TED Fellows Vancouver 2016

TED2016

TED2016

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TED2016

Welcome

Welcome to the world of TED Fellows.

Our new class of 21 TED Fellows has traveled from all over the globe to attend TED2016 in Vancouver, Canada. Here, they will share their groundbreaking work and form bonds that will last long after the conference ends. Today, the TED Fellows program is 399 Fellows strong, representing 87 countries. This community—made up of scientists, doctors, activists, artists, entrepreneurs, inventors, journalists and beyond—forms a powerful, far-reaching network that has led, in the program's eight-year history, to breakthroughs across disciplines as well as collaborations in business and the arts. It has also sparked a global conversation about how to make the future better while respecting the dignity of all people and living things.

TED2016 Fellows
This year's TED Fellows represent 12 countries, including, for the first time in the program, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. The group includes a Hawaiian geneticist focused on creating ethnic diversity in genome studies; an Iranian photographer capturing an often-overlooked side of youth culture in the Middle East; an Italian biomedical entrepreneur creating a revolutionary device to beat pancreatic cancer; a Ghanaian-American producer who has created a viral web series hailed as Africa's *Sex and the City*; a British physicist pioneering discoveries in the emerging field of perovskite solar energy and many more. Learn about them in the following pages.

Thank you
The Fellows program is extremely grateful for the visionary support of the Bezos Family, the Harnisch Foundation and the Dhanam Foundation. We would also like to thank Dani and Tony Fadell, Jonathan D Lewis and Mark Zitelli, Toby D Lewis, Melony and Adam Lewis, the Arcus Foundation, Shawn and Brook Byers, the Motwani Jadeja Family Foundation, Crystal and Chris Sacca, Lynda Weinman and Bruce Heavin, Kathleen Donohue and David Sze, Chandra Jessee, Steve Jurvetson, Gerry Ohrstrom, Matt Cutts, Sharon Lyle and Mark Mutschink and Jody and Tom Darden – as well as other supporters for their sustained involvement in the Fellows program.



The TED Fellows program is a global network of 399 visionaries in their fields, who collaborate across disciplines to create positive change around the world.

How it works
Every year, through a rigorous application process, TED selects a group of rising stars to be TED Fellows. We choose Fellows based on remarkable achievement, their strength of character and on their innovative approach to solving the world's tough problems. Fellows are invited to attend a TED conference, where they meet, exchange ideas and connect with the larger TED community. They also give their own TED Talk – an unprecedented opportunity to disseminate their unique ideas to the world.

The program
Once selected, Fellows receive transformational support. Fellows participate in SupporTED, a professional coaching and mentoring program. They work with a public relations expert who is dedicated to sharing their latest projects with the world. TED Fellows participate in an active online network, resulting in collective problem-solving, cross-disciplinary collaborations and resource sharing. Fellows have ongoing access to all of the TED media platforms, as well as to the TED Fellows program staff. They organize regional meetups and retreats to build on the initial spark developed at TED conferences, and attend official Fellows Retreats that gather all existing Fellows for an explosion of conversation and ideas. Each year, outcomes we never could have programmed continue to emerge. All TED Fellows have the opportunity to apply for a Senior Fellowship and grow their leadership in the Fellows community.

The results
After joining the network, TED Fellows report increased clarity of mission and improved self-confidence. Access to the TED community enables Fellows to connect with global leaders who become business partners, collaborators, funders and mentors. With the program's support, TED Fellows have received millions of dollars in funding, been awarded prestigious prizes and grants, started speaking professionally and been published widely. Fellows join a vibrant community, sparking spontaneous cross-disciplinary, globe-spanning collaborations that have resulted in numerous new innovation ventures, companies and unexpected art projects. Most significantly, the program has helped the Fellows to expand and intensify the impact of their remarkable ideas and projects, often preserving some of the most important places on the planet and enhancing conditions for people around the world.

How you can get involved
The TED Fellows program is made possible by our supporters – extraordinary individuals and families who are passionate about the world-changing work the TED Fellows do every day. Our supporters play an active role at TED conferences and Fellows Retreats, mentor Fellows in their projects and careers and help the program grow in scope and ambition. You can contribute by donating to the program, sponsoring the fellowship with corporate underwriting, mentoring a Fellow, telling an excellent candidate about the TED Fellowship program or by contributing in-kind goods and services.

Contact the TED Fellows program at:

fellows@ted.com

To learn more about the TED Fellows program, visit:

ted.com/fellows



Elephants crossing the Boteti River in Botswana. This image was taken during a 2,500-kilometer research expedition down the the Okavango River from its source in the Angolan Highlands to its end in the Kalahari Desert, led by conservationist and explorer Steve Boyes. Photo: James Kydd. For more, see page 92.



Posters for the Russian movie *He Is Dragon* (*Он Дракон*), directed by Indar Dzhendubaev. Artist Uldus Bakhtiozina photographed these posters during a 16-hour shoot using analogue methods and no digital manipulation. For more, see page 90.



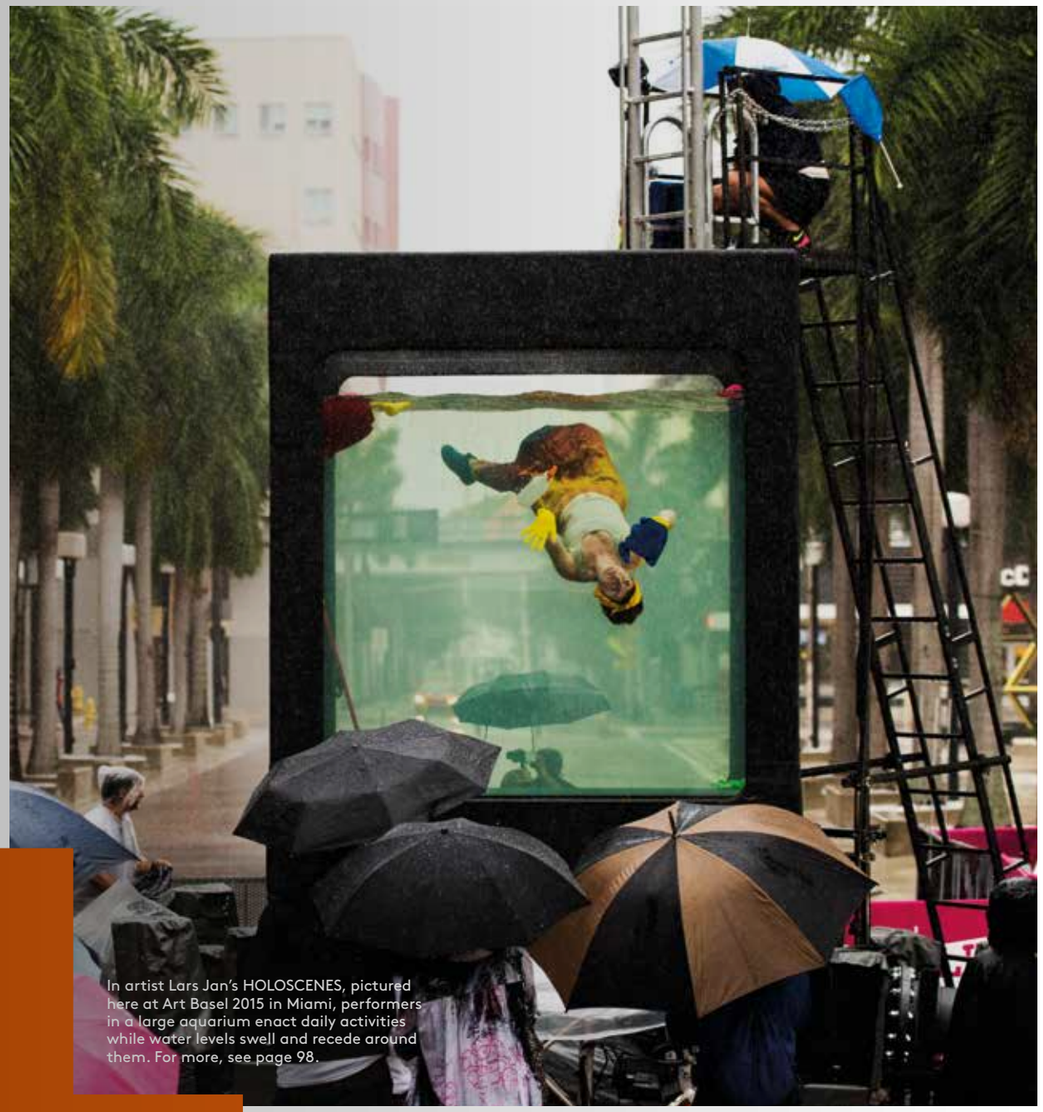




The cast of *An African City*, a web series created by Nicole Amarteifio that follows the friendships, careers and romantic lives of five successful Ghanaian and Nigerian women who return to Accra, Ghana, after being raised abroad. Photo: Emmanuel Bobbie. For more, see page 44.



