



# MEET OUR CONVERSATIONALISTS

Speakers are listed in alphabetical order by session. Like life, this list is in flux, and speakers and sessions are subject to change. We will do our best to keep you posted and ask that you please check back for updates. Thank you!

## SESSION ONE (3PM – 5PM)

### JOSE GOMEZ-MARQUEZ

Co-Director, Little Devices Lab at MIT  
Researcher, TEDfellow, creator of MIT's first course on affordable medical device hardware. 3 time MIT IDEAS Competition and 2 time Lemelson Award Winner.

### ANDREW HESSEL

Distinguished Researcher, Autodesk Inc  
Scientist. Futurist. Biohacker. Catalyst in biological technologies. Founder, Humane Genomics. Co-Founder, Genome Project-Write.

### KAVYA KOPPARAPU

Founder and CEO, Girls Computing League  
Current senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, studying Artificial Intelligence and Computer Vision. TEDx speaker. Education advocate. Future scientist.

### YO-YO MA

World-Renowned Cellist  
Citizen Artist. United Nations Messenger of Peace. Recipient of the 2011 Presidential Medal of Freedom. Founder of Silkroad.

### SABRINA GONZALEZ PASTERSKI

Hertz Foundation Fellow, Harvard University Center for the Fundamental Laws of Nature  
Aspiring theoretical physicist. First-generation Cuban-American & Chicago Public Schools alumna. Forbes and Scientific American "30 Under 30" lists.

### DAVID RUBENSTEIN

Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer and, The Carlyle Group  
Philanthropist. History buff. Leader of one of the world's largest private equity firms. Chair of the Smithsonian Institution Board of Regents.

### DEBORAH F. RUTTER

President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
First female President of the world's busiest performing arts center. Collaborator. Innovator. Childhood violinist and pianist.

### ALFRE WOODARD

Academy Nominated and Emmy Award Winning Actor  
Actor. Agitator/Activist. Mother of Exceptional Millennials.  
Producer. Storyteller.

## SESSION TWO (5PM – 7PM)

### JOSÉ ANDRÉS

Renowned Chef and Owner, ThinkFoodGroup  
Internationally recognized culinary innovator. Author. Educator. Television personality. Humanitarian. Time's "100 Most Influential People." James Beard Foundation "Outstanding Chef."

### MURIEL BOWSER

Mayor of Washington, D.C.  
Proud fifth generation Washingtonian. Public servant. Advocate. Previous Ward 4 council member.

### DR. JOHN A. GRANT, III

Geologist, Center for Earth and Planetary Studies at the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian  
Geologist. Chair for the Mars Exploration Rovers Spirit and Opportunity. Member of the Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity. Home gardener. Biker. Beer collector.

### DR. CORI LATHAN

Founder and Chief Executive Officer, AnthroTronix  
Biomedical Engineer. Neuroscientist. MIT Alumna. Health technology thought leader. Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Human Enhancement. 2017 Woman to Watch by Disruptive Women in Health Care.

### DAVID ROCKWELL

Founder and President, Rockwell Group  
Architect. Tony Award-winning set designer. Student pianist. New Yorker.

### STEVE CASE

Chairman and CEO, Revolution; Co-Founder, AOL;  
Chairman, Case Foundation.  
Entrepreneur. Investor. New York Times bestselling author. Vice Chair of the Smithsonian Institution Board of Regents.

### SHELDON SCOTT

Owner and Artist, Sheldon Scott Studios  
Storyteller. Actor. Performance artist. Psychotherapist. Social worker. Youth Pride Alliance, Teaching for Change and StepAfrika Board Member.

### DR. DAVID J. SKORTON

Secretary, Smithsonian Institution  
Leader of the Smithsonian. Lover of arts and humanities. Supporter of the sciences. Advocate for education. Diffuser of knowledge. Board-certified cardiologist. Jazz flutist. Former U of Iowa and Cornell University President.

## SESSION THREE (8PM – 10PM)

### ERIK BRUNER-YANG

Executive Chef and Owner, Maketto, Honeycomb Grocer, Paper Horse Noodle Bar, Brothers & Sisters, and Spoken English D.C. Chef. Podcast host. James Beard Award nominee. James Beard 'Rising Star Chef of the Year' award winner. Husband and father.

### FRANK FOER

Staff Writer, The Atlantic  
Writer. Journalist. Author of *World Without Mind*. Slate contributing editor. Former editor of The New Republic.

### JULIUS GENACHOWSKI

Managing Director, Global Telecommunications, Media and Technology, The Carlyle Group  
Former FCC Chairman. Investor. Lawyer. Son of immigrants.

### KAITLYN HOVA

Co-Founder, Hova Labs  
Violinist. Composer. Artist. Women Who Code Core Team Member. Software Engineer. Neuroscientist. Synesthete. TEDMED speaker.

### PETE MARRA

Center Head, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, Smithsonian National Zoological Park  
Avian conservation scientist Founder of The Migratory Connectivity Project and Neighborhood Nestwatch. Author. Co-founder of Tree House Concerts. Avid fly fisherman. Passionate cook.

### GABBY RIVERA

Queer Latinx Writer  
Writer. Speaker. Storyteller. Culture Nerd. Author of *AMERICA*, America Chavez's solo series for Marvel Comics featuring Marvel's first Latina lesbian superhero.

### DANIEL P. SCHRAG

Director, Harvard University Center for the Environment; Sturgis Hooper Professor of Geology and Professor of Environmental Science and Engineering  
Professor. Geochemist. Paleoclimatologist. Dog lover.

### DAMION THOMAS

Curator of Sports, National Museum of African American History and Culture  
Author of *Globetrotting: African American Athletes and Cold War Politics*. UCLA Alumnus. Former professor.

THE  
**LONG  
CONVERSATION**

