TEDˣ Delray Beach

x = independently organized TED event

X The Ripple Effect

November 4th, 2023

Prof. John Renne
Director, Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions

Prof. Ata Sarajedini
Former Dean of Science, FAU

Prof. Daniel Bolojan
Director, Creative AI Lab

Zach Escanlante
Data Lead, LinkedIn

Meggie Soliman
Blockchain, DSS

Vanessa Ruck
Rally Driver

Sabrina Victoria
Social Entrepreneur

Edward Stinson
Curator, Spady Museum

Prof. Gabriela Mendez
Educational Leader, NSU

Rocio Leguizamon & German Filipeli
Performers

Join us for an exciting in-person event at **Old School Square in Delray Beach, FL, USA.** Get ready to be inspired by thought-provoking talks from brilliant speakers. This event promises to be a night filled with innovation, creativity, and ideas worth spreading. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and be part of a community that is passionate about making a difference. Get ready to have your mind blown and leave with a renewed sense of curiosity and motivation.

Our 2023 event focuses on the role we play as a medium of propagation and will cover a variety of topics that currently affect or begin to reach our local and global community from very diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

Delray Beach has been rapidly growing and evolving over the past few years and now, being at the verge of a global tech revolution in which, machine learning, large language models, and AI are gaining a broad spectrum of applications. We are experiencing a paradigm shift. The best, we get to tell the story.

We have carefully curated a series of talks on sustainability, urban planning, astrophysics, history through storytelling, creative AI, and blockchain technology, among many others. We have also made special room to feature our artistic community by inviting world-renowned artists such as the third-place World Tango Champions and we are inaugurating our TEDxDelrayBeach short Film/Animation competition. Mark your calendars and get ready for an unforgettable experience at TEDxDelrayBeach!

www.tedxdelraybeach.com

TEDx Delray Beach

x = independently organized TED event

X John L. Renne

Dr. John L. Renne, AICP, is a renowned urban planning expert, the 2023 Florida Atlantic University Scholar of the Year, and Director of the Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions. With over 150 publications and four books released, he is a leading voice when it comes to transit-oriented development as well as resilient transportation. He also holds a Visiting Research Associate position at the University of Oxford's Transport Studies Unit.

Dr. Renne, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, has also co-founded several companies that promote real estate investments in walkable communities. As an advocate for sustainable communities, he currently works as an advisor to housing developers, including community land trusts.

Embracing technology, he's pursuing a Master's in AI, aiming to integrate Artificial Intelligence and Big Data with transportation considering the emerging crowdfunding real estate market. He's at the forefront of developing app-based and VR solutions for mobility, carbon reduction, and community engagement.
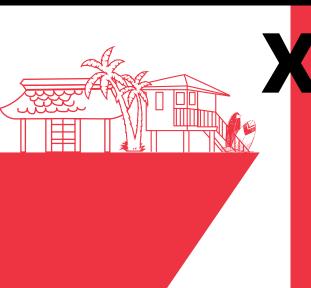
TEDx Delray Beach

X Ata Sarajedini

Ata Sarajedini is currently the Björn Lamborn Endowed Chair in Astrophysics at Florida Atlantic University. He joined FAU in January of 2017 to serve as the Dean of the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. He received his Ph.D. in Astronomy from Yale University in 1992 and spent five years as a postdoctoral researcher and a Hubble Fellow at Kitt Peak National Observatory near Tucson, Arizona and San Francisco State University. He spent two years at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT as an Assistant Professor before moving to the University of Florida in 2001.

His research specialty is the study of stellar populations with the goal of understanding how galaxies form and evolve. He received an NSF CAREER award in 2001, a University of Florida Research Professor award in 2006, and was the principal investigator of a large Treasury project with the Hubble Space Telescope in 2014. He has over 500 publications, which have over 16,000 citations and over 200 have appeared in the peer-reviewed literature.

TEDx Delray Beach

X Daniel Bolojan

Prof. Daniel Bolojan, a visionary at the forefront of Creative AI, Deep Learning, and computational design within the architectural world, serves as the Director of the Creative AI Lab and holds the position of Assistant Professor of AI and Computational Design at FAU. Additionally, he is a Ph.D. candidate at Die Angewandte and a Creative AI and Computational Design Specialist at Coop-Himmelblau in Vienna, Austria.

