

Based on the TEDTalks model, our Minneapolis-based EDTalks are lively happy hour events featuring two compelling presentations by cutting-edge educators, youth advocates, journalists, artists, policy-makers and others on a wide range of issues impacting young people and public education. Each program includes a Q & A portion at the end, ensuring that the audience has an opportunity to dive deeper into the topics presented by our speakers.

Past EDTalks include (to name a few):

- The Power of Strong Relationships for Student Success (Salma Hussein)
- Trauma Informed Classrooms (Mark Sander)
- Self-Care for Educators and Advocates (Rebeka Ndosi)
- Creating Gender Inclusive Schools (Jason Bucklin)
- Critical Theory of Blackness in K-12 Classrooms (Dr. Keith Mayes)
- Where is Mental Health in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Work? (Jamil Stamschror-Lott)
- Cultural Responsiveness In and Out of the Classroom (Dr. Courtney Bell-Duncan)

For the
2021-22 season,
we will host 4-6
EDTalks with up to
12 speakers.

2021-22 Season Theme

The focus of our tenth season is on “emerging voices” from the education, equity and youth development spaces who are addressing critical issues impacting our young people, schools and public education. We will be selecting EDTalks presenters who are:

- Young leaders in these and related fields who are providing fresh perspectives and approaches.
- Thought leaders and practitioners who are in new positions of leadership or offering creative new ideas and questioning the status quo.
- Seasoned leaders who are new to presenting in a public forum or who have limited public speaking experience.

What makes a good EdTalk?

While there isn't an exact formula, we have found that EDTalk speakers experience the most success when:

- **They are organized and prepared:** Making time to practice is essential! Each talk is roughly 20 minutes in length.
- **They are speaking to a topic that is timely and relevant:** There are so many issues to cover within the realm of youth and education. We want to be sure EDTalks speakers are presenting the most up-to-date information on any given topic.
- **They build their talk from scratch:** For experienced speakers, it may be tempting to edit a presentation you have previously given. We like to challenge all speakers to build their talk from scratch with the EDTalks formula (and audience) in mind.
- **They are conversational and casual in their presentation:** There should be a good balance between anecdotal and data-based information in your talk.
- **When possible, they include student voices:** Our audiences love hearing directly from students. If you can incorporate student voices in your presentation (including being a co-presenter), please do!

Who is our target audience?

EDTalks are designed for adult audiences who are interested and invested in public education and our young people. Audiences tend to vary based on the speaker and topic, but generally fall into one (or more) of these groups:

- Educators
- Youth advocates
- Policy-makers
- Parents/caregivers
- Community leaders
- Community members who care about the well-being of our young people

While we strive for EDTalks to have a wide appeal, crafting your talk with a certain audience in mind is the best approach, as it will help provide direction and determine the main content for your presentation.

What kind of speaking experience is required?

We are looking for speakers who are passionate about their subject matter. So whether you're a seasoned presenter or someone looking to gain experience, we want to hear from you! We provide professional coaching to our speakers to help strengthen their presentations. If you're brand new at this – never fear! We will be here to support you along your EDTalks journey.

EDTalks speaker training and support

We partner with Erin O'Neill, a storyteller and digital media consultant, to provide speaker training, support and guidance. This includes a one-hour introductory session for each EDTalks speaker team, and up to one hour of additional one-on-one time for brainstorming ideas, editing content, presentation feedback and more.

Our commitment to you:

We provide the following for our EDTalks speakers:

- Honorarium (amount determined by funding; typically \$300/speaker)
- Speaker training and support
- Professionally-produced video and audio recordings of each presentation posted to YouTube and Soundcloud
- Professional development and portfolio-building opportunity

Application and selection process:

Interested speakers submit an online application (a paper copy can be provided if needed) by Friday, August 6, 2021. All applications must align with our season theme of emerging voices.

Applications are reviewed by the EDTalks planning team, which consists of staff from host organizations AchieveMpls and Citizens League and additional community members. A minimum of eight speakers will be selected for the 2021-22 season.

Selection criteria:

- The topic selected by the speaker “fits” within the full scope of the EDTalks season theme of emerging voices
- Speaker brings new ideas and concepts to the conversation
- Speaker demonstrates expertise in subject matter and concern for young people
- Speaker has submitted a thoughtful and complete application

EDTalks is committed to selecting speakers who are passionate about their subject matter and represent the communities we serve. Our selection process is guided by these equity values: embracing differences – race, culture, religion, ability, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation and class – eliminating racism and other forms of bias, and creating inclusive spaces where all persons feel valued, heard and respected.

Please note: the planning team will request more information from speakers if they find an application to be incomplete or have additional follow-up questions.

COVID-19:

As we continue to navigate COVID-19, we'll be determining whether EDTalks events will be virtual, live or a hybrid model. As you apply to be a presenter, you should be prepared to present both virtually and in-person to a live audience.

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Common ground. Common good.

For more information:

Be sure to visit our EDTalks website at www.achievempls.org/EDTalks to learn more and link to EDTalks videos and podcasts. We invite you to follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram via #EDTalksMN.

We would love to connect with you! Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns to Heidi D. Johnson at hjohnson@achievempls.org.