Welcome to year four of Ideas Worth Spreading in San Antonio! TEDx events create opportunities for experiencing a TED-like event to local communities worldwide. You’re here because you’ve been specially invited or selected, so please enjoy the day and make the most of the festival of brain candy and ideas that is TEDxSanAntonio.

We’ll be joined by people all over the world watching the event on web livestream. Last year, viewers from more than 33 countries tuned in to watch with us. This is a chance for San Antonio to shine, and let the world know that innovation and creativity thrive here, with a particular flavor that is all our own.

In addition to people watching the livestream, there are three official watch parties here in San Antonio, joining us from:

• Rackspace (for Rackers only)
• D. R. Semmes Family YMCA @ TriPoint
• Geekdom

We’ve got 20 speakers and 2 recorded TEDx Talks to open our minds and spark lively discussion. The focus isn’t the talks — it’s the conversations that occur between participants during the breaks, at lunch, and of course at the after party. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to meet some of San Antonio’s most fascinating people.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Registration Opens</td>
<td>Rackspace Factory</td>
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<td>8:30am-10:00am</td>
<td>Interactive Exhibits</td>
<td>Rackspace Factory</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Rackspace Center</td>
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<td>10:15am-12:00pm</td>
<td>Session One Talks: Open Your Mind</td>
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<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Food Truck Lunch &amp; Interactive Exhibits</td>
<td>Rackspace Factory and Parking Lot</td>
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<td>12:50pm</td>
<td>Special Performance</td>
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<td>1:20pm-3:00pm</td>
<td>Session Two Talks: Think Differently</td>
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<td>3:00pm-3:20pm</td>
<td>Interactive Exhibits</td>
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<td>3:20pm-5:00pm</td>
<td>Session Three Talks: Ideas In Action</td>
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<td>5:00pm-6:30pm</td>
<td>After Party Hosted by The Current</td>
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As in life, the schedule is fluid.
ENHANCE YOUR TEDx EXPERIENCE IN THE FACTORY

Make time to browse the Factory and engage with the interactive exhibits we’ve planned especially for you. Whether multi-touch, multi-sensory or analog, all are meant to enhance today’s TEDx experience.

- **Green Spaces Alliance** is focused on sustaining our natural environment and enhancing urban spaces through land conservation and education. GSA is the recipient of Lake Flato’s deconstructed planter box (featured at Registration) and the planter boxes you see around the Factory. Take a seat and consider conservation!

- **Maker Space hosted by UIW’s Convergent Media Lab**, which offers creative space for students to flourish in theory, technology and practice.

- **Media Lounge**, including space for interviewing, listening and mingling with these news outlets:
  - **Rivard Report’s** “Get Your Story On” space where you may suggest story ideas and volunteer to be a citizen-journalist.
  - **Texas Public Radio**, featuring listening stations to hear episodes of the TED Radio Hour, where “TED speakers explore the art of storytelling — and how good stories have the power to transform our perceptions of the world.”
  - **MediaFuse with Jennifer Navarrete** - Grant an interview with SA’s own @epodcaster, award-winning social media journalist and founder of Social Media Club San Antonio, Social Media Breakfast Club, and local Barcamps.
  - **KLRN**, focused on all things PBS, as well as PBS Digital Studios and locally-produced content

- **The Twig Book Shop**, stocked titles specially selected by our slate of speakers.

- **Dialogical Art Project**, with artist and community catalyst Kim Murray McDonald. Stop by the hallway past the Center to participate in the dialog, which pays homage to Chalk It Up, happening in downtown San Antonio today.

- Check out the **LED lighting sculptures** (suspended above the Media Lounge) by lighting designer Mike Brannon of Lightlink Lighting.

- Finally, **get your red carpet on** and snap and share a selfie using the TEDx backdrop in the Media Lounge! #TEDxSanAntonio
**AFTER CELEBRATION**
You’re invited to the After Party in the parking lot hosted by the San Antonio Current.

**A LITTLE HOUSEKEEPING**
- Talk to strangers. The people on your left and right are very likely people you’ll want to meet. Take the opportunity to meet your fellow TEDxers.
- Bloggers and Tweeters are welcome to share comments on the talks from the Bloggers’ area in the back of the Center. Please mute all devices. Hashtag: #TEDxSanAntonio
- Video and audio capture of the actual talks by attendees or press is prohibited. TED owns the right to the talks and videos. TEDxSanAntonio operates under strict guidelines from TED.
- TEDxSanAntonio will be livestreamed at: [http://tedxsanantonio.com/webcast](http://tedxsanantonio.com/webcast)
- Videos of this year’s presentations will be available in about 3 weeks on the TEDx Talks YouTube channel: [http://www.youtube.com/user/TEDxTalks](http://www.youtube.com/user/TEDxTalks)

**AND FINALLY...**
Sign up on the website to be a volunteer for TEDxSanAntonio 2014 or our other events. We have a great time and have made lifelong friends.
VICTOR LANDA
emcee

Victor was born in San Antonio and raised on the border in both Laredo, Texas and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

In 1981, Victor landed a job working as a news photographer for a CBS affiliate in Laredo, Texas. He has been a journalist ever since.

During his 30-year career, Victor has worked as a photographer, editor, reporter, producer, assignments editor, columnist, teacher, consultant, news anchor and news director. In the early 1980s, Victor crossed over into Spanish television with a job at KWEX-TV in San Antonio. He went on to be the News Director at KVDA-TV, where the team pioneered an internet-based community correspondent project, funded in part by the Pew foundation, where citizens reported live, from their homes, via the internet about issues concerning their neighborhoods.

For 20 years he was a contributing columnist for the San Antonio Express-News as well as a syndicated writer for the Hispanic Link News Service, Victor has also written a Spanish language weekly column for Conexión, the San Antonio Express-News' bicultural publication.

Victor was co-coordinator of NOWCastSA, a community journalism website funded by the Knight Foundation and the San Antonio Area Foundation. He's owner of Palabrero Communications and editor/founder of the popular online daily, News Taco. Married for 31 years, Victor and his wife have two children.
Molly Cox grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas, where she spent the better part of her adult life as a “radio personality.” In 2006, Molly moved to San Antonio. Since then, her quest to emcee (nay, MC) all the things has truly taken form. She especially thanks the organizers of TEDxSanAntonio for contributing to her lofty goal. Her passion for theatre has led her to direct for and perform in local theatre productions, including the recent “Ragtime” production for The Playhouse at the Empire Theater. You can catch her as Lucille in “Dearly Departed” at The Sheldon Vexler Theatre starting October 18 and running through November 17. Her focus in strengthening nonprofits led her to start her own consulting business, Nonprofit Fancy Pants, in 2011. In 2012, she was named one of the San Antonio Business Journal’s 40 under 40, to which she replied, “Muahahah! Suckers.” Though it is hard to believe she allows herself to be hemmed in by a real job, she is in fact the Chief of Engagement for SA2020, the community’s vision for making San Antonio “world-class.”
Great cities have great downtowns. Great downtowns have great urban parks.

