

**TED<sup>x</sup>**

# Youth@TorreAve

**x = independently  
organized TED event**

JUNE 7 2020

THEME

**IGNITE**

**EVENT GUIDE**

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Thanks for supporting teens' ideas! We couldn't have done this without you.

# INTRODUCTION

Living in Silicon Valley where innovation is spurred by the relics of technology, local high schoolers are passionate about using their skills in a variety of fields to fill the gaps created by misinformation and social barriers. Many of these talents are already evident in the phenomenal accomplishments of **Bay Area teens** in a variety of fields, but sometimes the inventive ideas miss chances to be heard by a larger audience.

By allowing high schoolers in the Bay Area to share their creative visions for not only the city but also the world, **TEDxYouth@TorreAve** fosters imagination and inspires teens to develop their abilities as young adults. The speakers and audience members are predominantly teenagers and their support system, in an effort to show teens that they can make an impact in the community.

## THEME: IGNITE

The theme of this year's TEDxYouth@TorreAve event is **Ignite**.

These speakers have all found different ways to ignite their **passion and creativity** in their speeches, from dual aspects of culture and the Silicon Valley bubble to understand psychology in the face of climate change. "Ignite" encompasses all levels of development, such as the inspiration of people to come with new innovations and enlighten us with their own stories.

This theme will be divided into basic subgroups, including but not limited to environmental issues, technological advances, medical advancements, evolution of art, and community.

# WHAT IS TED?

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. Started as a four-day conference in California 30 years ago, TED has grown to support its mission with multiple initiatives. The two annual TED Conferences invite the world's leading thinkers and doers to speak for 18 minutes or less. 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, Sal Khan and Daniel Kahneman.

The annual TED Conference takes place each spring in Vancouver, British Columbia. TED's media initiatives include TED.com, where new TED Talks are posted daily; TED Translators, which provides subtitles and interactive transcripts as well as translations from volunteers worldwide; the educational initiative TED-Ed.

TED has established The Audacious Project that takes a **collaborative** approach to funding ideas with the potential to create change at thrilling scale; 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.

# WHAT IS TEDX?

A TEDx event is a local gathering where live TED-like talks and performances are shared with the community. TEDx events are fully planned and coordinated independently, on a community-by-community basis. The content and design of each TEDx event is unique and developed independently, but all of them have features in common.

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TED has created a program called TEDx. TEDx is a program of **local, self-organized** events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience.

Our event is called TEDxYouth@TorreAve, in which x = independently organized TED event. At our TEDxYouth event, TED Talks video and live speakers will combine to spark **deep discussion and connection** in a small group. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events, including ours, are self-organized.

# SCHEDULE

## WELCOME

2:00

Master of Ceremonies

## TEDx SLIDESHOW

2:05

Teen Advisory Board and Teen Commission

## GUEST SPEAKERS

2:15

Steven Scharf, Jennifer Weeks, Eesha Ramkumar

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BICULTURALISM IN A MULTICULTURAL WORLD

2:25

Neha Washikar

## THE PSYCHOLOGY BEHIND CLIMATE CHANGE

2:40

Shanlea Tabofunda

## THE BUBBLE OF SILICON VALLEY

2:55

Srutika Sureshbabu

## INTERMISSION

3:10

## GENERATION Z MAKING AN IMPACT

3:15

Samvi Ranka

## NAVIGATING THE SOCIAL MEDIA MINEFIELD

3:30

Aniruddh Suresh

## CLOSING

3:45

Master of Ceremonies

# GUEST SPEAKERS

SPEAKERS

**Steven Scharf**

Mayor, City of Cupertino



CUPERTINO

**Jennifer Weeks**

County Librarian, Cupertino Library



**Eesha Ramkumar**

Veteran TEDx Speaker

**TEDxYouth@TorreAve**  
x = independently organized TED event

# SPEAKERS

## Neha Washikar

Junior at Monta Vista High School

Neha has been practicing Indian classical dance for the past 12 years and can speak six languages. In her free time, she likes to hang out with friends, paint, and play volleyball. Growing up in the Bay Area, she noticed many children of immigrants did not pay much attention to their parent's culture. Her talk, "The Importance of Biculturalism", outlines what it means to have cultural awareness and explains the numerous personal and professional benefits of being bicultural.



Shanlea is 16. In her talk, "**The Psychology Behind Climate Change**", she will be discussing the psychological barriers preventing individuals from acting against one of humanity's most pressing threats. As citizens, we are constantly inundated with statistics that don't motivate us to change our behavior, but by understanding the science behind our actions, we can ignite a significant change in our own lives.



