

TEDxLagunaBlancaSchool
PRESENTS

S P A R K

A large, vibrant, multi-colored starburst graphic with a prominent red 'X' shape in the center, overlaid on the word 'SPARK'. The starburst features various colors including red, blue, purple, yellow, and pink, creating a dynamic and energetic visual effect.

1.31.24

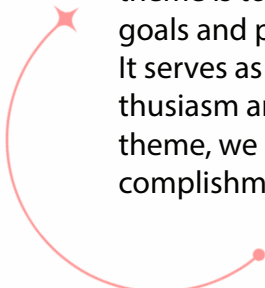
What is TEDx?

TEDx was created in the spirit of TED's mission – Ideas Worth Spreading. TEDx events are designed to give communities, organizations, and individuals the opportunity to spark deep discussions and connections. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED events.

TEDxLagunaBlancaSchool is an annual, one-day conference, and is the culminating event for students in Laguna's TEDx: Project Based Leadership course. Students are at the helm of every aspect of the event, including identifying a meaningful theme, selecting speakers, creating and managing a budget, organizing stage design, marketing the event, and arranging professional-level audio and visual coverage to share on an international scale.

What is Spark?

Spark Curiosity. Spark Progress. Spark Joy. Inspired by the way that one idea worth sharing can ignite a chain reaction, "Spark" encapsulates our passion for exploring the vast unknown of unvoiced thoughts and ideas. As we embrace this imagination, it fuels a vision in which we are capable of blazing new paths, empowering us to make a difference in the lives of our community. The goal of our theme is to signify newfound encouragement to achieve goals and propel individuals with renewed determination. It serves as a call to action that urges us to embrace enthusiasm and work towards accomplishment. With this theme, we can look forward to a year of growth and accomplishment.



Spark Words to Consider...

W	L	A	Y	J	C	Y	T	I	V	I	T	A	E	R	C	G	Z	H	Z
A	E	X	F	P	O	F	U	N	C	K	R	E	D	A	F	Q	H	O	M
Q	Y	G	I	O	A	V	W	U	O	X	N	D	G	Q	K	S	U	H	T
E	X	T	V	E	C	N	E	I	L	I	S	E	R	Y	G	R	E	N	E
X	G	Z	I	P	S	P	O	I	M	W	T	Q	M	C	F	N	W	P	O
R	M	M	Z	L	A	J	V	L	P	N	C	C	Y	P	B	W	M	V	O
N	R	B	X	H	A	K	S	H	W	O	H	E	E	K	A	A	A	B	Y
E	Q	K	O	H	A	U	L	V	H	I	A	Z	Z	N	L	T	Q	P	K
K	N	E	J	Z	Z	T	D	T	J	T	N	I	D	Z	N	I	H	I	T
I	Z	T	G	I	V	J	W	I	G	A	G	X	F	P	E	O	G	Y	Y
N	A	M	H	A	Z	O	Q	K	V	R	E	M	J	P	X	V	C	L	V
D	C	C	D	U	R	R	T	V	C	I	G	G	N	Y	P	O	Y	H	L
N	T	S	V	G	S	U	Y	J	X	P	D	L	O	G	R	H	M	Q	U
E	I	Q	H	M	O	I	O	B	J	S	M	N	B	W	E	P	V	S	C
S	V	C	Q	P	P	H	A	C	J	N	I	M	I	V	S	O	D	G	M
S	I	Q	S	B	H	Z	Q	S	Z	I	N	H	A	W	S	F	I	Q	X
O	S	N	B	Y	T	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	C	T	I	G	B	C	Z
W	M	M	I	N	T	E	G	R	I	T	Y	E	F	J	O	Y	J	J	W
V	G	J	O	Z	J	R	S	L	D	R	B	A	H	G	N	E	K	R	H
P	R	J	T	Y	B	U	Z	T	G	L	J	P	A	S	S	I	O	N	H

Activism
Expression
Change
Growth
Community
Individuality

Connection
Inspiration
Courage
Integrity
Creativity
Joy

Empathy
Kindness
Energy
Passion
Enthusiasm
Resilience



Danica Damiani '24



Lily Rice '24



Regina Lujan '24

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

SESSION 1 - 9:00 AM

GRIFFIN RICK

Unveiling Disparities:

Systemic Medical Racism in the United States Healthcare System



Griffin is a senior at Laguna Blanca School. Born and raised in Santa Barbara, Griffin's interest in medicine led him to pursue a passion project in clinical research at the Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, where he worked with industry professionals in clinical trials. Later, Griffin conducted research on diabetes alongside graduate students at Cornell University and was invited to attend the Washington University St. Louis Glomerular Disease symposium, where he met with nephrologists from around the world and gained a perspective on the issues with modern medicine. Outside of school, Griffin is a passionate skier, golfer, and double bass player.