The soul of a city is found downtown, and soulful cities invariably have urban parks. New York’s Bryant, Chicago’s Millenium, Houston’s Discovery Green and Dallas’ Klyde Warren have further propelled these world class metropolises another notch.

A series of big ideas being applied to Hemisfair’s redevelopment to transform this urban space into San Antonio’s “front porch” – the city’s main gathering space – can be used in other cities around the world to develop an urban park vision. Well executed, the transformation will affect the city’s built environment, competitiveness and culture.
Martha Atkins is the founder and chief executive officer of Atkinsosity, LLC, where she works with individuals who are dying and the families who love them. She offers mentoring and coaching for mental health professionals around personal and professional losses. Her work is steeped in activities that create opportunities to bypass the thinking brain such as equus and energy work, play, experiential art, and shamanism. Her work in the world is to help people be less afraid of death and dying.

Atkins originally moved to San Antonio in 1992 to work as a child life specialist at Santa Rosa Children’s Hospital. The unexpected death of her brother nudged her toward nonprofit work as the founder and executive director of the Children’s Bereavement Center (CBC) of South Texas. Soon after leaving the CBC in 2005, Atkin’s mother, Dorothy, was diagnosed with end stage breast cancer and experienced deathbed visions as part of her dying process. This aspect of her mother’s process led her to focus her graduate research on this topic.

Martha earned her doctorate from UTSA in counselor education and supervision in May of this year. She loves Boxer dogs, Dr. Pepper, and all things magical.

TEDx Talk
More to dying than meets the eye

Those who work with the dying are familiar with patients seeing long deceased loved ones, angelic beings, even hearing music and comforting voices as the patient nears death. Deathbed phenomena have been documented in the days, weeks, and months before death since the 1500s. Often confused with hallucinations, deathbed phenomena can bring comfort to patients and caregivers if those involved know what they are experiencing. This talk will explain deathbed phenomena and present on-going research about the topic. Accounts from the dying and bedside witnesses will be shared.
Roman Baca is a U.S. Marine Iraqi war veteran as well as the co-founder and artistic director of Exit12 Dance Company in New York City. Since founding the dance company in 2007, Baca has choreographed several major works relating to the military and their families, writes and lectures about his experiences, and worked on two short films, A Marine's Guide to Fishing and War Dancer. As a teaching artist, Baca has worked with young adults in Iraq and in NYC public schools to help them express their experiences through choreography and non-verbal expression.

As a military veteran himself, his priority is to help veterans realize their potential in the civilian world and the impact they could make in their communities. He has conducted veteran/civilian movement workshops that provide tools to aid veterans in the workplace and bridge the civilian-veteran divide. Baca was also a fellow with The Mission Continues and is currently a spokesperson for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

Baca is a recipient of a 2012 Fellowship from The Mission Continues, a 2009 producing and presenting grant from AjkunBT, a 2010 Access DanceUSA Scholarship from DanceNYC through support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Brian Tippen Memorial Scholarship and the Connecticut Wartime Veterans Medal.

TEDx Talk

Veteran artists help heal a war-scarred world

I am an enigma in both the military world and the dance world. I am a ballet dancer that wanted more out of dance than just the typical ballet or contemporary dance work, I wanted choreography to deal with real world issues, so I joined the Marines. I am the military veteran who donned combat boots and cammies in a ballet I choreographed on a stage in New York City promoting social change through the art of movement.

Last year I had the opportunity to travel back to Iraq as a civilian and work with two groups of young people from Erbil and Kirkuk, Iraq. Erbil is a Kurdish city, a minority in Iraq, and has been struggling for its independence for generations. Kirkuk is an Arabic city that is still ripe with violence from years of war. We brought these two groups together and taught them to choreograph a dance work about their challenges, misconceptions, fears, joys, and their hopes for a safer Iraq.

After returning to the US I am faced with the possibility of taking a Marine fire team, trained in art, back to Iraq to conduct a workshop for Iraqi youth.

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CARY CLACK
District Director
Office of U.S. Congressman Joaquin Castro

Clack was born in San Antonio and received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from St. Mary’s University in 1985. Clack worked as a Scholar-Intern at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, in Atlanta where Clack wrote CNN commentaries for Coretta Scott King. Clack began writing a column for the San Antonio Express-News in 1994 and later joined the Express-News Editorial Board before becoming a metro columnist. Clack was the first African-American on the editorial board of a San Antonio daily as well as the first metro columnist.

Clack won the Dallas Press Club’s Katie Award for Best General Column and in 2008 he won the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library’s Arts and Letters Award for his writing. For six years in a row, until his departure from the paper, Clack won the San Antonio Current’s Reader’s Choice poll for Best Columnist in the city and was also selected Best Columnist three years in a row in the San Antonio Magazine’s Editors’ and Readers’ Choice Poll. In 2009, Trinity University Press published a collection of his columns, “Clowns and Rats Scare Me.”

Clack’s last column for the San Antonio Express-News ran on October 9, 2011. The next day Clack began work as the communications director for the Congressional campaign of Joaquin Castro.

TEDx Talk
The man who talked to Martin:
Blues plea for nonviolence

If we want more people to embrace nonviolence (not the same as pacifism) as a way of life and tool for social change we have to talk about it and break it down,

For me, nonviolence is as simple as being about how we treat one another without adding hatred, violence or unnecessary suffering. I want to talk about this by remembering a man I used to see at MLK’s crypt during the summer of 1984 when I was a scholar-intern at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. He’d talk to Martin about the problems in the world, the violence and hatred and about his personal problems. It was a plea, a blues lament, a longing for people to be good to each other, about how we still needed King.

I wrote about him in columns but only in the last three years have I thought more deeply about what he was asking.

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Ryan Cox is an attorney with San Antonio’s largest law firm, Cox Smith Matthews, Inc. Cox received a Bachelor of Arts in government from the University of Texas at Austin in 2007 and a Juris Doctorate from the St. Mary’s University School of Law in 2010. During law school, Cox worked with the prosecutor’s office in his hometown of Corpus Christi, interned with the Supreme Court of Texas, served as an editor for the St. Mary’s Law Journal, and extensively studied international and comparative criminal procedure.