In her series *Jense Degar (The Other Sex)*, photographer Kiana Hayeri explores the hidden gay subculture in Iran by following 19-year-old fashion student Amir, pictured here in detail, who seeks asylum in Turkey. For more, see page 54.



In artist Lars Jan's HOLOSCENES, pictured here at Art Basel 2015 in Miami, performers in a large aquarium enact daily activities while water levels swell and recede around them. For more, see page 98.



When revolution swept through Egypt in 2011, art historian Bahia Shehab sprayed stenciled images incorporating the Arabic word for "no" in the streets of Cairo to protest military rule and violence. For more, see page 109.

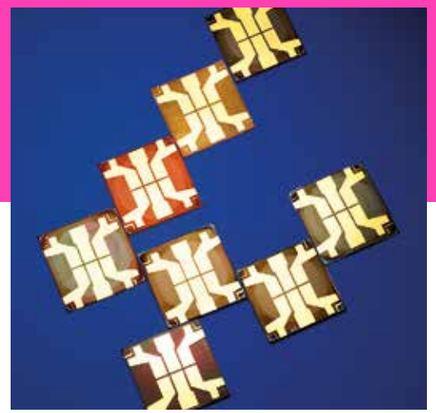


Artist Sanford Biggers's vinyl sculpture of iconic television character Fat Albert – from the animated series *Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids*, created by Bill Cosby – lies partially deflated on the floor of a gallery. The piece speaks to death, character assassination and loss in trust. Photo courtesy of David Castillo Gallery. For more, see page 48.

In *Game of Skill 1.0* – an interactive installation designed by artist Christine Sun Kim and built by electronic artist Levy Lorenzo for Carroll/Fletcher gallery in London – participants guide a handheld device along a Velcro path while the device produces sound relative to the participant's movement. Photo: Carroll/Fletcher. For more, see page 100.







Red perovskite solar cells with gold electrodes created at MIT. Solar energy researcher Sam Stranks is working to make upstart material perovskite cheaper and more efficient than silicon. Photo: Plamen Petrov/ *Scientific American.* For more, see page 78.



In the original slave quarters of North Carolina's Stagville Plantation, chef and writer Michael W Twitty cooks for an educational event about the lives of the enslaved. Photo: Andrew Kornylak. For more, see page 82.



In summer 2015, theater director Madeline Sayet premiered a critically acclaimed production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, embedding indigenous ideologies into the classic opera.

Photo: Karli Cadel/The Glimmerglass Festival. For more, see page 76.



In his lab, biohacker Andrew Pelling has grown "living" ears made from apples and human cells, proving that it's possible to create functional, biological composites without manipulating DNA. Photo: Alexis Williams. For more, see page 74.

A big thanks.

Thanks.

THE BEZOS FAMILY

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Shawn & Brook Byers

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Crystal & Chris Sacca

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TED2016

Fellows

TED2016 Fellows

—

Nicole Amarteifio
TV Director/ Producer

Samuel Bazawule
Musician + Filmmaker

Sanford Biggers
Interdisciplinary Artist

Prosanta Chakrabarty
Ichthyologist

P Keolu Fox
Geneticist + Indigenous Rights Activist

Kiana Hayeri
Photographer

Laura Indolfi
Biomedical Entrepreneur

Bektour Iskender
Independent News Publisher

Mitchell S Jackson
Writer + Filmmaker

Jessica Ladd
Sexual Health Technologist

Majala Mlagui
Gemologist + Mining Entrepreneur

Hélène Morlon
Biodiversity Mathematician

Amanda Nguyen
Policymaker

Carrie Nugent
Asteroid Hunter

Nikhil Pahwa
Digital Rights Advocate

Andrew Pelling
Scientist + Biohacker

Madeline Sayet
Theater Director + Playwright

Sam Stranks
Solar Energy Researcher

Trevor Timm
Free Speech + Privacy Advocate

Michael W Twitty
Culinary Historian

Vanessa Wood
Electrical Engineer



Photo: Emmanuel Bobbie

Nicole Amarteifio
TV Director/Producer, Ghana + USA
nicole@anafricancity.tv
@anafricancity
@allthingsafrica
Organization: An African City
—
www.anafricancity.tv

Ghanaian-American TV director and producer Nicole Amarteifio created, writes and directs the hit web series *An African City*, which follows the friendships, careers and romantic lives of five successful Ghanaian and Nigerian women who return to Accra, Ghana, after being raised abroad. The show, which launched in 2014, has been called Africa's answer to *Sex and the City* by both CNN and the BBC. With *An African City*, Nicole hopes to shatter stereotypes common in portrayals of Africa, including war, poverty and famine. Instead, the show tells modern love stories and features fashion and music from top African artists. Season 1 of *An African City* has over 2 million views on YouTube, and Nicole launched Season 2 in January 2016.



Nicole's Key Interests:
African Voices
Modern Relationships
Television

Notes

Samuel Bazawule
Musician + Filmmaker, Ghana
blitz.ambassador@gmail.com
@blitzambassador
Organization: Embassy MVMT
—
www.blitz.mvmt.com

Samuel "Blitz the Ambassador" Bazawule wants to ensure that the voices of young Africans reach a global audience. His music – a unique blend of Afrobeat and hip-hop – draws on African popular music, American vintage soul and hard-hitting beats and lyrics. Samuel also makes movies to create a visual context for his music, and is currently completing a trilogy of films that follow three generations of women linked across three continents by magical encounters. Samuel's passion for storytelling led him to create Embassy MVMT, which produces films, albums and exhibitions. Samuel is a 2013 Vilcek Prize recipient for immigrant contributions to American society in the arts and sciences.



Samuel's Key Interests:
African Voices
Filmmaking
Hip-hop

Notes





Sanford Biggers
Interdisciplinary Artist, USA
sanfordbiggers@gmail.com
@noshun
Organizations: Columbia University, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago + The Sculpture Center

—

www.sanfordbiggers.com
www.moonmedicin.com
www.arts.columbia.edu/visual-arts-professor-sanford-biggers

Artist Sanford Biggers uses a combination of painting, sculpture, immersive installation and video to expose the complexity of historical narrative, touching on challenging topics ranging from pop culture to politics. Sanford's quilts, for instance, are inspired by those used along the Underground Railroad to help slaves navigate their way north to freedom, and are infused with contemporary references. [See *Everyday a Sunset Dies* (LKG), left.] Sanford also creates multimedia musical performances with his band Moon Medicin. His work has been shown at the Tate Britain and the Tate Modern, the Whitney Museum, the Studio Museum Harlem, the Brooklyn Museum and elsewhere.



Sanford's Key Interests:
Contemporary Culture
History
Politics

Notes

Prosanta Chakrabarty
Ichthyologist, USA
@lsu_fish
Organizations:
Louisiana State University + LSU Museum of Natural Science
—
www.prosanta.net

Ichthyologist and natural historian Prosanta Chakrabarty studies fish in an effort to understand evolutionary patterns and biological diversity. Conducting fieldwork in marine and freshwaters around the world, Prosanta has discovered more than a dozen new species, including the pancake batfish (right). His most recent studies are on cavefish, small freshwater fish found in cold, dark, subterranean habitats from the Midwestern United States to Madagascar. Due to the closed systems cavefish inhabit, overlapping genetic traits of disparate populations provide insights into our geological past. By analyzing cavefish DNA, for instance, Prosanta has been able to unlock secrets to previously misunderstood continental drift patterns.



Prosanta's Key Interests:
Biodiversity
Evolution
Extinction

Notes





The MinION, a pocket-sized, USB-powered DNA sequencer.

P Keolu Fox
Geneticist + Indigenous Rights Activist
USA
keolufox@uw.edu
@keolufox
Organization:
University of Washington School of Medicine, Department of Genome Sciences
—
www.washington.academia.edu/KeoluFox

Human geneticist P Keolu Fox's mission is to increase ethnic diversity in genome studies to figure out why certain populations – including indigenous peoples – experience higher rates of common chronic diseases. For his PhD at the University of Washington School of Medicine, P Keolu has used genomic technologies to help people who receive frequent blood transfusions experience fewer complications due to incompatibility. P Keolu is also working on a number of initiatives to guarantee that indigenous peoples are partners in, not just subjects of, genomic research. These include a mobile genome-sequencing platform, interactive informed consent forms and a tribal consultation resource.