Junior at Cupertino High School

## Shanlea Tabofunda

## Srutika Sureshbabu

Sophomore at Cupertino High School



Srutika is a 15-year-old captain for the Speech and Debate team and president of the Tino Student Doctors club. Srutika uses these platforms to advocate for students' well being by propagating a collaborative environment. In her free time, she enjoys doing Indian classical dance as well as binge-reading book series. In "The Bubble of Silicon Valley," Srutika explains how growing up in Silicon Valley can be a conflicting whirlwind of an experience. With the influence of the tech industries and the competitive spirit, students struggle to find a balance that allows them to prosper.

Generation Z is fortunate enough to be in the midst of the digital and social media revolution. This entire exposure gives them so many opportunities and ideas that could be used towards helping a worthwhile cause and make the world a better place. In Samvi's speech, "**Generation Z making an Impact**," she wants to inspire all her Generation Z people out there who have so many influential ideas. By sharing her journey and experience, she wants all young people out there to be able to take risks that would lead to an applause-worthy product and make the world a better place, one step at a time.



Eighth grader at Lawson Middle School

## Samvi Ranka



## Aniruddh Suresh

Junior at Cupertino High School

Aniruddh enjoys playing percussion, mountain biking and playing video games. He's also an active member of his school's speech and debate club, competing for and helping run the team. Using personal experiences, along with those of friends and family, he focused his attention to a growing problem in the modern world today. His talk, "**Navigating the Social Media Minefield**," focuses on the vulnerabilities that are exploited in order to take advantage of the millions of people who are using social media, and he hopes to provide a greater awareness of how to protect those who could potentially fall victim to such schemes.

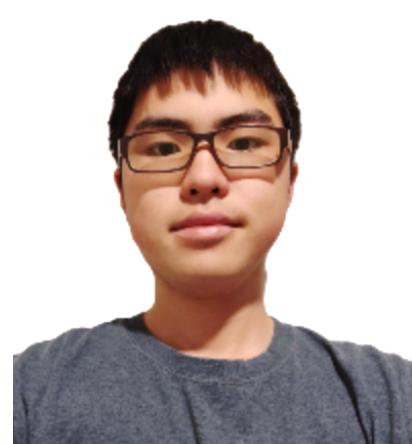
# ORGANIZING TEAM



**Aditya S.**



**Aditi V.**



**Jack T.**



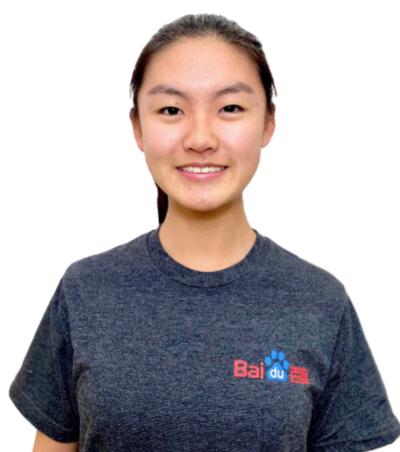
**Srushti A.**

Licensed Lead Organizer

Co-organizer

Communications Director

Technology Director / Emcee



**Andie L.**



**Jefferson L.**



**Kavya T.**



**Janvi P.**

Design Manager

Outreach Director

Event Manager

Event Manager



**Krithika V.**

Marketing Manager



**Kelly Tung**

Emcee / Selection Committee



**Jay Yeung**

Selection Committee



**Daniel Mestizo**

Recreation Coordinator



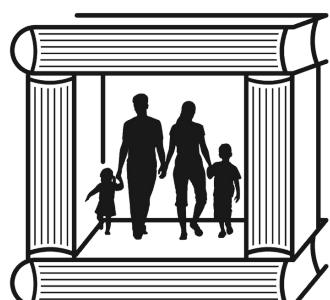
**Matthew Lorenzo**

Teen Services Librarian

# SPONSORS

It's especially important to show support for teens' ideas in an area rich with innovation, constantly churning out improvements to yesterday's invention.

We are very grateful we have the support of the **City of Cupertino**, **Friends of the Cupertino Library**, and the **Santa Clara County Library District**. We look forward to seeing next year's TEDxYouth@TorreAve together, and with you — our audience.



F R I E N D S  
O F T H E C U P E R T I N O  
L I B R A R Y



CITY OF  
CUPERTINO



**THANK  
YOU!**