Prior to joining his current firm in the fall of 2013, he served as a law clerk to United States District Judge Orlando Garcia in San Antonio, and as a briefing attorney for Justice Gina Benavides at the Texas Thirteenth Court of Appeals in Edinburg, Texas. In these roles, he regularly assisted the courts with sentencing issues, appeals, criminal trials, and prisoner civil rights cases.

Cox has published in the areas of Texas criminal procedure and international criminal justice, and he is working with professors at the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Oslo on a grant proposal to study Norwegian prison reform. He is also currently on the board of directors for the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association, a student mentor for the King William Association’s Scholar Program, and stays active in bar and community activities.

TEDx Talk
What can we learn from the world’s “most humane” prison?

Texas incarcerates more people per capita than any country in the world, and suffers from a staggering 60% recidivism (re-offending) rate. This means that almost 3% of all people in Texas are currently under some type of supervision, and more than half of those will be re-arrested after release. This system of mass incarceration is unsustainable and extremely detrimental to Texas communities. Though there are many causes for the explosion in incarceration rates since the 1980’s, there must be a better way to prepare people for release from these institutions.

In Norway, a country that incarcerates its citizens at less than 8% the rate of Texas, a focus on rehabilitation has helped the country achieve a remarkably low 20% recidivism rate. The Halden high-security prison, which Time Magazine recently called “The Most Humane Prison in The World,” has adopted policies to better prepare people for reintegration into society. Some of the successful policies at Halden are community/college atmospheres where “pupils” (not “prisoners”) learn meaningful job skills and interact with guards and staff as peers. Instead of bars, Halden has multi-million dollar art installations and impressive green spaces. Why can’t Texas create innovative and rehabilitation-focused prisons with shorter, more effective sentences?
Dr. Kristina Durante is a professor in the College of Business at the University of Texas, San Antonio. She holds a Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Texas, Austin, a master’s in social sciences from the University of Chicago, and a Bachelor of Science in mass communication from Boston University.

Durante’s research focus is the biology of decision-making, where she draws on theory in evolutionary biology and animal behavior to examine the ancestral roots of modern consumer motivations and behavior. Her research approach has yielded novel insights into consumer behavior by integrating the natural sciences with the business sciences. Her primary research line examines how hormones and mating goals systematically shift women’s desire to enhance beauty and social status through consumption. This work sheds light on how and why certain consumer products help women successfully attract mates and deter rivals.

JASON FISCHER, MA, LPC
Psychotherapist, Founder & Clinical Director
Plumeria Counseling Center

JASON FISCHER, MA, LPC is a licensed psychotherapist, as well as the founder and clinical director of Plumeria Counseling Center in Austin, Texas. His clinic has over 30 mental health professionals and is dedicated to providing high-quality counseling to anyone, regardless of financial limitations.

Formerly a Buddhist monk, Fischer’s unique philosophy fuses Eastern thought with Western psychology in a way that is easily accessible to those with little experience with either. In his most recent book, *The Two Truths About Love: The Art & Wisdom of Extraordinary Relationships*, Fischer invites readers to embrace a new perspective about life and the true root of human suffering.

His lifelong ambition is to help others discover effective ways to gain personal mastery of themselves and their lives, and positively benefit interpersonal harmony worldwide. He achieves this mission through a tireless commitment to counseling, writing, public speaking, leading workshops, supervising student therapists, and, in partnership with his wife, Sunny, parenting his two young sons—which he considers his most important job of all.

TEDx Talk
The most dangerous word

Most people speak and think frequently in terms of needs. I need to go to buy groceries; you need to be nice to me; we need to talk. In his TEDx presentation, Mr. Fischer will explain why “need” is one of the most dangerous words in the English language, how it adversely affects emotion and behavior, and—most importantly—what we can do to liberate ourselves from the bonds of this four-letter word, once and for all. When we do so, we discover the joyfulness of freedom that is rooted in one simple yet profound truth: there are no needs.

Jason Blakely Fischer
@jasonbfischer
jasonbfischer.com
Eric Fletcher is an author, writer, speaker and marketing executive. For the past decade he has served as a Director and CMO for large national business law firms.

Fletcher’s professional career has been rooted in the art and science of effective communication throughout many communications-based industries. For the past 20 years, Fletcher has been involved in marketing and business development, where he was recognized among the 2012 Top 50 Private Company CMOs in America and as one of the “50 Marketers Over 50 You Should Know” by The Global CMO Magazine in spring 2013.

Eric is a recognized leader and authority in the social media arena. He co-authored 8 Mandates For Social Media Marketing Success, has been a columnist and member of the editorial staff for Best Practices for Social Media Marketing Magazine, is a founding contributor to The Social CMO thought leadership blog, and is among the 20 most followed CMOs on Twitter. Since 2001, he has authored the Marketing Brain Fodder Blog focusing on strategic marketing, communication and values in today’s changing marketplace.

Eric holds an associate’s degree from Rochester College, a Bachelor of Science from Abilene Christian University (ACU), and did graduate studies in communications and human relationship management at ACU.

TEDx Talk
The missing metric: Exploring how we measure vision

Benchmarks play a critical role in shaping opportunities and experiences. From physical measures like length and weight at birth, to test scores designed to signal intellect; from a monthly checkbook balance, to projected quarterly earnings, measures often have disproportionate impact on how we are viewed and how we behave.

What happens if the metrics are incomplete?

This talk is an exploration of how Vision is measured. Drawing on the personal experiences of one born legally blind, Eric Fletcher shares an account of the limiting nature of the tests that measure eyesight, and what can happen when incomplete testing leads to inaccurate conclusions.

Crediting parents and mentors who knew the tests did not tell the complete story, Eric shares this idea: Vision (with and without a capital “V”) is at least as much about what we believe in our hearts as what we can delineate with the eye.

In a world where few things are black and white, senses become entangled with experiences to create a reservoir of perceptions and beliefs that define almost everything.

This is an exploration of what we might see if we remember the missing metric.

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DOUG FRANTZ
Associate Professor of Chemistry
The University of Texas at San Antonio

Doug has published 50 peer-reviewed scientific papers and is listed as an inventor on eight U.S. patents and patent applications.

Frantz obtained his bachelor’s degree in chemistry at Stephen F. Austin State University and his Ph.D. in organic chemistry at Texas A&M University in 1998. He did a post-doctoral fellowship in Zürich, Switzerland, where he discovered and developed new chemistry important for the synthesis of chiral drugs. Frantz moved back to the United States to join the department of process research at Merck & Co., Inc. where he worked on the development of practical and efficient syntheses to various drug candidates.