P Keolu's Key Interests:
Indigenous Rights
Diversity in Genomic Research

Notes

Kiana Hayeri
Photographer, Iran + Canada
kiana.hayeri@gmail.com
—
www.kianahayeri.com
www.instagram.com/kianahayeri

Iranian-Canadian photographer Kiana Hayeri explores youth culture, migration and sexuality in societies affected by conflict and war. Dedicated to highlighting an often-undocumented side of life in the Middle East, Kiana has spent years capturing the private lives of modern youth in Iran, including the underground LGBTQ community there. She is now based in Kabul, Afghanistan, documenting the progressive youth movement and the recruitment of children by all sides of the armed forces. Her work has appeared in *Le Monde, The Washington Post, The Sunday Times Magazine, The Globe and Mail* and *Monocle*.

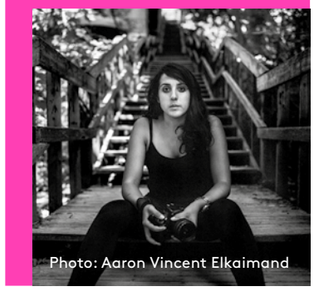


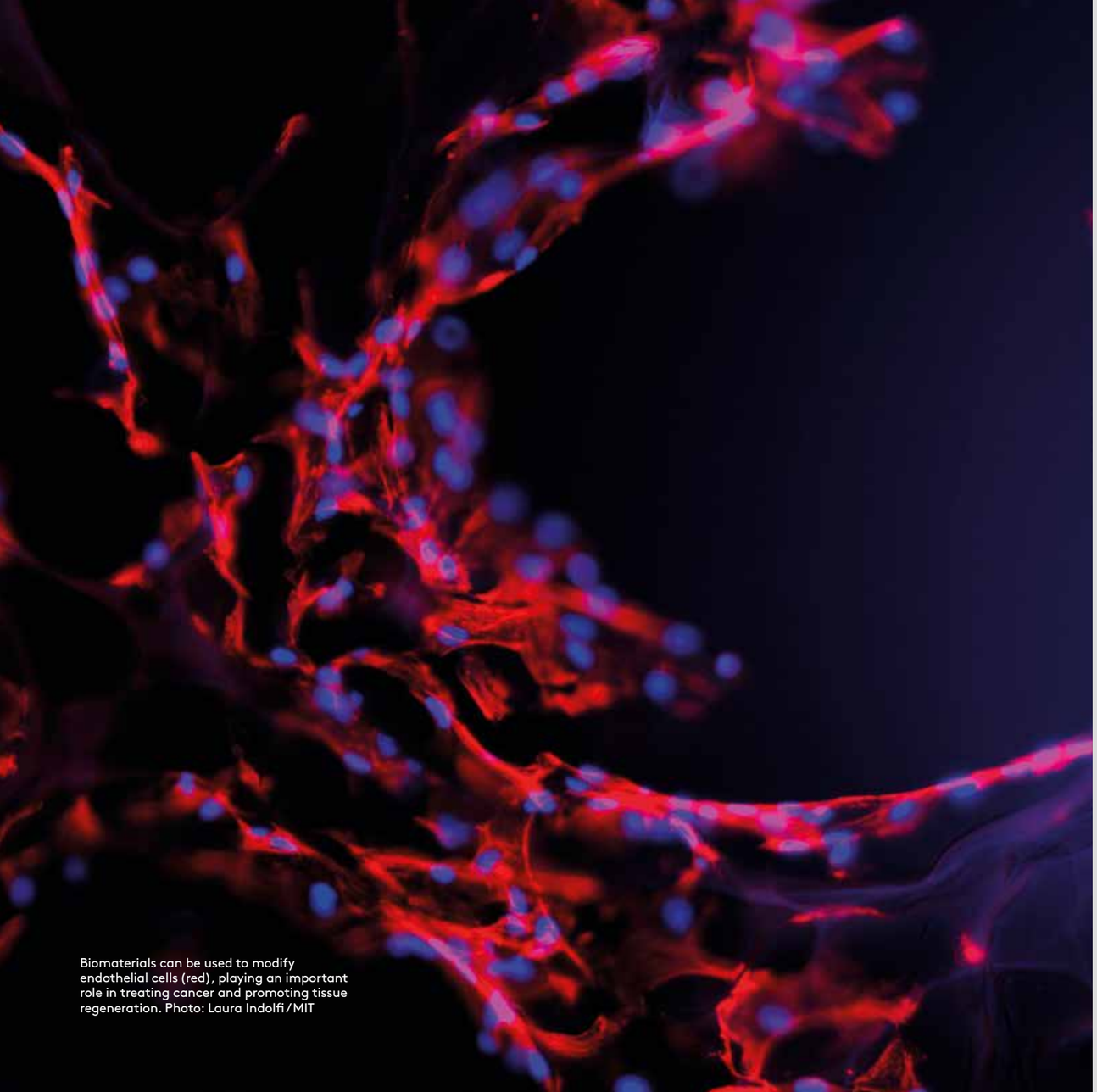
Photo: Aaron Vincent Elkaimand

Kiana's Key Interests:
Conflict Areas
Middle East
Youth Culture

Notes



Detail from a photograph in Kiana's series, *Jense Degar (The Other Sex)*.



Biomaterials can be used to modify endothelial cells (red), playing an important role in treating cancer and promoting tissue regeneration. Photo: Laura Indolfi / MIT

Laura Indolfi
Biomedical Entrepreneur, Italy + USA
lindolfi@mit.edu
@panthertx
@lauraindolfi
Organizations: PanTher Therapeutics, MIT + MGH Cancer Center
—
www.panthertx.com

Italian biomedical engineer and entrepreneur Laura Indolfi is revolutionizing cancer treatments with smart biomaterials for drug delivery and cell therapy. Her company PanTher Therapeutics is engineering an implantable, biocompatible device that delivers high concentrations of cancer-fighting drugs inside tumors while simultaneously containing cancer progression with a physical barrier. This year, Laura will complete preclinical testing of this device so that she can eventually design and plan Phase 1 clinical trials in patients with pancreatic cancer, the fourth leading cause of cancer deaths in the world.

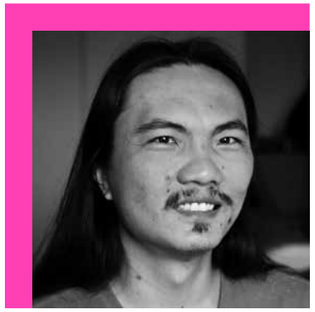


Laura's Key Interests:
Pancreatic Cancer
Medical Technology

Notes

Bektour Iskender
Independent News Publisher, Kyrgyzstan
bektour@kloop.kg
@bektour
Organizations: Kloop Media Foundation + Viximity
—
www.kloop.kg

Bektour Iskender is cofounder of Kloop Media, an NGO and leading news publication in Kyrgyzstan committed to freedom of speech and training journalists to cover politics and culture. The most unusual thing about Kloop? It's run by Kyrgyzstani youth. Most journalists at Kloop are between the ages of 14 and 25, and they've broken stories about government corruption and investigated anti-gay activity. Bektour founded Kloop Journalism School in 2006 – the first school of its kind in Central Asia – and served as Kloop's editor-in-chief until 2014. Most recently, Bektour launched Viximity, a service that connects media outlets with freelance journalists around the world.



Bektour's Key Interests:
Journalism
Media
Youth

Notes





Photo: John Ricard

Mitchell S Jackson
Writer + Filmmaker, USA
mitchj75@gmail.com
@mitchsjackson
Organizations: NYU, Columbia University + National Book Foundation
—
www.mitchellsjackson.com

In fiction, essays and film, Mitchell S Jackson explores race, masculinity, family relationships and urban life in America. His autobiographical novel *The Residue Years*, which recounts growing up poor and black in Portland, Oregon—then considered the whitest city in America—won the Ernest J Gaines Award for Literary Excellence and was named a finalist for several awards, including the PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Fiction. Mitchell also speaks at prisons, colleges, youth facilities and community centers, advocating for people who are confronting risks similar to those of his own youth. Currently, Mitchell is working on "Survival Math" – a narrative nonfiction collection to be accompanied by a film – which tells the survival stories of his family. Mitchell teaches writing at New York University and Columbia University.