SOPHIA DENISON-JOHNSTON

What Do You Need?

How a Simple Check-in Fueled a Record-Setting Feat

Sophia is a motivational speaker, workshop leader, athlete, coach, and lifelong learner. She is passionate about studying how relationships form the foundation for individuals to thrive. Sophia's work has grown from full-time training as an elite athlete to coaching and bodywork. She finally assembled the pieces to unearth the body and soul's deep reservoirs of strength during her team's record-setting row from California to Hawaii. Sophia's understanding of the body's resilience, the relationships and needs that make us human, and the important role of communication drive her work with both teams and bodywork clients.



LESLIE ZEMECKIS

From Forgotten to Forever:

Immortalizing Women Through Stories



Leslie Zemeckis is a best-selling author, actress and award-winning documentarian. She has acted in film and television opposite Steve Carell, Tom Hanks, Colin Firth and Mickey Rourke. She is the founder of "Stories Matter," sponsored by Santa Barbara International Film Festival and ENTITY Magazine, with professional female authors mentoring the next generation of female storytellers. In 2013, Zemeckis was honored for her work inspiring women, receiving the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for "sharing and preserving stories of women who were once marginalized and stigmatized."

SESSION 1

DJ JAVIER Keep Striking

D.J. Javier is a Filipino-American fine artist and graphic designer who blends the lines between art and design, using his Southern California upbringing and Filipino heritage to lead his work, whether analog or digital. Some notable clients include Vans, Los Angeles Rams, Adidas, Stance, Amazon, Shake Shack, and Netflix. He owns and operates his creative studio, Bayan Surf Club, in Santa Barbara, California.



ADA RAY

Finding My Melody: An Unscripted Journey Through Music



Ada Ray is a singer, songwriter, and a junior at Laguna Blanca School. She has been a singer her whole life, having been influenced at a young age by her mother and father, who are both musicians. Music is a key aspect of Ada's life, which has helped her express herself and helped her through personal hardships. Ada's passion for music has led her to perform for school events in our Stage Band class, as well as her mother's home concerts and numerous gigs around Santa Barbara. She has also created her own music platform on Instagram, where she shares videos of her original creations.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



Caroline Kenny '25



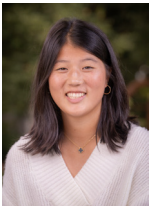
Carson Stewart '25



Chloe Gidney '25



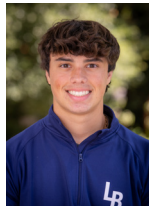
Peyton Gimbel '26



Jinling Wang '25



Serena De Ponce '25



Spencer Hlavaty '24



Paloma Lujan '24

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

SESSION 2 - 11:15 AM

KRISTINA MCKEAN

Be the Change: Voice for the Voiceless



The Elephant Project is a female-founded philanthropic toy company that has successfully helped save hundreds of elephants globally by donating proceeds from the hand-designed stuffed animals to aligned organizations that directly benefit the toys' real-world counterparts. Founded by Kristina McKean in 2017 after a lingering firsthand encounter with neglected baby elephants in Thailand, The Elephant Project launched its first cuddly product and accompanying education materials out of Santa Barbara, CA. Kristina has recently expanded her SAVEUS brand to include big cats and dogs who are also suffering from abuse and neglect in the U.S. and abroad.

GRANT MACNAUGHTON

The Ingredients for Real Job Fulfillment

From his first job dressing up as a cartoon cat in an amusement park to his current position in education (via investment banking and restaurant ownership), Grant has been on an unconventional career path. Yet there has been a running theme throughout this journey as he has consistently let curiosity, challenge, and joy drive his career choices and approach to less appealing work tasks. He believes that our career choices should be closely linked with activities that bring us fulfillment beyond money. This results in more self-contentment during these work hours, and increases gratification in a more engaged and productive workforce.



DESIGN TEAM



Siena Wyatt '25



Cierra Nervo '24



Lucy Wang '24



Milla Hirsh '25



Jack Garcia '24



Sarah Woodhouse '24



Dakota Risley '26



JJ Stone '26

OPERATIONS TEAM

SESSION 2

KIMI CULP

The Transformative Power of Sharing Our Painful Stories

Kimi Culp is a journalist and TV/film producer driven by endless curiosity and a knack for identifying and developing stories with soul. Kimi has conducted thousands of interviews for outlets such as NBC, ABC and The Oprah Winfrey Show. As a producer, Kimi's film GLEASON, a documentary about her close friends, Michel and Steve Gleason, following Steve's diagnosis of ALS at 32, premiered at Sundance and was shortlisted for the Academy Awards. Kimi is the co-creator of the All The Wiser podcast, a show about hope and possibility on the other side of pain.