Frantz joined the faculty in the department of biochemistry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas in 2005 as a research assistant professor and director of the Synthetic Chemistry Core Facility.

Frantz has received several awards including a Young Investigator Award from the Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker Fund and UTSA’s President’s Distinguished Research Award for Tenure-Track Faculty. He holds an adjunct professor position in the department of biochemistry at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, is a member of the Cancer Therapy and Research Center, and co-founded the Center for Innovative Drug Discovery.

TEDx Talk
Your stem cells: Friend or foe?

Stem cells continue to gain momentum to treat and in some cases cure devastating human diseases. In contrast, there is the mounting evidence that stem cells are in fact at the literal “root” of some diseases. This duality of hero versus villain is no more evident when comparing the two most devastating human diseases, heart disease and cancer. With heart disease, stem cells offer the promise of regenerating damage heart muscle after heart attack through repair mechanisms to either reduce or reverse heart failure. Conversely, there is mounting evidence of the existence of cancer stem cells that may not only be responsible for tumor growth but may also persist long after treatment to cause relapse and metastasis. Unfortunately, a lack of understanding of chemistry and biology of stem cells has hampered efforts to develop therapies that tap into their regenerative capacity (as in heart disease) or control their proliferation (as in cancer). However, the tide is starting to change. Researchers across the globe are using chemical compounds as probes to unravel the secrets of stem cells. This talk will highlight the potential for new drugs to control our stem cells as a new paradigm in regenerative medicine and cancer chemotherapy.
NELSON GUDA
Photographer
www.EnemiesProject.com

Nelson Guda is an artist who sees life as a canvas for art and actions and choices as paints on that canvas.

Guda began his studies in a dual degree program in physics and art and then spent three years studying Japanese calligraphy and ceramics with traditional artists in Japan. After university, he received a fellowship from the National Science Foundation, earned a Ph.D. in biology, worked in the rainforest for several years, and helped form an interdisciplinary research institute at the University of Texas. He eventually left academia to pursue art full time.

From 2006 to 2009 he worked on ROADLESS, a project in which he explored and photographed US National Forest Inventoried Roadless Areas across the country. As the issue was being hotly debated in Congress, he explored lands that few people see and met dozens of people on both sides of the issue. He exhibited the photographs in 2009 in the atrium of the United States Senate Building, and the work was shown in an exhibit that celebrated the influence of Ansel Adams on contemporary photography.

While working at the Archie Bray Foundation as a visiting artist in 2010, he conceived the ENEMIES Project. Guda’s work has been shown domestically and abroad, but he takes more pride in his experiences and countless connections he’s made through his art.

TEDx Talk
ENEMIES – My search for light in terrible conflicts

I am an artist and photographer. In 2011 I began a project to try and understand how people move back into a place of light from extreme tragedy and conflict. I called the project “ENEMIES” and began traveling to conflict zones around the world. I have already done work in Kenya, South Sudan, Rwanda, India and Kashmir. In the beginning I brought people together from opposite sides of conflicts, listened to their stories and photographed them together in the same space. Later I met with ex-militants and visited mass graves.

This isn’t an academic study or a humanitarian effort. I am an artist, and the art from this project is meant to move people and make them think. I see these acts of bringing people together and trying to understand resilience as a form of art in its highest sense of expression of the human experience.

After returning from Kashmir in 2012 I spent six months coming to grips with mild PTSD, and I found my own resilience being born out of the stories I had heard from the places of deepest tragedy. The ENEMIES Project is not about conflict. It is about light.
Faith Harper is a licensed professional counselor, board supervisor, and counselor educator in San Antonio, Texas. She works as a quality assurance administrator for the Children’s Behavioral Health Division of the Center for Hope, an adjunct professor in the Department of Counseling at the University of Texas at San Antonio, and has a private practice providing counseling that focuses on sexuality and intimacy work as well as supervision to LPC interns.

Harper earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Oklahoma, her Master’s degree in community counseling and her Ph.D. in counselor education and supervision from the University of Texas at San Antonio. While Harper didn’t intend on specializing in sexuality and intimacy, through her work she found clients had many issues related to sexuality, intimacy, and complicated romantic relationships.

As she got more training in this area, she began to formally provide therapy related to these issues. Soon, she began providing training to other therapeutic professionals on sexuality related topics, specializing in ethics and countertransference. Harper believes that human beings are remarkably resilient in the face of overwhelming obstacles, including trauma.

TEDx Talk
Shame, sex, and silence

Sex is one of those topics we allude to, joke about, dance around, but rarely really TALK about. Much of the therapeutic work done in counseling related to intimacy and sexuality is de-shaming common human experiences. A large percentage of that is pragmatic discussion and psychoeducation about sex. We take away the shame’s power when we talk about these issues from a practical standpoint. The three most common issues I provide psychoeducation on in therapy are kegels, lube, and sensate touch. So often so, I have declared these topics “the holy trinity of sex therapy.” Don’t forget to Google “sensate touch.”
Brantley Hightower is a licensed architect who received a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Texas at Austin as well as a Post-Professional Masters of Architecture degree from Princeton University. He has worked for Perkins & Will in Chicago, Max Levy Architect in Dallas and Lake | Flato Architects in San Antonio. His design work outside these offices has won numerous awards and has been exhibited in Arizona, New York, New Jersey, Texas and Washington D.C.

In 2012, Hightower established HiWorks, a design office dedicated to the proposition that an innovative, functional and beautiful built environment can improve individual lives and make the world a better place. It strives to make good design available to everyone.

Hightower has taught at the University of Texas at Arlington, Texas Tech University, Trinity University and the University of Texas at Austin. He has lectured on courthouses throughout the state, and the University of Texas Press is scheduled to publish a book based on his research in 2015. He is also a regular contributor to The Rivard Report and Texas Architect magazine and has had essays published in Platform, Constructs, Pidgin and Clog architectural journals. Hightower is an active member of the Texas Society of Architects and is currently serving as its Vice President.

**TEDx Talk**

**How architecture built Texas**

The story goes that doctors started wearing white coats not just because they protected the physician’s clothing, but also because they looked like scientists’ lab coats. They started doing this at a time when it was important to communicate to the general public that their healing powers came from medical science as opposed to superstitious quackery.

Like clothing, architecture exists in the space between utility and perception. At the same time doctors were dressing like scientists, county courthouses were being built across the state of Texas that sought to make the frontier look much more civilized than it actually was. More than mere functional containers, the courthouses built to house county government in Texas expressed the idealized values and ambitions of a rapidly expanding population during times of intense economic, technological and social change.