Mitchell's Key Interests:
Black Masculinity
Creative Writing
Filmmaking
Youth Empowerment

Notes

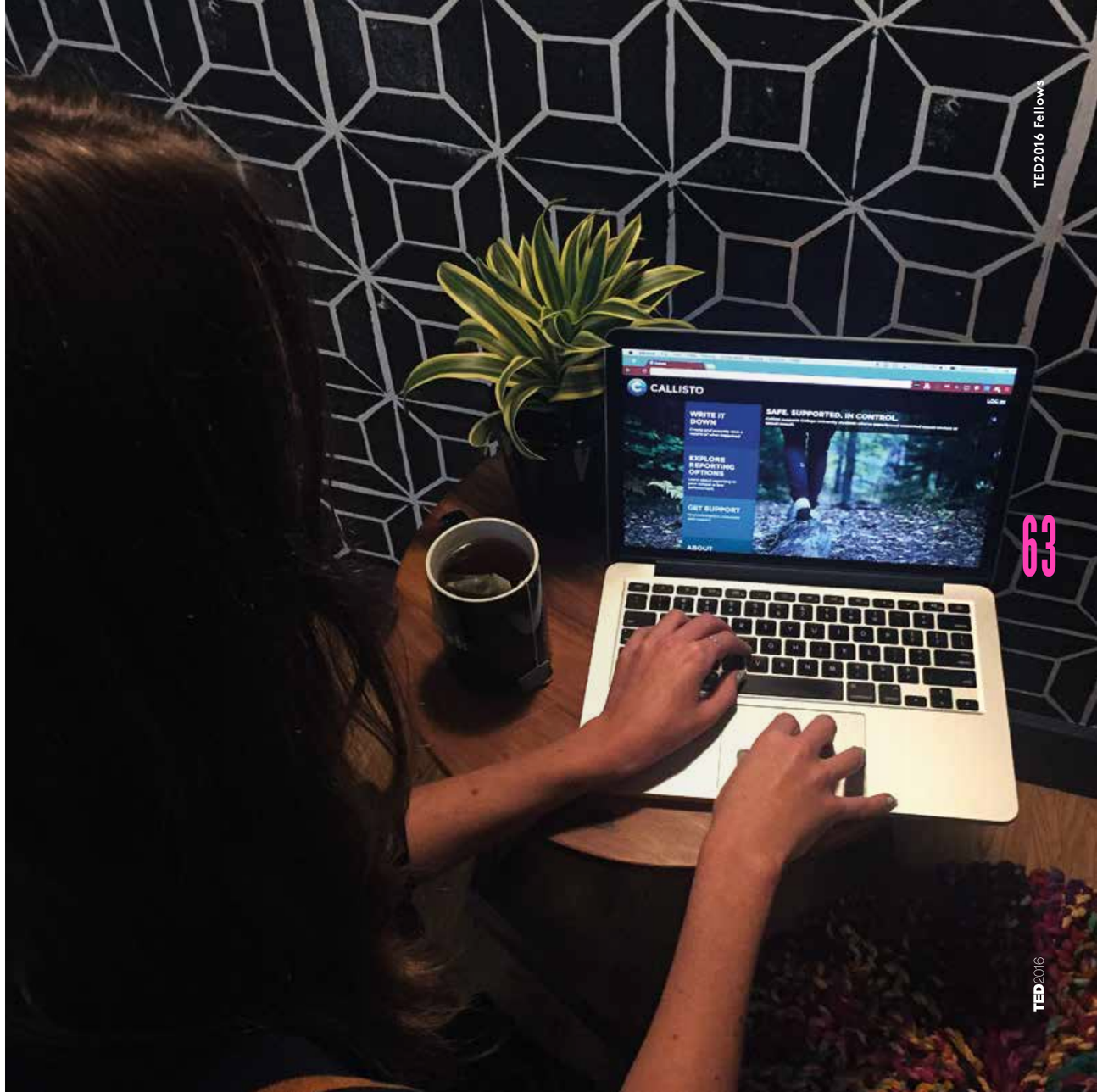
Jessica Ladd
Sexual Health Technologist, USA
jladd@sexuahealthinnovations.org
@jessicahladd
Organization: Sexual Health Innovations
—
www.sexualhealthinnovations.org
www.projectcallisto.org
www.sotheycanknow.org

Jessica Ladd's nonprofit organization Sexual Health Innovations is dedicated to creating technology to advance sexual health and well-being in the United States. Among its resources is Callisto, a third-party reporting system that allows college sexual assault survivors to securely produce a timestamped record of the incident and electronically report it – or report only if someone else accuses the same assailant, helping to identify repeat offenders. Sexual Health Innovations also maintains So They Can Know, a website with more than 100,000 users that helps people who have been diagnosed with STDs to notify their partners, either in person or anonymously. The nonprofit will soon launch Private Results, an open-source system that delivers STD test results online and over the phone, linking patients to resources and next steps.



Jessica's Key Interests:
Campus Safety
Sexual Health
Technology

Notes





Majala Mlagui
Gemologist + Mining Entrepreneur, Kenya
majala@thamani.co
@_thamani
@redzola
Organizations: Thamani Gems + Thamani Trust
—
www.thamani.co

While artisanal and small-scale miners produce 80% of the world's fine gems at huge personal risk, they only see a small fraction of the multibillion-dollar profits. Why? The reasons include opaque supply chains, limited mineral resource education and unscrupulous exports to foreign buyers. With her social enterprise Thamani Gems, mining entrepreneur Majala Mlagui is empowering such miners in East Africa, helping them to create sustainable livelihoods through responsible mining, ethical sourcing and access to fair-trade markets. Majala also provides professional-development resources to miners and helps them navigate complex regulatory and legal systems. Her work creates jobs in the mineral industry, raises the profile of local miners in Africa and improves their economic conditions.



Majala's Key Interests:
Education
Fair Trade
Occupational Safety

Notes

Hélène Morlon
Biodiversity Mathematician, France
morlon.helene@gmail.com
@hmorlon
Organization: Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, École Normale Supériere
—
www.biologie.ens.fr/phyloeco/index.html

Hélène Morlon helps us analyze the history of life on our planet through the lens of mathematics. At the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, she leads an interdisciplinary team of young researchers that models the environmental factors affecting rates of speciation, extinction and trait evolution. Hélène is involved in a number of research projects aimed at understanding biodiversity – from how plant and insect species are distributed across the Amazon basin to how frogs evolved their extraordinary ecological diversity. By understanding how ecosystems responded to past environmental changes, Hélène's work will help better predict how planet Earth will respond to human-driven environmental changes in the future.



Hélène's Key Interests:
Biodiversity
Climate Change
Evolution

Notes



Photo: Daniel Moen



Amanda Nguyen
Policymaker, USA
amandangocnguyen@gmail.com
@risenowus
@nguyen_amanda
Organization: Rise
—
www.risenow.us

Amanda Nguyen is president and founder of Rise, a national nonprofit that advocates for the civil rights of sexual assault survivors. At the heart of its strategy is a Sexual Assault Survivor Bill of Rights that, if implemented at state and federal levels, would provide legal protections for survivors as well as clear procedures for law enforcement officers. So far, Rise has drafted a bill for Maryland, New York and California, introduced a bill in Massachusetts and also at the 114th session of the United States Congress. If passed at the federal level, the Bill of Rights would grant 25 million sexual assault survivors in America comprehensive, basic and sorely needed civil rights protections.



Amanda's Key Interests:
Human Rights
Law
Sexual Health

Notes

Carrie Nugent
Asteroid Hunter, USA
nugent.carolyn@gmail.com
@listen2spacepod
Organization: IPAC/Caltech
—
www.crnugent.com
www.listentospacepod.com

Near-Earth asteroids are our smallest and most numerous cosmic neighbors. Using data from NASA's NEOWISE mission, which takes an infrared image of the sky every 11 seconds, astronomer Carrie Nugent discovers near-Earth asteroids and runs computer models that predict their surface temperatures. So far, NEOWISE has detected 158,000 asteroids and comets – of which more than 34,000 have been new discoveries – telling us much about our solar system's history. Carrie also hosts Spacepod, a weekly podcast featuring conversations with amazing scientists about space exploration.