JIM MCCLINTOCK

Antarctica: Changing Ice, Changing World



James B. McClintock is the Endowed University Professor of Polar and Marine Biology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. McClintock's research has been funded over the past 33 years, encompassing studies on rapid climate change and ocean acidification on Antarctic marine algae and invertebrates. He recently returned from his 16th research expedition to Antarctica, where he and his research collaborators have become among the world's authorities on Antarctic marine chemical ecology and drug discovery. In October 1998, the United States Board on Geographic Names designated the geographic feature

"McClintock Point" in honor of his contributions to Antarctic science.

MILTON LOPEZ PLASCENIA

How Dance Changed My Life, and What You Can Take Away

Milton Alejandro Lopez Plascenia is a resident of Santa Barbara and a junior at Laguna Blanca School.

He is currently a tutor for Spanish and is excited to share part of his culture with anyone he comes across in life. Milton joined a dance studio earlier this year, recently joined their training teams, and he will continue to practice throughout the year. Milton has bonded with both his school and dance community and hopes to continue making relationships within Santa Barbara. He also wishes to showcase what he has learned throughout his journey in dance to look for a way to approach life.



SESSION 3 - 1:30 PM

LORENA MARTINEZ

The Unexpected Magic of Unproductive Joy



Lorena Martinez is an actor, writer, speaker, and coach who is all in on the magic of Creative Joy. She launched her company, Bien Creative with a mission to raise joy, inspire courage, and ignite creativity. A professional actor for over 10 years, Lorena has performed on Hollywood sets, Tony Award-winning stages, and legendary comedy houses. She created and wrote a sitcom based on her immigration woes and recently signed a shopping deal with a major production company. She is also the creator of PLAYDATE, a show where she inter-

views her favorite artists from Hollywood to Broadway; they play games, do crafts, and go deep on the journey of creating an improbable career.

JOHN CARNEY

Football Mentor and Life Coach

John Carney has an illustrious 23-year professional football career. While he is fondly remembered by teammates and fans as one of the most prolific place-kickers in the history of the National Football League, he “kicked off” Carney Ventures, LLC to make an impact of a different sort. John is a mentor and coach for the rising generation of kickers and punters. His insight and passion as a trainer have been instrumental in opening doors for athletes to become the best version of themselves. He opened the Carney Training Facility in Carlsbad for football players to everyday people wanting better health to be stronger, more agile, and more whole.



IMPROVABILITY TEAM



UCSB's premier improvisational comedy troupe performs every Friday evening at 8 pm in the Embarcadero Hall in Isla Vista. Delighting audiences with themed shows, a dynamic cast, and the funniest skits anywhere, IMPROVABILITY is the way to get your weekend started! Voted “Best Late Night Entertainment” at UCSB!

SESSION 3

LEAH NOTARIANNI

Rewrite Your Story

Leah Notarianni is a transformational speaker and business mentor who helps industry leaders transform their lives and businesses from the inside out. She's the Co-Founder and CEO of Legacy & Leverage, where she supports industry leaders to master the science of transformation and leverage and scale their expertise through live events, group programs and certifications so they can have a greater impact in the world. Leah went from being a broke single mom to a 7 figure business owner and she uses her experience to support high achievers to heal from their story, make a massive impact, and get into alignment with the life they actually want to live.



BRIDGET KYEREMATENG

Ignite to Unite: From Undocumented Immigrant to Global Storyteller



Bridget Kyeremateng, a global storyteller leading Twitch's Inclusive Marketing, has amplified over 1,000 diverse creators across platforms such as Tumblr, Spotify and Twitch. Born in Italy to Ghanaian parents, Bridget spent 15 years as an undocumented immigrant in the US; leveraging her experience, Bridget's work is inspired by illuminating and amplifying underserved talent. She has led panels in DC & NYC and co-founded a collective, Applauding Power, to uplift POC women. She is a DJ, plant enthusiast, lover of fitness and avid traveler. A recent Forbes 30 under 30 listee, Bridget inspires change, embodies innovation, and challenges the status quo.

CURATIONS TEAM



Cyanne Blabey '25



Dania Zamudio '25



Sydney Fisher '25



Lila Foster '26



Jill Sonbudtasan



Allison Armstrong



Michelle Finck



Kat Niksto

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Ellen Robinson

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HLAVATY
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