As built artifacts, the county courthouses of Texas tell a compelling story of a particular part of the country during a specific period of time. They demonstrate how architectural tastes have changed along with society’s view of government. More importantly, they also show how good design can transform a society and make the world a better place.

[brantley.hightower](https://brantley.hightower)

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KARL KLOSE
Professor of Microbiology
South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases, UTSA

Klose received his Ph.D. in microbiology at the University of California Berkeley in 1993, and performed postdoctoral studies in microbial pathogenesis at Harvard Medical School, prior to being hired as an assistant professor in the department of microbiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio (UTHSCSA).

Klose moved to UTSA in 2004 and is the founder of the South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases, which consists of 18 infectious disease laboratories. Klose’s research focuses on understanding bacterial pathogenesis in order to develop effective vaccines and therapeutics.

Klose has authored more than 84 peer-reviewed publications and has received funding from numerous sources. He has mentored many Ph.D., Master’s, and undergraduate students, as well as postdoctoral fellows and international visiting students. He has participated in numerous NIH study sections, was the president of the Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology from 2001 to 2003 and has been an organizer of multiple national and international meetings.

He has twice been a recipient of ASM Visiting Professorships. He received the 2002 Presidential Junior Research Scholar award at UTHSCSA and the 2009 President’s Distinguished Research Achievement Award at UTSA.

TEDx Talk
What’s bugging us? Antibiotic resistant bacteria!

Antibiotics are miracle drugs that have saved millions of lives from bacterial infections. But bacteria have become increasingly resistant to antibiotics. We are now running out of drugs to treat common infections. Understanding how bacteria cause disease, how antibiotics work, and how bacteria become resistant to these drugs is critical in the fight against infectious diseases. Bacteria are amazing organisms that have a variety of strategies to cause disease, but most bacterial diseases can be treated effectively with antibiotics. Yet bacteria can rapidly convert to become antibiotic resistant when they are in the constant presence of antibiotics, such as in hospitals. If the fight against bacterial infections is viewed as a war against an ever-changing foe, the best strategy is to constantly develop new “weapons”. Robust and innovative research to discover new antibiotics, in addition to careful use of existing antibiotics, will help us maintain the upper hand in the fight against microbes.

Karl.Klose@utsa.edu
Julia Langenberg is a professional aerialist, choreographer, and teacher. Langenberg’s most notable credits include dancing on the sides of buildings with Blue Lapis Light and performing as the principal aerialist above whales and dolphins at SeaWorld San Antonio.

Langenberg is a graduate of the New England Center for Circus Art’s professional track training program, where she mastered aerial silks, lyra, bungee, trapeze, rope/harness, and expanded her expertise with experience on Chinese pole, acrobatics, tumbling, rope, sling, and an invented ground apparatus she calls a “halo.” As a dancer, Langenberg performed with several national modern dance companies and taught ballroom at the Arthur Murray Dance Studios. Langenberg also earned a vocal scholarship and graduated from St. Olaf College in vocal performance. She went on to sing with the Austin Lyric Opera and the Grammy-nominated choir, Conspirare.

In addition to her performing career, Langenberg founded the only aerial school and performance company in San Antonio. She and her teachers instruct weekly adult aerial classes, teach workshops, and perform all over the country. For the last two years, Langenberg served as an adjunct professor at Northwest Vista College, where she taught one of the only college-level aerial dance courses in the nation. She also serves as a guest aerial instructor at St. Olaf College and Palo Alto College.

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TEDx Talk

Without words

Aerial dance is a captivating medium for connecting humanity through a myriad of universal feelings including struggle, strength, failure, resilience, perseverance, and joy. I believe that these qualities extend the aerial arts beyond pure entertainment. As this art form gains popularity and acceptance in the mainstream public, I strive to engage an audience at an emotional and intellectual level that rises above awe-inspiring feats of beauty.

Through my explorations in aerial fabric, I have created innovative ways of moving through the material while suspended in the air. The core of my creative process utilizes a tool called “fabric theory,” that aids in my understanding of how the fabric wraps around the body, why particular knots catch you in drops, and leads me into an endless amount of inventive material. Fabric theory, improvisation, and countless hours experimenting, all contribute to the original drops, wraps, and locks I invent. My goal is to create an entirely original act with physical material that the world has never seen before.
Liza Long is a writer and educator in Boise, Idaho. Long writes for regional publications including Boise State’s online journal of popular scholarship, The Blue Review, which published her essay about the challenges of parenting a child with mental illness under the title, “I Am Adam Lanza’s Mother.”

As student services consultant at an Allied Health career college, Long is passionate about helping students with challenging life circumstances to change their lives through education. She was previously a general education department chair and enjoys teaching everything from English composition to art history to student success workshops. Long is a founding member of TeachIdaho, a former charter school board member, and current parent member of the Idaho Region IV Children’s Mental Health Board.

In addition to her education work, she designed and edited the 2012 Ippy Bronze winner Little White Dress: Women Explore the Myth and Meaning of Wedding Dresses and co-wrote Business Professionalism with her former faculty advisor Bruce Strom. She is currently working on a book about children’s mental health for Hudson Street Press.

Long earned her bachelor’s degree from Brigham Young University and her master’s from UCLA, both in classics. She is the mother of four exceptional children, one of whom has mental illness.

TEDx Talk
Time to talk: A parent’s perspective on children’s mental illness

On December 14, 2012, the day Adam Lanza killed his mother, then walked into a school in Newtown, Connecticut and shot 20 first graders and 6 brave educators, I shared my struggles as a parent of a child with mental illness on my anonymous blog, the Anarchist Soccer Mom. The post went viral, and it caused quite a bit of controversy. In that post, I wrote, “It’s time to talk about mental illness.” Why? One in five children has a serious and debilitating mental disorder. More than 4600 children and young people die each year from completing suicide. And yet across America, parents are struggling to find solutions for their hurting children. Too often, the only solution is jail: between 50 and 75 percent of children in juvenile detention have mental illness, often untreated, at a tremendous cost to taxpayers and society. Parents feel isolated, alone, and afraid. Pervasive stigma prevents us from even talking about our needs. One mother told me, “I know this sounds terrible, but I wish my daughter had cancer instead of a mental disorder. At least then I could talk about it.” It’s time to talk.

@anarchistmom
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Nick Longo is the founder of CoffeeCup Software, director of strategic initiatives at Rackspace Hosting, and the co-founder/director of Geekdom.

Starting in his real coffeehouse, Longo founded CoffeeCup Software in 1996. After launching startup operations and achieving dramatic sales growth and expansion, Longo sold the company after 11 years as the founder and CEO of one of the most popular early brands on the Internet. Longo is proud to have established himself as a valued contributor to the web for the last 17 years.