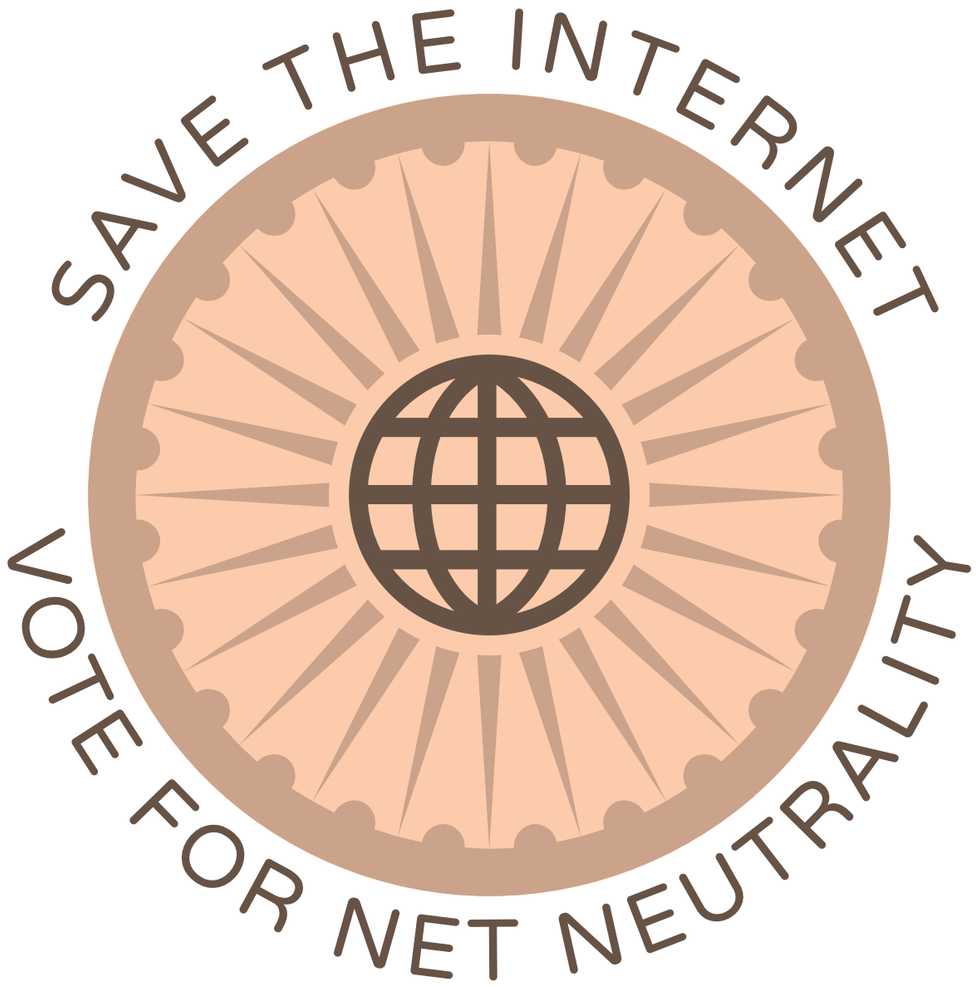


Carrie's Key Interests:
Near-Earth Asteroids
Science Communication

Notes



Image: NASA/JPL-Caltech



Nikhil Pahwa
Digital Rights Advocate, India
nikhil@medianama.com
@nixxin
Organizations: MediaNama, Savetheinternet.in Coalition + PEN Delhi
—
www.medianama.com
www.nikhilpahwa.com
www.savetheinternet.in

Nikhil Pahwa champions free speech and digital rights in India, helping to ensure that the digital ecosystem is open, fair, competitive and transparent. Working at the intersection of civil liberties, technology, media and governance, Nikhil cofounded the Save the Internet coalition, which galvanizes citizen support for net neutrality – the principle that internet service providers should enable access to all content and applications on the internet regardless of the source. Nikhil is also the founder of MediaNama – India's leading digital news and analysis publication – and helps promote freedom of speech and expression as a founding member of the Delhi chapter of PEN, an international advocacy organization.



Nikhil's Key Interests:
Net Neutrality
Free Speech

Notes

Andrew Pelling
Scientist + Biohacker, Canada
a@pellinglab.net
@pellinglab
Organizations: University of Ottawa + University of Western Australia
—
www.pellinglab.net

Canadian experimental scientist Andrew Pelling uses low-cost, open source materials to invent the medical technology of the future. He runs an interdisciplinary, curiosity-driven lab at the University of Ottawa, where he researches nongenetic ways to create artificial tissues and organs. He has, for instance, grown human cells in apples and living skins on LEGOs (right) – innovations with the potential to replace prohibitively expensive commercial biomaterials. While unconventional, much of his other experimental work has led to new insights in cancer pathology, muscle degeneration and stem cell development. Andrew has also recently started a company to sell and distribute low-cost kits that let anyone create biomaterials for regenerative medicine.



Andrew's Key Interests:
Experimentation
Low-cost Biomaterials
Medical Ethics

Notes

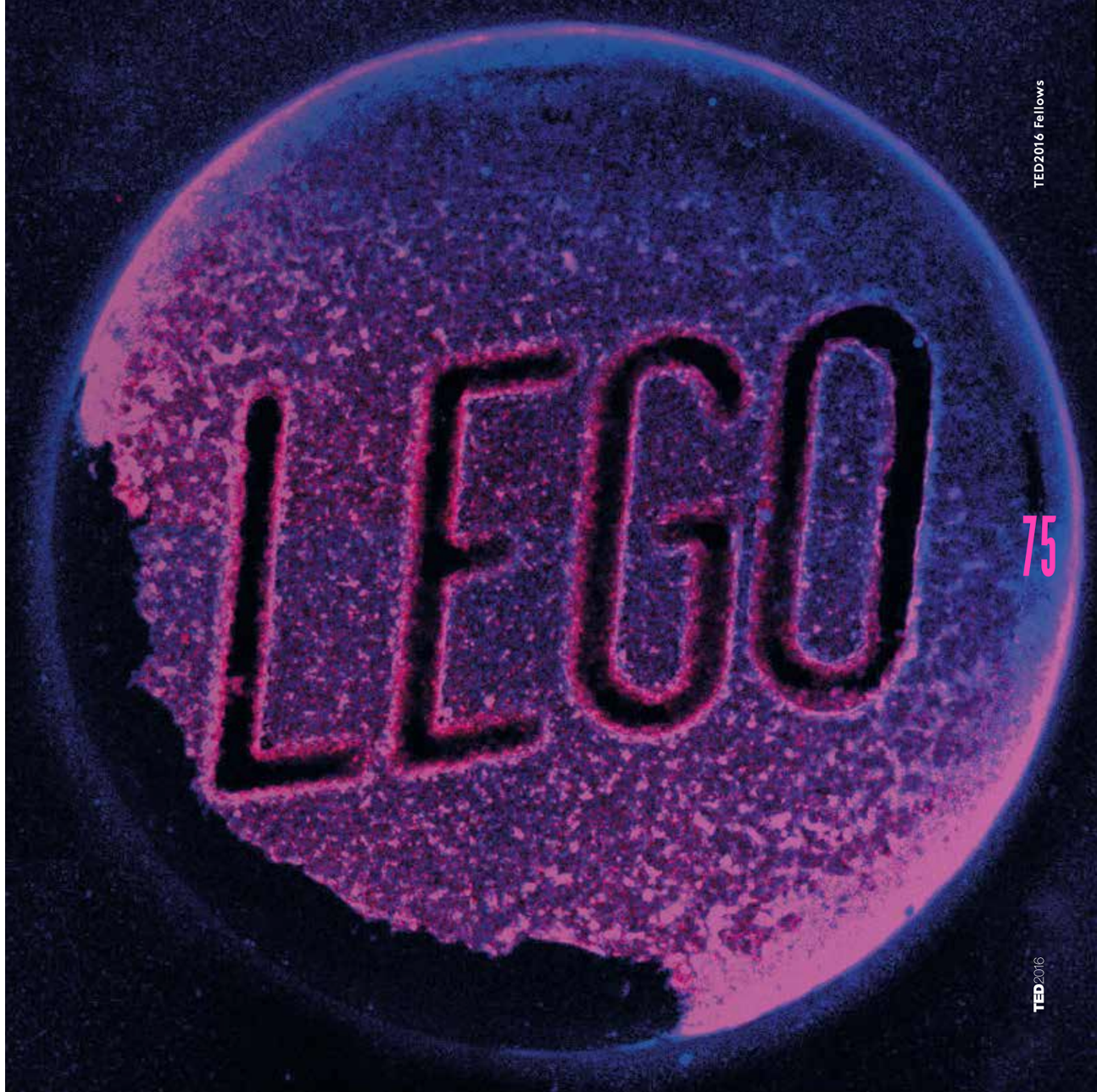




Photo: Karli Cadel/The Glimmerglass Festival

Madeline Sayet
Theater Director + Playwright, USA
madelinesayet@gmail.com
@madelinesayet
Organization: Amerinda (American Indian Artists) Inc
—
www.madelinesayet.com

Director and playwright Madeline Sayet explores cultural intersections through original theater productions in an effort to highlight indigenous perspectives. Her work ranges from reinterpretations of Shakespeare to absurdist comedy and explores the complexities of race, culture and media. In summer 2015, she premiered a critically acclaimed production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (left), embedding indigenous ideologies into the classic opera. Her work's mission: to present Native peoples with a positive image and complex realities onstage. Madeline is currently pursuing a PhD at The Shakespeare Institute, developing Ty Defoe's new play *The Fire Bird Tattoo* and collaborating with director Young Jean Lee on a new film project.



