

TED^x Warrington

x = independently organized TED event

Key Dates for your Diary

Before you read the guidance notes, please take note of the following key dates in the Speaker Training Programme.

All shortlisted speakers will benefit from the support of a speaker coach and a combination of online and in-person rehearsals. We also recommend that you rehearse your talk on a regular basis in addition to the formal rehearsals.

Exemption from training/rehearsal sessions is at the discretion of the Speaker Selection Panel and the Event Organising Team.

Rehearsals will be held in Warrington. Venues to be confirmed and will include the final event location.

Deadline for speaker applications: 12pm (midday), Tuesday 6 June 2023

Successful speakers offered a place: By Friday 30 June 2023.

Speakers to confirm their acceptance of a place – By Friday 7 July 2023.

First Speaker Meet up and Briefing: Wednesday 19 July (2hrs between 5-8pm).

Rehearsal One (First stumble through, in person): Thursday 7 September 2023 (2-3hrs between 4-8pm).

Rehearsal Two (Video submission): September TBC

Rehearsal Three (Virtual live presentation): September TBC

Final submission of script for due diligence checks: Early October TBC

Rehearsal Four (Video submission): October TBC

Rehearsal Five (Video submission): October TBC

Live technical rehearsal (in person): Thursday 9 November 2023 (between 3-9pm). Each speaker will be allocated a time slot.

THE MAIN EVENT: Thursday 16 November 2023 (5-9pm). You will need to be available **all day** to include a dress and final rehearsals throughout the day and be ready for the live event from 5pm.

*Please note that occasionally we may have to change dates and locations. We will only do this if necessary and in consultation with all speakers.

Speaker Application Guidance Notes

Thank you for your interest in speaking at TEDxWarrington on Thursday 16 November 2023. The organising team is excited to receive your application!

To help you complete your online application, please read through the following notes and guidance.

What is a TEDx Event?

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.

TED's format

A suite of short, carefully prepared talks, demonstrations and performances that are idea-focused, and cover a wide range of subjects to foster learning, inspiration and wonder – and provoke conversations that matter.

Diversity of topics

All TEDx events present multiple issues and a diversity of voices from many disciplines. After all, what's the fun without a little variety?

Community-driven and bias-free content

A TEDx event is organised by volunteers from the local community, and just like TED events, it lacks any commercial, religious or political agenda. At TEDxWarrington, our goal is to showcase ideas based around the theme of **Tackling Adversity, Embracing Change**.

What is a TEDx talk?

A TEDx talk is a showcase for speakers presenting great, well-formed ideas in under 18 minutes.

Why under 18 minutes?

This short talk model works, since it only demands the audience's attention for a short period of time, decreasing the chance of minds wandering or daydreaming about their plans for the weekend. In fact, some of our greatest TED talks have been as short as 5 minutes long!

What can a TEDx talk be about?

It can actually be one of two things:

- Something that's new and surprising; an idea or invention that your audience has never heard about.
- A great basic idea (that your audience has maybe already heard) with a compelling new argument behind it that challenges beliefs and perspectives.

In other words, an idea isn't just a story or a list of facts. A good idea takes certain evidence or observations and draws a larger conclusion.

Here are some ideas of types of talks

The big idea - Talks that make one or two very strong points, which are really important.

The tech demo - An onstage look at some clever new invention that the speaker was a part of creating.

The performance - Music, dance, magic, puppetry, or some other performance to captivate your audience.

The artist's statement - Artists showcase their art and explain the meaning and process behind what they create.

The 'dazzle with wonder' - These talks are mainly about the amazement of science and discovery.

The small idea - Not about one big, world-changing idea, but a very engaging take on an interesting topic.

The "issue" talk – Exposing your audience to an issue that they may not otherwise know much about.

What a TEDx talk should NOT be about (there are VERY strict rules about this that are issued by TED)

- No selling from the stage.
- No political agendas.
- No religious proselytising (including new age beliefs).
- Only good science.

Any talk that breaks these rules cannot be accepted.

What we're looking for from TEDxWarrington speakers

- Fresh ideas that showcase **Tackling Adversity, Embracing Change**.
- Ideas that could have a big impact on the people in our town and beyond.
- Ideally, speakers will be a local voice based in, or have a connection to, Warrington or the surrounding area.
- Ideally, speakers will not previously have delivered a TEDx talk.

Completing your online application

Section 2: Video submission

We require you to submit a short video clip.

The video clip should be between two and five minutes long. The Speaker Selection Panel will only watch up to 5 minutes of your video. It can be taken on your phone and we will not be judging it on video crafting skills so please don't spend an age on getting the technical elements of recording perfect. Primarily, we are interested in why your Big Idea is a good choice for us to showcase. Specifically, we want you to answer these questions:

1. What is your big idea?
2. How does your idea link to our event theme **Tackling Adversity, Embracing Change**?
3. Why is the topic so important to you and what is it about your idea that's worth sharing?
4. Why would you like to speak about it in a TEDx talk?
5. What would you like the audience to say or do at the end of your talk?
6. How will you present your idea to the audience?

Please note that we are NOT expecting you to deliver your talk in this clip – just give us a high level overview of your idea and the reasoning behind it. In 2022, we received more than 100 video submissions and some sadly did not clarify the central idea being proposed. Your video is also an opportunity to demonstrate your presentation style and speaking skills. Think about how you might make yourself and your idea stand out.

Section 3: Categorising your idea

Select the category or categories that best describe/s the topic you want to talk about. You can select multiple categories if your idea touches on several themes.

Section 4: What's your personal story?

This will help us get an idea of you, both as a person, and as a speaker. Give a brief description (max 150 words) of what's got you to where you are now, your interests, talents or anything else you think might give us an insight into the real you!

Section 5: References, data, evidence to support your Big Idea (optional)

Use this space if you wish to submit information to support your application or provide references to source material. This may include reports, studies, research, scientific, statistical or medical data/evidence.

Any references, evidence or data used in your talk will be subject to due diligence and there is an expectation that you will be able to corroborate this. Where you already know some of this information, you can help us get ahead by listing references and providing links to relevant papers, websites and sources.