Combining Longo’s core strengths in brand management, web marketing, product development, word-of-mouth marketing, and business development, Longo has created dozens of web design products and services for over 50 million users worldwide. Longo also wrote a book on web design and received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Endicott College for his contributions to the Internet and society.

Geekdom, the largest co-working space in Texas, has grown to almost 700 members in a little over a year. The secret sauce for Geekdom is a tech focus where members must give back one hour a week to another member or give a workshop once a month on their expertise. This combined with mentorship & education programs as a daily part of the fabric has made Geekdom the place where startups are born.

TEDx Talk
Collaboration, ecosystems & a noble cause.
It’s not technology. It’s people.

The formula for a successful business or community is less about science and technology and more about human nature and emotions. I will discuss the ecosystems we all find ourselves in and how we got there.

There is a turning point for most people driven by outside forces that we are unaware of while they are impacting us. When groups of people with similar interests or experiences gather under certain conditions, they can create great things together and change the world. Through our lives and these experiences, we can discover our own Noble Cause. What we stand for. The thing that defines us as people. The reason we are here.
ANASTASIA McKENNA
Children's Book Storyteller
The Twig Book Shop

Anastasia McKenna, a.k.a Miss Anastasia, is a former elementary school teacher who has spent the last 17 years doing weekly and traveling story times for independent bookstores, Austin's Toad Hall and San Antonio’s The Twig Book Shop. In addition to speaking at TEDxSA 2013, she also had the opportunity to present at PechaKucha Volume 10 in San Antonio.

Inspired by her audience’s enthusiastic response to her performances and the joy of sharing books, McKenna has logged more than 3,000 performances at bookstores, preschools, elementary schools, libraries, children’s shelters and orphanages, museums and at community and private events. As a book lover, seller, children’s book collector and mother, she feels it is essential that children surround themselves with books instead of movies or television shows.

Her accomplishments cannot be measured in awards or kudos, but she loves causing belly laughs and smiles, feeling the crowd hang on her every word and—her favorite—hearing “read it again!”

TEDx Talk
Stories, not just for bedtime anymore!

Before we’re even born, we need our spirits nourished through human interaction. Live, multi-sensory, and raw story sharing is the essence of human interaction and what humans innately desire the most. To model this, I will perform a Miss Anastasia story time. I will show how certain children’s books are like user’s manuals and can actually make it easy. I will also use simple techniques and tricks of the trade, including inflection, facial expression, sound effects, silly songs, dramatic pauses and voices to kick it up a notch. I’ll ask the audience to think of themselves as children, keeping in mind that children are not critics. Children want your attention, affection, and to hear your voice. They want you to be fully present and they want to be the center of your universe. They don’t want grown up refinement and sophistication. Having seen my techniques demonstrated, I will call the audience to action and challenge them to just do it! Let go of your inhibitions, pick up a book, keep your screens black, and bring the story to LIFE.

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MYRIC POLHEMUS
Director of Human Resources
H-E-B Grocery Company

Myric Polhemus has been in a role of “people leadership” for most of his 20-year career with H-E-B and has grown his love of people leadership into a director of human resource role where he oversees 18,000 employees.

Polhemus began his career at H-E-B after receiving a degree in psychology and sociology from Texas State in 1997 where he has had the opportunity to lead large groups of diverse people in the dynamic and innovative environment of H-E-B. Polhemus has done it all—from running 150-million-dollar-a-year business units to leading areas of H-E-B that produced revenues of over half a billion dollars.

In his current role, he leads a team of HR professionals who build and maintain people strategies for the San Antonio area and company. These areas include recruiting, talent growth and management, business partnerships and employee relations. Polhemus is the recipient of 10 leadership awards in his roles at H-E-B that include The Bob Brant Leadership Award, People Development Award and Excellence in Management.

One of Polhemus’s passions is speaking on topics such as leadership trends, talent, career growth strategies and organizational leadership. He is a member of the Texas State School of Liberal Arts Advisory Board and a guest speaker at Texas State for students who are interested in career growth.

TEDx Talk
Personal vulnerability - leadership, innovation and talent

Earlier this year I fulfilled a lifelong dream; I played live music for the first time. While incredibly overwhelming it was pure joy. It wouldn’t have been possible had I not allowed myself to be open to the possibility of failure and embarrassment. I was vulnerable. As I reflected on this feeling of vulnerability and my surprising comfort with it I wondered where else it played a role in my life. That’s when it dawned on me — my experience as a corporate leader was littered with situations where being vulnerable was pivotal to my success. I’ve had the opportunity to lead dozens of teams varying in size and function. Invariably there are team members who become the voice of dissent. They challenge the team’s direction, corporate vision even my leadership. I call them the “engaged malcontents”. As opposed to shunning their ideas I find myself engaging them fully and embracing them. I make myself accessible to their points of view because I’m willing to be open and ultimately personally vulnerable to their criticism. I have found when I take this approach the environment for rapid innovation and the growth of these “productive malcontents” is unparalleled. It’s my belief vulnerable leadership is the difference.

Myric Polhemus

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TOM TUNSTALL
Research Director
UTSA Institute for Economic Development

Tunstall has been the principal investigator for several economic impact and workforce development reports including the Eagle Ford and Cline Shale. He spent a significant portion of his career on workforce and economic development assignments overseas.

Tunstall has worked with small- to medium-sized businesses in a variety of industry lines in the United States, as well as with Fortune 1000 organizations in the telecommunications, hospitality/tourism and information technology sectors. In 2002, he led a research team to develop a Telecommunications Policy Assessment Study for Alaska. He also worked with the Transportation Security Administration to implement revamped airport security screening procedures at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and several regional airports in Southern California.

His background includes work in economic research, statistical analysis, forecasting, strategy development and operational implementation. He holds a Ph.D. in economics and public policy, as well as an M.B.A. from the University of Texas at Dallas and a B.B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin. Tunstall has written articles for a variety of publications, including The Wall Street Journal. He also authored Outsourcing and Management and served as the technical editor for Outsourcing for Dummies.

TEDx Talk
Looking ahead: Implications of unconventional oil and gas in South Texas and the U.S.

The Eagle Ford Shale is transforming the economic landscape in South Texas, as are other shale oil fields in the United States. The UTSA Institute for Economic Development has developed a series of studies for the South Texas area that indicate the Eagle Ford is supporting $61 billion in economic activity and over 100,000 jobs.

These newly tapped shale oil and gas fields are transforming the balance of trade, as well as making the U.S. less dependent on energy imports. There are geopolitical implications for the prospect of the U.S. importing significantly less oil in the future, as well as the use of natural gas in new ways.