Madeline's Key Interests:
Theater
Indigenous Perspectives

Notes

Sam Stranks
Solar Energy Researcher
UK + Australia
sam.stranks@gmail.com
Organizations: Massachusetts Institute of Technology + University of Cambridge
—
www.stranks.scripts.mit.edu/stranks

Silicon, the current leading material used for solar power, can turn only about 25% of sunlight into usable energy. And while production costs continue to drop, the technology remains expensive. British-Australian experimental physicist Sam Stranks is developing lower-cost, high-efficiency solar cells called hybrid perovskites, which have a highly crystalline structure rivaling silicon. Hybrid perovskite cells are approaching the efficiency of silicon cells and are poised to overtake them. They're also made from abundant materials, are inexpensive and can be fabricated as thin films. Sam imagines a future in which a printer in every home will be able to cheaply "print" solar cells, ensuring wider access to environmentally friendly energy. Sam is currently a Marie Curie Fellow based at MIT and Cambridge University.



Sam's Key Interests:
Renewable Energy
Solar Power

Notes



Photo: Plamen Petrov/
Scientific American



Trevor Timm
Free Speech and Privacy Advocate, USA
trevor@freedom.press
@trevortimm
Organizations: Freedom of the Press Foundation + *The Guardian*
—
www.freedom.press
www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/series/trevor-timm-column

Trevor Timm's nonprofit organization Freedom of the Press Foundation is dedicated to protecting the First Amendment by supporting and defending public-interest journalism focused on government transparency and accountability. In the interest of protecting journalists and their sources, the organization offers them encryption tools and training and has developed SecureDrop, an open-source whistleblower submission system that lets media organizations securely accept documents from and communicate with anonymous sources. Trevor writes a twice-weekly column for *The Guardian* on the intersection of privacy law, free speech and national security, as well as a column on the media and press freedom for *Columbia Journalism Review.*



Trevor's Key Interests:
Privacy Rights
Government Surveillance
Free Speech

Notes

Michael W Twitty
Culinary Historian, USA
koshersoul@gmail.com
@koshersoul
—
www.afroculinaria.com

Writer Michael W Twitty is on a mission to discover the foods of his ancestors—enslaved African Americans in colonial and antebellum America—using culinary history to explore race, challenge cultural appropriation and promote culinary justice. Michael blogs as he travels the American South, bringing communities together around food history and cooking and, in the process, reclaiming endangered cultural history and heritage. He also writes about the intersection of his black, Jewish and gay identities and how such frameworks impact the way we experience food. He's currently working on his first book, "The Cooking Gene: Searching for Food Routes and Family Roots in the Old South."



Michael's Key Interests:
Culinary Justice
American History
Cultural Appropriation

Notes



Photo: Andrew Kornylak

Vanessa Wood
Electrical Engineer, Switzerland + USA
vwood@ethz.ch
Organization: Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich)
—
www.lne.ethz.ch

Electrical engineer Vanessa Wood uses nanomaterials to revolutionize energy systems – from solar cells to batteries. She leads a research group at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich that works to overcome key limitations to current technology – such as charge and discharge rates in lithium ion batteries – and recently founded Battrion, a company producing a new tool for battery manufacturers that will enable fabrication of lower-cost, higher-performance, safer batteries for electric vehicles. As the first female tenured professor of electrical engineering at ETH, Vanessa advocates for the equality of women in STEM professions.



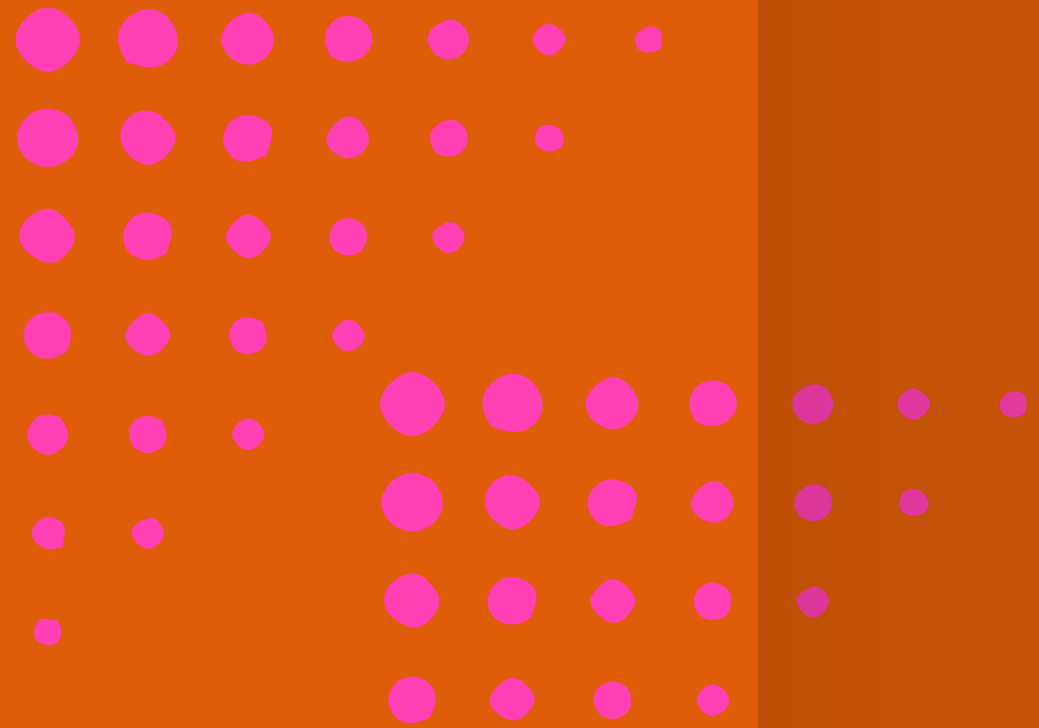
Vanessa's Key Interests:
Energy
Women in STEM

Notes

Senior Fellows

About TED Senior Fellows

Senior Fellows embody the spirit of the program, mentor new Fellows and continue to share their remarkable work with the TED community.



How it works

Each year, ten Fellows are selected to become Senior Fellows based on their sustained engagement with the program and on promising ongoing work that can benefit from the support of the wider TED community. Senior Fellows attend four additional TED conferences, often delivering a TED Talk. Over the course of their two-year fellowship, they work on individual projects and often launch new collaborations with other Fellows.

Uldus Bakhtiozina
Photographer + Visual Artist
Russia
Senior Fellow 2016
—
info@uldus.com
uldus.com

Russian art photographer whose elaborately staged, surreal portraits dedicated to Russian folklore, femininity and magic often subvert Russian cultural stereotypes.

What are you currently working on?
Since 2014, I have been working on a project about pre-Christian Russian fairy tales and folklore, using the role of females in my country to explore the complexity of modern Russian identity. I hope to soon publish my first photo book bringing together this work.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



Benedetta Berti
Conflict and Security Researcher + Author
Israel / Italy
Senior Fellow 2016
—
benedettabe@gmail.com
@benedettabertiw
benedettaberti.com

Policy consultant studying armed groups and internal conflicts, analyzing the impact of insecurity on civilians and working to build more peaceful communities.

What are you currently working on?
I am finishing a book on nonstate armed groups as rebel rulers in the Middle East and am planning another book on global insecurity and global forced displacement. I am also leading a research group on complex humanitarian crises and doing my own humanitarian and security consulting.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



Steve Boyes
Conservation Biologist
South Africa
Senior Fellow 2016
—
steve@wildbirdtrust.com
@intotheokavango
@drsteveboyes
intotheokavango.org
wildbirdtrust.com

South African conservation biologist who explores and studies remote wildernesses in Africa, including the endangered Okavango Delta, to protect and restore them.

What are you currently working on?
I am currently at work on a groundbreaking biodiversity survey supported by research expeditions into the remotest parts of the Okavango River Basin, as well as a feature film, feature magazine article and photo book. My Okavango Wilderness Project aims to help establish the largest national park in Africa in this remote part of Angola. I am also working with conservation technologists to deploy environmental sensor platforms that report measurements in realtime via satellite, mobile or wifi.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



Photo: James Kydd

Kitra Cahana
Documentary Filmmaker + Photographer, USA
Senior Fellow 2016
—
kitra.cahana@gmail.com
kitracahana.com

Canadian documentary filmmaker and photographer who covers far-ranging topics, from nomadic youth identities in the United States to her father's struggle with locked-in syndrome.

What are you currently working on?
I am working on two documentaries with Senior Fellow Ed Ou: one on the Inuit polar bear hunt and the other about Israeli-Palestinian love stories. I am also working on a photo-based art project exploring the mystical dual nature of the city of Jerusalem, in addition to continuing my work on photoessays for international publications like *National Geographic* and *The New York Times*.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



Negin Farsad
Comedian + Filmmaker
USA / Iran
Senior Fellow 2015
—
neginfarsad.com
muslimsarecoming.com
3rdstreetblackout.com

Iranian-American stand-up comedian and director of *The Muslims are Coming!* – a film that follows Muslim-American comedians on the road as they confront Middle America – and *3rd Street Blackout*, a romantic comedy set during a New York blackout after Hurricane Sandy.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships

What are you currently working on?
I recently won a lawsuit against the MTA on my Fighting-Bigotry-With-Delightful-Posters Campaign, but we're still working to actually get the posters up. This year I am launching the DailyDenouncer website, which will denounce terrorism on behalf of Muslims (in a funny way).



