Richard Branson, Philippe Starck and Bono.

TED was first held in Monterey, California, in 1984. In recent years, TED has expanded to include an international conference, TEDGlobal; media initiatives, including TED Talks and TED.com; and the TEDPrize.

Today, more than 1000 talks from past TED conferences are now freely available online at TED.com

HOW IS TEDx DIFFERENT?

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, independently organized events that bring people together to share in a TED-like experience. At TEDxYouth and other TEDx events, TED Talks videos and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection in a small group. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x=independently organized TED event.

The TED conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events are self-organized.

WHO IS TEDxCOLOMBO?

TEDxColombo was founded by a group of young people to raise awareness and provide a platform for our leaders and thinkers to make a difference and share their ideas. This group is made up of volunteers from various backgrounds and age groups who all share the same goal. We're here to demonstrate that even at this point in our lives, we can only move forward.

OUR PROGRESS

EVENTS

13 EVENTS

HISTORY

15 YEARS+

IDEAS

70+ truly local ideas

VOLUNTEERS

500 individuals from varied backgrounds

OUR VISION

Many ideas remain unexplored in Sri Lanka. TEDxColombo will serve as a platform for speakers to express their ideas and gain global recognition. It will also allow recognized speakers to share their ideas and experiences in a more public setting. As a result, we believe that this event will help to spark debate and discussion among people both inside and outside the country about pressing issues and ideas that are gaining traction today.

We are dedicated to producing an event in which participants are challenged to express their passions in an exciting and engaging dialogue. Speakers will deliver the best talk of their lives at TEDxColombo and will have the opportunity to discuss their ideas. Don't worry, we're here to help those who have been chosen and ensure they're prepared for the challenge.

The TEDxColombo format will allow speakers and attendees to digest and debate the talks, as well as encourage the exchange of ideas and information among all participants.

WHAT WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR:

- A TEDx event isn't an industry or marketing conference. It isn't limited to one topic or field. A speaker cannot sell something on stage.
- A TEDx speaker cannot use the event to raise money, not even for a charity.
- A TEDx event is not a platform for professional or circuit speakers, such as motivational speakers and professional life coaches. Its purpose is to give a platform to those who often do not have one.
- TEDx events are truly volunteer endeavors - no one from the organizing team may be paid and speakers may never pay, or be paid, to share their ideas at a TEDx event.

SPEAKER INFORMATION:

Who We're Looking For:

The theme of a TEDxColombo event will be formed around the concepts of original ideas, challenges, passions, experiences and inspirations.

Where do your beliefs lie? That our future is based on what we did in the past or that we are dictated by what we do in the present? What if you knew that your idea will somehow weave its way throughout time, eventually connecting in our collective future? What then? We'd like to hear you out, the idea that gave you the confidence to follow your heart even when it led you off the well-worn path. Something that's made all the difference in you today.

YOUR TALK:

Your presentation, or "TED Talk", should be anywhere from 10-15 minutes in length: long enough to say something of significance, but short enough to hold everyone's attention and to be easily watched as a recorded video. The TED format has proven a carefully prepared talk of this length can have astonishing impact.

TEDxColombo will be following the TED speaker rules. For example, speakers are banned from "selling from the stage," and there is strict enforcement of the clock.

An additional benefit of speaking at TEDxColombo is that your presentation will be made available online following the conference at the TEDxColombo website, and possibly on TED.com, where some talks have been attracting online audiences upwards of a million.

YOUR TALK:

TED Talks have been viewed more than 100 million times worldwide and this exposure has transformed the careers of many TED presenters and performers.

TED has never paid speakers to appear, but has always committed to creating an experience that's tremendously fulfilling and beneficial on all sides, and as a TEDx licensee we plan to do the same.

If you are unfamiliar with TED or the format of a TED Talk, we invite you to view some past TED and TEDx Talks at http://www.ted.com/.

PERSONAL SUBMISSIONS :

If after review of this information, you feel that you would like to be part of TEDxColombo, we ask you to submit the following here.

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2026

Please include the following:
1. A brief biography of yourself (no longer than one page)
2. Your updated CV
3. The main idea and a basic outline of your talk which needn't be more than a half-page in length. The expected time you think the speech will take (no more than 10 - 15 minutes)
4. Links to any blogs, books, articles, videos, previous or current speaking engagements, or anything that will help the selection committee better understand who you are, your topic of interest and what you are all about.

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT

NOMINATION SUBMISSION:

If, after review of this information, you feel that you know someone who would fit the bill as an ideal speaker/performer at TEDxColombo, we ask you to fill in the

Submission Deadline: March 1, 2026

Upon receipt of your electronic proposal, we will shortlist candidates and finalists will be selected and will be invited in for personal interviews with the committee. Speakers and all participants of TEDxColombo will be announced thereafter.

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT

PERFORMER SUBMISSIONS :

If, after review of this information, you feel that you would like to be part of TEDxColombo, we ask you to send us the following <u>here</u>.

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: MARCH 1 2026

Please include the following:

1. A brief biography of yourself (no longer than one page)
2. Your updated CV
3. The main idea and a basic outline of your performance and a video of what you can do!
4. The expected time you think the performance will take (no more than 10 - 15 minutes).
5. Links to any blogs, books, articles, videos, previous or current performing engagements that the organizers can attend, or anything that will help the selection committee better understand who you are, your topic of interest and what you are all about.

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Upon receipt of your electronic proposal or nomination, we will shortlist candidates and finalists will be selected and announced by email and mobile and will be invited in for personal interviews with the committee. Speakers and all participants of TEDxColombo will be announced thereafter.

Please note that if your proposal is accepted as a TEDxColombo speaker, you are expected to:
1) Reply emails in regards to your speech and other documentation as required within a reasonable time period.
2) Attend rehearsals of your speech.
3) Attend very informal meetings with the curating team at confirmation and closer to the date of event. (2 to 3 at the most).
4) Attend Speakers Workshop (if arranged) is mandatory.
5) Withdrawal from the Speaking Opportunity must be done 3 months before the event

If you do not comply with the above, we will be forced to reconsider your application.

TEDx COMMANDMENTS:

DREAM BIG

Strive to create the best talk you have ever given. Reveal something never seen before. Do something the audience will remember forever. Share an idea that could change the world.

SHOW US THE REAL YOU.

Share your passions, your dreams and also your fears. Be vulnerable. Speak of failure as well as success.

MAKE THE COMPLEX PLAIN.

Don't try to dazzle intellectually. Don't speak in abstractions. Explain! Give examples. stories. Be specific.

CONNECT WITH PEOPLE'S EMOTIONS.

Make us laugh! Make us cry!

DON'T FLAUNT YOUR EGO.

Don't boast. It's the surest way to switch everyone off.

NO SELLING FROM THE STAGE!

Unless we have specifically asked you to, do not talk about your company or organization. And don't even think about pitching your products or services or asking for funding from stage.

TEDx COMMANDMENTS:

FEEL FREE TO COMMENT ON OTHER SPEAKERS

to praise or to criticize. Controversy energizes! Enthusiastic endorsement is powerful!

SHOW US THE REAL YOU. DON'T READ YOUR TALK

Notes are fine. But if the choice is between reading or rambling, then read!

YOU MUST END YOUR TALK ON TIME.

Doing otherwise is to steal time from the people that follow you. We won't allow it, and your talk may not go up on the website.

REHEARSE YOUR TALK

with the speaker coaches and in front of trusted friends … or timing, for clarity, for impact.

GOOD LUCK!

Does anyone have any questions?

info@tedxcolombo.org

tedxcolombo.org