The shale activity is also transforming lives and communities in South Texas. However, long term community sustainability is not guaranteed. Community leaders must engage in longer term strategy planning, undertake regional approaches, establish a skilled local workforce, nurture strong institutional management, and exercise fiscal discipline. If South Texas communities do these things, the region will have gone a long way toward ensuring that economic development – which includes job growth, quality of life, and environmental stewardship – will be sustainable for communities across South Texas well into the 21st century and beyond.

Thomas Tunstall
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SAMUEL XIMENES
Space Architect
XArc Exploration Architecture Corporation

Samuel Ximenes is an aerospace professional and space architect. He is the founder and managing partner of XArc Exploration Architecture Corporation. His experience includes an inclusive knowledge of space architecture and systems engineering principles and practices involved in the definition, design, development, integration, test, manufacturing, and operations of large-scale aerospace systems.

He has worked for Grumman Aerospace Corporation leading design integration efforts of the Japanese and European laboratory modules for NASA’s Space Station program. He has held executive management positions at Lockheed Martin, L-3 Communications, and Futron Corporation. He is a consultant for The Aerospace Corporation providing business development services for space exploration and technology markets.

Sam founded XArc Exploration Architecture Corporation in 2007 to position the company for commercial spaceport design and development to service the commercial spaceflight industry, and to collaborate with NASA and commercial space exploration initiatives to develop planetary surface systems for habitation and human settlement. The company was a member of the design team for the Virgin Galactic Terminal & Hangar Facility at Spaceport America, the first purpose-built commercial spaceport. The company is currently working with the Houston Airport System for development of “Houston Spaceport.”

TEDx Talk
Journey to the center of the moon

It is human destiny to become a multi-planet species. The space frontier is opening up to private citizens and interplanetary entrepreneurs are redefining the business of space. Private commercial companies are leading the way going back to the moon, and not just the moon, to asteroids to mine their resources, and to Mars, the “holy grail” for human habitation on a distant world. Private companies have already announced plans to explore and exploit the solar system. One destination is to a place on the moon called the Marius Hills Skylight, a recently discovered large deep pit or hole in the lunar surface. It was formed from a lava tube ceiling collapse, and is the entrance to a lunar lava tube cave. Mineral resources around the area have been postulated for mining operations and the potential for long-term habitation and settlement within the protection of the lava tube are the basis for economic development of the site. LEAP2 is a multi-generational phased approach for developing this site beginning with robotic reconnaissance, then eventually humans exploring the cave for site assessments; an outpost construction/mining phase, and finally the settlement phase. Citizen explorers can participate at every step of the way.

Sam Ximenes
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About TEDx, x = independently organized event

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TEDx Talks video 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. (Subject to certain rules and regulations.)

About TEDxSanAntonio

TEDxSanAntonio is organized by an all-volunteer team licensed by TED to hold San Antonio’s full-fledged TEDx event. Our goal: To open the minds, hearts and spirits of the Alamo City to the most intriguing science, art, literary, technological, social justice and environmental ideas — inspiring participants from all parts of the city to initiate big changes and empowering them to continue the conversations beyond the walls of the event, and showcase the best of San Antonio to the worldwide TEDx community. Join us! Visit tedxsanantonio.com for more information.
About TED

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. Started as a four-day conference in California almost 30 years ago, TED has grown to support those world-changing ideas with multiple initiatives. The two annual TED Conferences invite the world’s leading thinkers and doers to speak for 18 minutes on a diverse mix of topics. Many of these talks are then made available, free, at TED.com. TED speakers have included Bill Gates, Jane Goodall, Elizabeth Gilbert, Sir Richard Branson, Nandan Nilekani, Philippe Starck, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Isabel Allende and former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown. The TED2014 Conference will take place in Vancouver, British Columbia, along with the TEDActive simulcast in neighboring Whistler. TEDGlobal 2014 will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

TED’s media initiatives include TED.com, where new TED Talks are posted daily; the Open Translation Project, which provides subtitles and interactive transcripts as well as translations from volunteers worldwide; the educational initiative TED-Ed; and TEDBooks, short e-books on powerful ideas. TED has established the annual TED Prize, where exceptional individuals with a wish to change the world get help translating their wishes into action; TEDx, which supports individuals or groups in hosting local, self-organized TED-style events around the world; and the TED Fellows program, helping world-changing innovators from around the globe to amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities.

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For information about TED’s upcoming conferences, visit http://www.ted.com/registration
TEDxSanAntonio Leadership

KATHY BABB
Organizer
Involved as a volunteer since our first year, Kathy has stepped up to lead two vital committees in 2013: Partnerships and Event Experience. Kathy created the vision and led the team in creating the Interactive Exhibits area, new this year. She also serves as a Community Advisory Board Member for KLRN, and spends her days as a Senior Marketing Manager at USAA.

JENIA ESPE
Organizer
Jenia is new to TEDxSanAntonio in 2013. She works behind the scenes on our business structure and processes. Originally from Moscow, Jenia came to San Antonio to study Computer Science at Trinity University and UTSA, and works as a Customer Experience Director for USAA. She enjoys helping organizations develop robust customer experience practices.

ANA GRACE
Organizer
Selecting and curating speakers in every TEDxSanAntonio event to date, Ana Grace reinvented and streamlined our curation process as the 2012 chair, and now guides the overall organization, maintaining focus on securing top-quality speakers. She is Senior Manager for Emerging Platforms at Best Buy, and performs as the talented headline singer in the band, Tequila Diva.
MICHIELE KOCH  
Organizer  
Michele Koch has worked with TEDxSanAntonio since its inception in 2010, serving on the Program Committee as a member and Chairman, and this year as an organizer overseeing logistics and volunteers. Michele has a passion for community volunteerism and idea sharing; she founded Social Media Breakfast Texas Hill County and served on the board of the Kendall County Women’s Shelter, helping to raise over $2.8 million for the construction of a safe shelter for women fleeing dangerous domestic situations.

SUSAN PRICE  
Organizer/Licensee  
Susan discovered TED videos in the late 1990s and co-founded the TEDxSanAntonio community. As owner of Firecat Studio, she helps businesses integrate web, mobile, and social media. Firecat Studio sponsors coworking sessions and other seminars to help San Antonio businesses make the most of emerging technologies.