David Hertz
Chef + Social Entrepreneur
Brazil
Senior Fellow 2016
—
david@gastromotiva.org
@davidhertz
gastromotiva.org

Brazilian chef and founder of Gastromotiva, a social enterprise that offers vocational culinary training, nutritional and sustainable food education and business incubation programs to underprivileged communities.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships

What are you currently working on?
I am working on the Gastromotiva 2020 Strategic Plan, our Mexico and Latin America operations and preparing for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. I continue to dedicate my energy and time transforming individuals, communities and countries – in and outside of Brazil – through the magic of food.


Photo: Angelo Dal Bó

Ryan Holladay
Musical Artist
USA
Senior Fellow 2016
—
rholladay@gmail.com
@rholladay
hrholladay.com

Artist combining music and technology to create site-specific sound installations, interactive concerts and GPS-based compositions for sites around the world.

What are you currently working on?
We're working on Prime, a yearlong, four-part multimedia installation at Dolby headquarters in San Francisco. Next month, we'll launch Part 2 of 4. Later this year, we will begin work on a permanent sound installation commissioned by the US Department of State for the new American Embassy in London.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



Photo: FCTN Creative

Susie Ibarra
Percussionist + Composer
USA / Philippines
Senior Fellow 2014
—
susieibarra@gmail.com
@susieibarra
susieibarra.com

Filipina-American composer, percussionist and educator who creates live and immersive music exploring rhythm in cities and the natural world.

What are you working on?
I am designing a music and math game to teach children polyrhythms. I am also making a new record of compositions for electroacoustic orchestra that explores stories of perception. I continue to create urban sound walks and am currently composing a sacred music walk along the water routes of the Medina of Fez with TED Fellow architect Aziza Chaouni and the Fes Festival of World Sacred Music, to take place in 2016.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



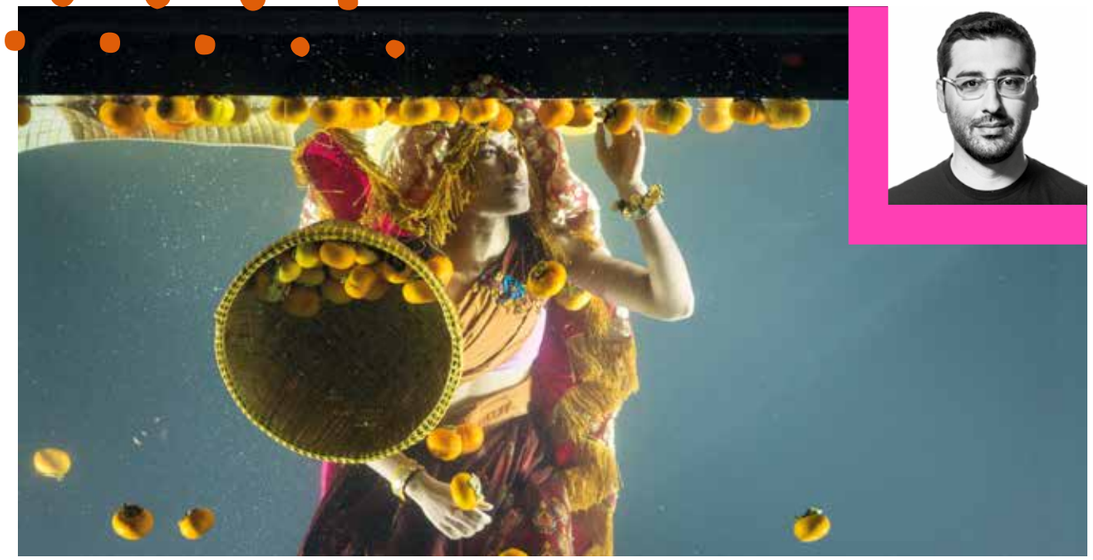
Photo: Ryan Lash/TED

Lars Jan
Artist + Director
USA
Senior Fellow 2013
—
larsjan@gmail.com
@erlymornopera
@paulabacus
earlymorningopera.com

Director, writer, visual artist and founding artistic director of Early Morning Opera, a genre-bending performance and art lab whose works explore emerging technologies, live audiences and unclassifiable experience.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partners

What are you currently working on?
I'm working on "If Renaissance Then," a multimedia interview and performance project in which I will pursue the concept of the next Renaissance on stage with an artificially intelligent avatar. I'm also touring my recent installation and performance work HOLOSCENES and The Institute of Memory (TIMe) around the US and abroad.



Somi Kakoma
Vocalist, Songwriter + Culturist
Rwanda / Uganda / USA
Senior Fellow 2015
—
somi@somimusic.com
@somimusic
somimusic.com

Chart-topping jazz vocalist celebrating modern African narratives with songwriting that is at once whimsical, political and elegant.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships

What are you currently working on?
I am working on a modern jazz opera inspired by the life of the late South African singer and activist Miriam Makeba. I'm also at work on my next album, which will be a song cycle about the large West African immigrant community in Harlem. I hope to launch MAMAfest (Modern Music & Arts Festival) in NYC this fall and am looking for a three-year corporate sponsorship.



Photo: Ryan Lash/TED

Christine Sun Kim
Sound Artist
USA
Senior Fellow 2015

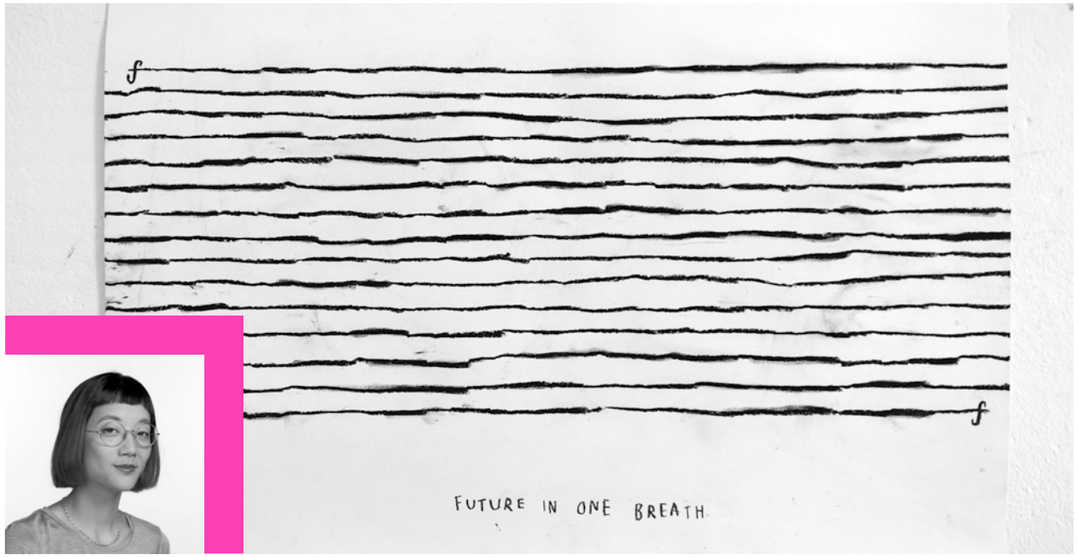
—

chrisunkim@gmail.com
@chrisunkim
christinesunkim.com

Deaf artist using the medium of sound through technology to investigate and rationalize her own relationship with sound and spoken languages.

What are you currently working on?
I am currently working on potential collaborations through my MIT Media Lab Director's Fellowship and SeMA Bienniale Mediacity Seoul, as well as several other organizations. I will continue making score drawings for upcoming gallery exhibitions and hopefully make a music video. I also have a new installation – which turns participants into a turntable needle – up at MoMA PS1 until March.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



Michele Koppes
Glaciologist
USA
Senior Fellow 2016

—

koppes@gmail.com
@michelekoppes
blogs.ubc.ca/koppes

Glaciologist, geomorphologist and science communicator observing the way glaciers and landscapes are responding to rapid climate change.

What are you currently working on?
I am documenting how glaciers in the Himalayas, British Columbia and Greenland are contributing meltwater resources to populations downstream, and how those resources will change as the glaciers adapt to regional warming. I'm also assessing how mountain communities in these regions are adapting to climate and cryospheric change.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



David Lang
Maker + Explorer + Writer
USA
Senior Fellow 2015
—
david@openrov.com
@openrov
@davidtlang
openrov.com
openexplorer.com

Cofounder of OpenROV, a community of DIY ocean explorers and developers of low-cost, open-source underwater robots.

