

FAQ for Prospective Speakers 2027



1. What is TED?

TED is a global community that welcomes people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world. **TED** passionately believes in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives, and, ultimately, the world. This belief is clearly evident in the **TED** tagline, "Ideas Change Everything." **TED** is proud to play a role in discovering, debating, and sharing compelling ideas that can bring about significant changes. For more information, visit www.ted.com

2. What is TEDxSurrey?

TEDxSurrey is a locally organized event in Surrey, B.C., that operates under a license from **TED**. **TEDxSurrey** was formed in 2018. Our first event took place in 2019 with 100 attendees. Since then, our event has grown significantly, become recognized for its exceptional production value, and is now considered one of Canada's premier **TEDx** events. At every event, attendees experience an unmistakable shift in thinking, and their hope for a better tomorrow is renewed.

We are committed to building a strong, sustainable **TEDxSurrey** community comprising past speakers, sponsorship partners, and volunteer teams. We are committed to becoming an important part of the fabric of the Surrey community and to reflecting our city's diversity, dynamism, and growth.

3. Where and when will TEDxSurrey 2027 take place?

The **TEDxSurrey** 2027 event will take place on **Saturday, January 23, 2027, at the Bell Performing Arts Centre in Surrey**. This beautiful, professional theatre has excellent acoustics and a seating capacity of over 1,000 people, making it a wonderful venue for speakers to share their ideas.

4. What is our theme for the day?

Our theme continues to be **"A Shift in Thinking."** We want our audience to shift their thinking so that it may change their actions, resulting in a strong, positive change in the direction of their lives. Remember ... "Ideas Change Everything!"

5. How will the day be structured?

This outstanding event will feature twelve speakers, live music, and several energizers/entertainers who will invite audience participation. The speakers' talks will be

professionally videotaped and uploaded to the **TED^x** YouTube channel, where potentially millions of people can watch them.

6. What type of speaker ideas is **TED^xSurrey 2027** looking for?

We are looking for speakers with compelling ideas in six separate areas.

1. **New Frontiers of Science**
2. **AI and Technology**
3. **Arts and Entertainment**
4. **Health and Well-being**
5. **Society and Culture**
6. **Visionary Leadership**

7. What are the essential criteria in the selection of speakers?

To be selected as a speaker for **TED^xSurrey**, we are looking for the following:

- **A compelling idea.** The speaker's idea needs to be powerful and impactful. It should inspire people's hearts and minds and "shift the audience's thinking" significantly.
- **Expertise, experience, and a depth of understanding of their idea.** Speakers need to have a high level of expertise or rich experience related to their idea.
- **Experience as a public speaker.** We are looking for speakers with a strong stage presence and experience presenting to audiences of a significant size (100 or more), in various settings.

8. What is the process for the selection of speakers?

The selection process is divided into four parts:

1. Attend one of our **Prospective Speaker Information Meetings**. We will hold two workshops (dates, times, and locations listed below) for prospective speakers to learn more about **TED** and **TED^xSurrey**. It is essential that all applicants attend **one** of the two Information Sessions, which contain valuable information about **TED^xSurrey** and provide a detailed introduction to the four essential elements of a successful TEDx talk. The information sessions will be held on:

Wednesday, August 19, 2026, on ZOOM (7:00 pm to 9:00 pm)

Saturday, August 22, 2026, in-person in South Surrey (9:30 am to 11:30 am)

*Presenter: Alan Warburton, **TED^xSurrey**, Licensee & Curator.*

If you cannot attend one of the designated times, please request a recording of the Zoom call by emailing vivien@tedxsurrey.ca by **August 17, 2026**.

2. **Applications.** Application forms will be available on our website, www.tedxsurrey.ca in early August. Applicants must submit an application form and a draft script (no more than 1400 words). Application forms should only be submitted **after** attending an Information Session. Once submitted, applicants cannot resubmit their applications or draft scripts. **The deadline to submit applications is September 9, 2026.**
3. **Auditions.** Typically, we receive over 100 applications, which the Curation Team carefully reviews. Then the team shortlists 25 applicants and invites them to attend a 15-minute in-person audition in Surrey. The auditions take place over 3 days, Oct 1 to 3.
4. **Final Selection.** The Curation Team selects the final 12 speakers for **TEDxSurrey 2027** based on the applications, scripts, and auditions. The final 12 speakers will be announced on Oct 9.

9. Once speakers are selected, is there a coaching program to prepare them for the event?

Each selected speaker will participate in a three-month intensive coaching program led by a highly skilled Coaching Team. Every outstanding **TEDx** talk consists of three parts: content, structure, and delivery. Speakers are selected for their idea (content), and our coaching team will guide and support them through crafting their structure and understanding how to connect with the audience through their delivery.

Past speakers rave about the quality of the coaching program, although they also say it was rigorous and demanding! The **TEDxSurrey** coaching program has provided the foundation for eleven of our speakers to be recognized by **TED** for the outstanding quality of their videos over our events in 2024 and 2025. This recognition reflects the quality of the **TEDxSurrey** coaching program.

10. Are applications limited only to speakers who are residents of BC?

Applications will be accepted from people who can easily travel to Surrey, B.C., for coaching sessions. Four coaching sessions, plus a dress rehearsal and the event itself, are held in person in Surrey, and selected speakers must attend each session at their own expense. Also, any person shortlisted to the final 25 speakers must attend their audition in person.

11. How do I register to attend one of the Information Meetings?

Eventbrite registrations for our Information Sessions will be available on our website (www.tedxsurrey.ca) starting **July 1, 2026**.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Vivien Welland, Curation Team Coordinator, at vivien@tedxsurrey.ca