GEORGE RILEY  
Organizer  
As software engineer for TED, George has attended several TED events and remains vital to keeping us aligned with the overall TED mission and practices. He learned to love the Alamo City as an Air Force brat, and graduated from UTSA with a BS in Math and Computer Science. He has worked remotely from San Antonio as a software engineer for Macromedia, Adobe, and for the last 6 years, TED.
TEDxSanAntonio Committee Chairs

**ANDREW GUAJARDO**
*Interactive Exhibits Co-Chair*
As Director of Development Services for architectural firm Guajardo & Associates, Andrew was a natural to take on the vision and layout of this year’s Interactive Exhibits area. A volunteer with TEDxSanAntonio since the group’s inception, Andrew stays on the cutting edge of trends and works tirelessly to connect and highlight the best of San Antonio. Andrew has two master’s degrees from Texas A&M — Architecture and Land Development. He got his undergraduate degree in computer graphic arts and 3D modeling from University of the Incarnate Word.

**REBECCA HELTERBRAND**
*Speaker Selection & Curation Committee Chair*
Rebecca was selected to participate in an executive development program several years ago when she was first exposed to TED talks. From that moment forward, she became fascinated with all things TED. This led her to volunteer two years ago for TEDxSanAntonio, first as a member of the speaker committee and most recently as its chair. She is Vice President of Marketing & Resource Development at Clarity Child Guidance Center.

**BOB HOTARD**
*Technology & Production Committee Chair*
Innovator and idea-lover Bob Hotard was on stage crew in 2012 and promoted to chair for 2013, growing project management and A/V to a professional level, drawing on his early career as a multimedia producer. Bob is a Lead e-Commerce Web Design Architect at att.com, helping business, technical and creative teams use collaborative web design prototypes. One day, Bob hopes to give a TED talk on an education curriculum based on corporate web design applied to each school’s website.

**MAKENNA JOHNSTON**
*Interactive Exhibits Co-Chair*
Makenna Johnston is a doula – traditionally, a women who helps women give birth, but Makenna extends that concept to helping people and organizations through transitions, whether in business culture and projects or personal growth. Makenna brought her “get stuff done” methodology to the Interactive Exhibits. While running her business career, she’s also pursuing a work in Cultural Anthropology at UTSA.

**CHRIS McDERMOTT**
*IT Tools & Processes Chair*
A vital volunteer since the inception of TEDxSanAntonio, Chris is our institutional memory and keeper of our data and assets; he sent your invitations and set up ticketing, he keeps the website updated and working, and he’s the guy in the front row holding the timer. Chris earned a computer science degree from UTSA, working in multimedia. A pioneer of USAA’s first intranet, Chris spends his days developing websites and apps, and firmly believes in having fun.
TEDxSanAntonio Committee Chairs

**BRANDON PINZON**  
*Logistics & Volunteers Committee Chair*  
Brandon Pinzon is a networker who loves meeting and working with smart people. He taps the people in his large network to get involved with TEDxSanAntonio, and uses his background in project management and policy development to streamline and improve our processes. Brandon earned a degree in Computer Science from the University of Iowa. He's Vice President of IT Policy and Compliance at Capital Farm Credit.

**VANESSA & KYLE ROGERS**  
*Community Outreach Chairs*  
Vanessa and Kyle both graduated from UT Austin with B.S. degrees in Communication Studies. They spent several years abroad teaching English in Chile and in South Korea. They recently returned to San Antonio, their hometown. After earning her international MBA at UTSA, Vanessa is now the Member Services Director at the Free Trade Alliance. Kyle started a business, and is the VP of Warsim Airsoft. They both love everything TED and enjoy getting others involved in TEDxSanAntonio.

**CASSANDRA SANTORI**  
*Food Truck Lunch Chair*  
As a speaker at TEDxSanAntonio 2012 - Be Bold, Cassandra shared her experiences as a worm wrangler and the benefits of worm composting. This year, she joined our volunteer crew and took on the tough task of wrangling today’s Food Truck Lunch. Cassandra has worked as a native plant landscaper, wildlife biologist, GED instructor, truck driver and entrepreneur at Wormilicious. She authors 2 blogs, My 20 Minute Garden and Wormilicious, and has produced a podcast and a book on Amazon Kindle. She’s passionate about helping the earth share its abundance.

**RAJESWARI SIRIJUDDIN**  
*Popup Bookstore Chair*  
Raji was introduced to TED talks while in Washington DC, and attended TEDxMidAtlantic in 2011. She recognizes the incredible power of TEDx Talks — how they serve as a valuable tool in realizing social change, and give individuals a platform to enhance self-esteem and personal responsibility. As a personal transformation consultant, Raji is looking forward to making the world a better place to live by helping organizations and people realize that management, scientific and spiritual theories all speak the same language. She is a Reiki practitioner and is hoping to build a secondary career in prenatal care.

**LORI WHITE**  
*Attendee Experience Committee Chair*  
Lori is new to TEDxSanAntonio this year, and has quickly become a huge fan of TEDx. She is the Managing Director for the Randstad Technologies office here in San Antonio, and has utilized past TED and TEDx Talks to help create a cohesive office culture. Lori attended Emporia State University and Kansas University. She has 13 years of IT staffing experience. Prior to that, she worked in a program in Kansas at Lutheran Social Services called Heart-to-Heart, which educated teen parents on how to stop the cycle of abuse. During college she also worked at Corner House – a drug and alcohol re-integration home for those in recovery.
THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

This event is a very complex undertaking. Think about it: Not just one speaker or performer, but 20. Not just a stage show, but also a video shoot and a web livestream. Interactive exhibits. Lunch, and a party. Everyone here by selection and invitation. And all accomplished by a team of dedicated volunteers who love San Antonio, ideas, and sharing. Without them, we wouldn’t have a TEDxSanAntonio community.

We’d like to recognize some of the talented, generous people who have made significant behind-the-scenes contributions to TEDxSanAntonio 2013.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ...

• Deborah Martin for expert PR and partner help.
• Heather Campbell for help planning the After Party.
• Melissa Burnett for the lovely “Minds Wide Open” theme design and program.
• Philip Hinckley for project management, event planning and safety thinking.
• Rebecca Reser for amazing sponsorship and communications/web feng shui.
• Greg Price for stage design advice, stagehand logistics and audience focus.
• Eden Stotts of Rackspace for her tireless event coordination efforts and poise.
• Grace Boudewyns and the crew from Lake | Flato for spearheading the design vision again, and executing the reusable planter boxes.
• Laura Carter for Communications Chairship and continuing support.
• Susan Speer for Communications Chairship and continuing support.
• Cathy Garison for program-level coaching, advice and vital strategy.
• Sara Helmy for connecting dots to TED-like organizations and programs in SA.
• Ann Knoebel for expert event advice and sharing contacts.
• Sheri Rosen for communications, strategy and handholding.
• Carlos Peña for coordinating photography for the main event and many others leading up to it.
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