What are you currently working on?
After four years of designing and piloting underwater drones, we've taken everything we've learned and completely reimagined what an underwater drone can be, creating the new OpenROV Trident. Right now, I'm getting Trident manufactured and shipped.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



Jimmy Lin
Geneticist
USA
Senior Fellow 2016
—
jimmy.lin@raregenomics.org
@raregenomics
@cjimmylin
raregenomics.org
cjimmylin.com
natera.com

Geneticist pioneering early cancer detection techniques and founder of the Rare Genomics Institute, which helps patients crowdsource funding and genomes to accelerate research of their rare genetic diseases.

What are you currently working on?
At Natera, I am developing blood tests that can diagnose cancers years before the current standard of care can. I am also empowering rare-disease patients with resources in order to catalyze cures.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships

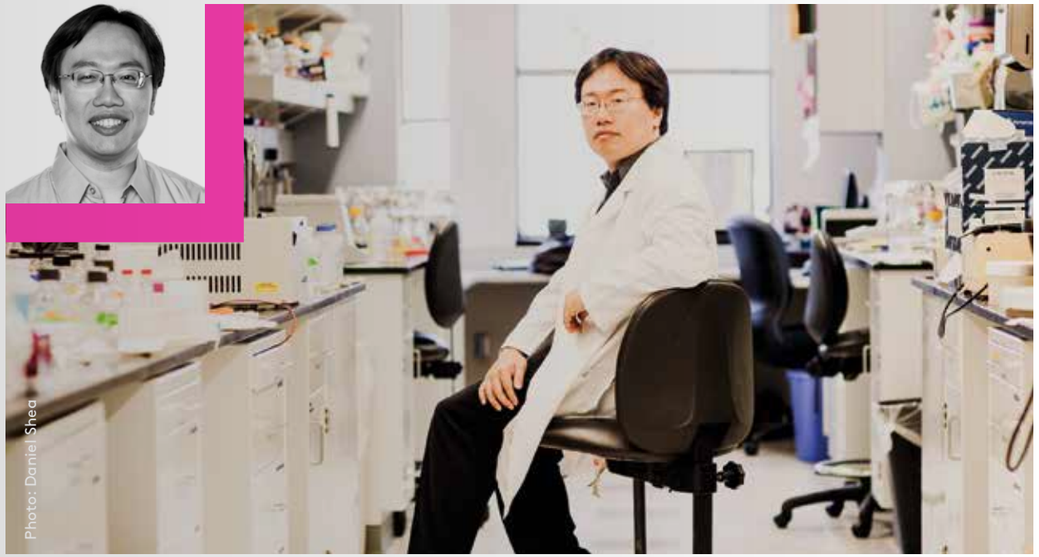


Photo: Daniel Shea

Kristen Marhaver
Coral Reef Biologist
USA / Curaçao
Senior Fellow 2015
—
kristenmarhaver@gmail.com
@coralsci
marhaverlab.com

Curaçao-based marine biologist developing methods to increase the survivorship and growth of baby reef corals.

What are you currently working on?
Our group at the CARMABI biological research station is testing and optimizing the reef recovery tools we've developed over the past few years, including bacterial strains that trigger coral settlement and surfaces that promote their attachment. We're starting new collaborations to speed up development and to deploy tools at larger scales. We're also working with more species of coral, including some whose babies have never been seen or raised by humans.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



Ed Ou
Multimedia Journalist
Canada / Taiwan
Senior Fellow 2015
—
edouphoto@gmail.com
edouphoto.com

Canadian documentary journalist whose work focuses on stories from the Middle East, unrest in Ukraine and Egypt and indigenous groups in the Arctic.

What are you currently working on?
I am working on two documentary projects with TED Fellow Kitra Cahana. One project looks at mixed Palestinian and Israeli couples who defy political and social divides to be together. The second documentary we're working on focuses on the post-colonial experience for the Inuit in the Canadian Arctic as they navigate the rough transition from a nomadic way of life to the sedentary.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



Usman Riaz
Musician + Artist
Pakistan
Senior Fellow 2014
—
usmanriaz1990@gmail.com
@usmanriaz1990
facebook.com/usmanesoterica
usmanriaz.me

Artist and composer using analogue and digital tools to create a traditional hand-drawn animated film in Pakistan.

What are you currently working on?
I am currently expanding my animation studio in Pakistan, which consists of a small number fine artists like myself who are contributing to my upcoming film "The Glassworker." This film is a beautiful hand-drawn love story set in a glassblower's workshop.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



Joshua Roman
Cellist
USA
Senior Fellow 2016
—
joshuaroman@gmail.com
@joshua_cello
joshuaroman.com

Internationally recognized cellist, composer and curator who frequently collaborates with genre-spanning musicians and creates original compositions for new audiences.

What are you currently working on?
I'm looking for the best way to focus my many endeavors – cello soloist, curator, composer, blogger, collaborator – around a central theme. I am also writing music that I can play with other people, whether in the form of an orchestra, a chorus, a dancer, a visual artist, or something else entirely.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



Safwat Saleem
Fine Artist + Graphic Designer + Satirist, Pakistan / USA
Senior Fellow 2015
—
hello@safwatsaleem.com
@safwat
safwatsaleem.com

Pakistani-American artist and graphic designer who uses satire to make art about adversity.

What are you currently working on?
I'm working on an educational card game about refugees. The objective of the game is to try to escape an unnamed war-torn territory and establish life in another country. I'm also working on a satirical picture book about the current state of the world, spanning more than 200 years.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



Bahia Shehab
Artist + Creative Director + Islamic Art Historian
Egypt / Lebanon
Senior Fellow 2016
—
bahia.shehab@gmail.com
aucegypt.edu/fac/bahiashehab

Lebanese-Egyptian artist, designer and Islamic art historian studying ancient Arabic script and visual culture to solve modern-day issues.

What are you currently working on?
I continue to paint walls in different cities around the world. I have also recently graduated my first class of graphic design students at the American University in Cairo and am working to start an online school to teach Syrian refugees Arabic.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



Photo: Christiane Gruber

Shivani Siroya
Mobile Finance Entrepreneur
USA / India
Senior Fellow 2015

—
shivani@inventure.com
@inventure
@shivsiroya
inventure.com

Indian-American founder and CEO of InVenture, a mobile technology and data science company subverting the traditional financial-services system by putting power into the hands of consumers via their mobile phones.

What are you currently working on?
I'm taking our current product Mkopo Rahisi – an Android app that lets us credit score and lend to an individual in under 1 minute – to a more dynamic financial utility product for our customers. We're expanding to six countries and building out four kinds of scores: fraud, credit, servicing and influencer. We're also mapping out countries and individual creditworthiness and identity – we've already mapped 15 million unique phone numbers in Kenya.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



Christopher Soghoian
Privacy Researcher + Activist
USA
Senior Fellow 2015

—
chris@soghoian.net
@csoghoian
dubfire.net

American privacy researcher and activist who researches and exposes the high-tech surveillance technologies that governments use to spy on their own citizens.

What are you currently working on?
I'm continuing with my efforts to discover, expose and fight the use of hacking by US law enforcement agencies. I'm also fiercely engaged in the debate over encryption, fighting hard to make sure that the tools we use to communicate remain as secure as possible.

What do you need?
Collaborators
Funding
Media Exposure
Mentorship
Partnerships



Photo: Flickr / Jonathan McIntosh



Sarah Parcak

Sarah Parcak
2016 TED Prize Winner
—
sparcak@uab.edu
@indyfromspace
sarahparcak.com
spectralglobe.com

This year, satellite archaeologist Sarah Parcak becomes the very first TED Fellow to receive the $1 million TED Prize. We couldn't be more excited for her. With the support of the Prize and the resources of the greater TED community, Sarah proposes to do something important and brave: to help uncover and protect the world's hidden cultural heritage.

"The last four and half years have been horrific for archaeology," Parcak says, noting in particular the damage ISIL has inflicted on important archaeological sites in the Middle East. "I've spent a lot of time, as have many of my colleagues, looking at the destruction. This Prize is not about me. It's about our field. It's about the thousands of men and women around the world, particularly in the Middle East, who are defending and protecting sites. We can use this TED Prize to get the world involved."

It has been such a thrill to watch Sarah's work evolve since we first selected her as a Fellow in 2012. It's an honor to count her as a member of our community. We send her huge congratulations on her accomplishment and know there are many, many more treasures before her to be discovered.

TED Fellows Staff
Tom Rielly Director
tom@ted.com
Shoham Arad Deputy Director
shoham@ted.com
Molly Kaufman Community Manager
mollyrose@ted.com
Samantha Kelly Communications Manager
samantha@ted.com
Patrick D'Arcy Editorial Manager
patrick@ted.com
Katrina Conanan Executive Assistant
katrina@ted.com

Contact the TED Fellows program at:
fellows@ted.com

To learn more about the TED Fellows program, visit:
ted.com/fellows

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& Karen Eng

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