TEDx Issaquah

ROOTS & RISE



The beginning *of* something *extraordinary.*

SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

GREATER SEATTLE · ISSAQUAH, WASHINGTON

An independently organized TED event.

Cover photo by Anthony Evans for the Downtown Issaquah Association.

A Note from *the Director*



When we set out to bring TEDx to Issaquah, we had a simple belief: great ideas don't belong only to big cities, and our community has stories, perspectives, and voices worth sharing.

On September 19, that vision became a reality. Our inaugural TEDxIssaquah brought together 120 attendees in a nearly full house for an afternoon of ideas, curiosity, and connection. The response was incredibly encouraging, with attendees giving the event an average rating of 4.3 out of 5, and 61% of survey respondents awarding it a perfect score.

> *"It was my first TEDx talk, found it exceeded my expectations by far, very informative & community based."*
> ATTENDEE

But what makes us proudest isn't the numbers. It's the community that came together to make this possible. From our speakers and volunteers to our partners and every person who showed up ready to listen, learn, and connect, TEDxIssaquah was truly a collective effort.

Our theme, **Roots and Rise**, reflected the belief that we can honor where we've come from while creating space for new ideas and possibilities.

And in many ways, this first event was just the beginning.

With so many people already asking what's next, we're excited to begin laying the groundwork for TEDxIssaquah 2027.

Thank you for helping us plant the roots of something we hope will continue to grow for years to come.

Priscila "Pree" Silva
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR, TEDxISSAQUAH





The idea *comes first.*

More than 400 people expressed interest in the TEDxIssaquah stage. The selection process asked people to do more than raise a hand: applicants were invited to put their idea into words and submit a video.

We looked for **an idea worth the stage**: a perspective that felt fresh, fit the moment and our theme, and came from someone with the experience to speak to it credibly.

On stage, that became eight very different invitations to reconsider the familiar.



WATCH THE TALKS

> *"I learned something from every speaker and have shared it with my friends and families. Great job!!"*
>
> ATTENDEE



ANTHONY OREN

How do we protect ourselves as technology rewrites the rules?



KRISTEN COFFIELD

What is a longer life **for***?*



CHERYL YAMAMOTO

What can we discover through an experience beyond words?

LIVE SOUND EXPERIENCE



RUCHIKA T. MALHOTRA

What if competition is a choice?



KRISHIV GOSWAMI

What do we miss when we design only for the majority?



MARTHA CARLIN

What can invisible networks teach us about the body?



ADAM PINSKY

What does a community lose when its local newspaper disappears?



AARON VERZOSA

What stories are hiding in what we eat?

Seven talks and one live sound experience. The questions above are editorial interpretations, not official talk titles.

What stayed *with them.*

"It's a must for those who are curious and want to connect with local thought leaders!"

JENNIFER



"Great ideas and great people to enjoy learning with - a community of learners"

"Thought provoking ideas, community issues and connections."

ATTENDEES







"This was an incredible event. I didn't know exactly what to expect, but very quickly realized I made the right choice by attending. I am definitely going again and highly recommend it to others."

SARA L.







"Topics were mixed and fascinating, the location was so easy to get to and the speakers so avalable for further conversation!"

ATTENDEE



"New ways of thinking."

ATTENDEE

Were you in the room? *Add your own testimonial.*

senja.io/p/tedxissaquah/r/event

Before the stage, there were *people who believed.*

A new TEDx event isn't built by one person. It takes a circle of people willing to offer expertise, make introductions, share resources and trust an idea before they can see the result.

Our **2026 Founding Circle** made that possible:

DOWNTOWN ISSAQUAH ASSOCIATION
FOUNDING PARTNER

Great communities create places where people gather, connect and imagine what's possible. The Downtown Issaquah Association helped TEDxIssaquah take root here, because great ideas grow where people gather.

SANDPIPER VIDEO
PRODUCTION PARTNER

The most powerful ideas shouldn't stay in the room. Sandpiper Video captured the talks and moments of the day so the ideas can travel far beyond Issaquah. The room is just the beginning.

INWORTHY
PARTNER

Before ideas can move people, they need room to be heard. As our fiscal sponsor, InWorthy helped make room for ideas that matter.

JOIN THE CIRCLE FOR 2027

Become a *TEDx Partner.*

We're building on the momentum. Join us in bringing more big ideas, meaningful conversations, and new possibilities to Issaquah and the Eastside in 2027.

Align your organization with the globally recognized TEDx platform and demonstrate your commitment to innovation, forward-thinking leadership, and meaningful community impact.

tedxissaquah.com

WITH THANKS

VENUE
Fleming Arts Center

PIPE AND DRAPE
Spotlight Repertory NW

SPEAKER COACHES
Justin Strong and Joanne Conger

VOLUNTEERS
Amanda Finnegan, Chetna Mahajan, Christina Pekarek, Ella Pólvora, Justin Strong, Mirena Zannou, Rachel Garcia, Rachel Money, Renata Lubinski, Venkat Narayanan

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Anthony Evans (for the Downtown Issaquah Association), Sthefania Cachola Scaccabarozzi

EARLY CHAMPIONS
City of Issaquah, Issaquah Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club of Issaquah, Rotary Club of Bellevue







The best ideas don't end when *the lights come up.*



They become conversations. New questions. A reason to gather again.

In 2026, a community of curious people helped bring TEDxIssaquah to life. What began as a new stage for ideas now has a first chapter to build on.

120

120 attendees.

1 of 4

One of only 4 main-stage TEDx events in Greater Seattle since 2020 (out of 60 TEDx events, from ted.com listings).

80,000+

More than 80,000 impressions online.

4.3

60% of the respondents gave the event a perfect score.

Bring an idea.
Build with us.
Be in the room.

Be part of what comes next.

> *"Already recommended it to two people."* ATTENDEE

TEDxISSAQUAH 2027

Let's make 2027 happen.

STAY IN THE LOOP

Get updates, speaker announcements, and news about TEDxIssaquah 2027.

tedxissaquah.com/newsletter

HELP MAKE 2027 HAPPEN

Have an idea? Want to volunteer or partner? Join the people bringing it to life.

tedxissaquah.com/involved

tedxissaquah.com

For 2027 partnership, speaking and volunteer inquiries, visit the website or contact the TEDxIssaquah team. TEDxIssaquah is an independently organized TED event.