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TEDxJohnsonCity organizers announce lineup for 2026 event

(JOHNSON CITY, TENN.) Community organizers recently announced the return of TEDxJohnsonCity, a community event showcasing inspiring voices and transformative ideas. Taking place at 6pm on June 26, 2026, the event will feature 7 speakers bringing their unique passions, stories, and ideas to the stage.

TEDxJohnson City, an independent, community-led event, was introduced to the region in the Summer of 2023. The annual event aims to highlight real change agents in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia, encourage residents to be loud and proud of who they are and where they come from, and draw more attention to our region from across the country and the world through TED's international platform.

"We are excited to see our TEDxJohnsonCity community and events continue to grow every year," said McKenzie Ketron, the Director of Development at BRIDGE and TEDx organizer. "It's an honor for our organization to put together this program every year. We have incredible voices here in our region and beyond that deserve to be amplified on our stage. These individuals are doing innovative work that will spark positive conversation amongst current residents, visitors, and those who view these talks online."

This year's speakers are as follows: Alexandra Battle, Kate Craig, Dr. Sarah Long, David Nelson, and Jessica Stollings of Johnson City, TN; Joshua Britt of Tucker, GA; and Dr. Karah Sprouse of Lebanon, TN. These individuals were selected through a highly-competitive application process with 100+ submissions from 25 states and 2 additional countries. The event will also showcase local artists and performers. Those interested in performing can contact event organizers via TEDxJohnsonCity social media or their website.

The TEDxJohnsonCity event will be held at the ETSU Martin Center for the Arts. Tickets will go on sale March 2nd at 10am. Sponsorship opportunities are available and inquiries can be directed to event organizers.

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About TED

TED is a program of conferences organized by Sapling Foundation that stands for Technology, Entertainment, and Design. The conferences are based on the concept of "Ideas Worth Spreading," with the aim of showcasing important ideas from various disciplines. The format of a TED event allows for attendees and speakers from vastly different fields to connect and draw inspiration from each other,

potentially leading to action that can change lives.

About TEDx

TEDx is a program created by TED to further share “Ideas Worth Spreading.” It grants free licenses to independent, local organizers to host their own TED-like events in their communities. At these independent events, a diverse mixture of people and ideas come together, sparking deep conversations and connections. It’s important to remember that while TED provides a general format, the views and ideas expressed at TEDx events belong to the community hosting the event, not necessarily to TED itself.