Daniel's research centers on the development of bespoke deep learning strategies tailored specifically for creative processes and architectural design. His work tackles the intricate dynamics of shared agency, nurtures designer creativity, and augments design potential.

Significantly, as a Creative AI and Computational Design Specialist at Coop-Himmelblau, Daniel played a pivotal role in leading the development of the award-winning DeepHimmelblau project, which comprises a series of Neural Networks. This groundbreaking initiative was conceived to augment design processes and enhance designer's abilities.

X Zach Escalante

A native Floridian, Zach Escalante completed his bachelor's degrees in finance and mathematics at Florida Atlantic University. His academic journey continued with graduate studies in Operations Research and Financial Engineering at Cornell, after which, he entered the financial sector, gaining valuable experience in fixed income trading.

After several years, his career path took a turn - transitioning into the dynamic field of data and AI. Zach was an early entrant to the Data Science field following his time as a student at CFEM. Currently, he works as a Data Scientist on the LinkedIn's Jobs platform team, where he can apply his rigorous analytical background to improving product performance.

Zach is currently applying Machine Learning techniques to Product Development in the Digital Ad Tech space with Organic Digital. He is a practitioner, motivated by finding interesting problems to solve and rolling up my sleeves, getting into the data and extracting relevant insights.

TEDx Delray Beach

X Meggie Soliman

Meggie Soliman is a tech disruptor educating current and future leaders on the global digital transformation occurring at the forefront of every industry. She is a passionate advocate empowering women to reach their greatest potential. She serves as the Director of Strategic Innovation for Applications at DSS, Inc; Chair of Tech Hub South Florida's Healthcare & Life Science peer group.

Meggie has been in the Healthcare and Technology Industry for almost two decades. She has a background in Bioinformatics, Pharmaceutical Industry, Clinical Research, and Healthcare IT. Meggie received her Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics from University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Featured speaker at Universities and Organizations to educate students and decision makers on the current state of our education system and its need for transformation. In an ever changing landscape, she continues to shed light on the future of technology, and impact of Blockchain at a global scale. Meggie is also actively engaged in various domains including elevating consciousness and personal development.

X Vanessa Ruck

Growing up as an adrenaline junkie, Vanessa Ruck faced a life-changing accident, which lead to a 7-year recovery from bodily injuries, depression, change disorder and fobia of the road. Surprisingly, she then became a rally driver and motorcycle racer.

She has competed in the toughest endurance motorcycle races in the world. Vanessa's fourth race and first international event was Red Bull Romaniacs in 2021, known as the 'toughest motorbike rally'. Transitioning to the desert terrains, she travelled to the Middle East for the 3-day Qatar International Baja race, which involves roadbook navigation - a paper scroll that provides detailed information such as distance, compass bearings, and landmarks, used to guide drivers through the course. After winning the 'Moto Enduro Cup Open Feminin' trophy at Rallye du Maroc in 2021, she became the first women to ever finish the gruelling 8-day Tunisia Desert Challenge. Most recently, inthe Morocco Desert Challenge, a 60% moto attrition rate, she ranked 25th finishing the 8-day battle with the desert.

X Sabrina Victoria

Sabrina Victoria, a visionary entrepreneur, and transformative leader, is dedicated to empowering women and fostering personal growth. As the founder of Her Nation, an all-female community, Sabrina pioneers a unique teacher-student concept, fostering a dynamic exchange of knowledge and inspiration.

At the heart of this initiative lies Human Better 365, Sabrina's brainchild, which empowers humans to build confidence, find their voices, and embark on authentic self-discovery journeys. With over a decade of experience, Sabrina is a distinguished speaker, author, and host of Her Talk Show. She empowers solo entrepreneurs to reach six-figure milestones by optimizing their structures.

Sabrina's journey, from single motherhood to escaping a 13-year abusive relationship, exemplifies resilience and optimism. As CEO of Human Better 365 and visionary behind Her Nation Communities, and Her Talk Show, she equips individuals to ascend and achieve a strong foundation for their life. Sabrina embodies personal growth and transformation, inspiring all who seek to "human better."

TEDx Delray Beach

x = independently organized TED event

X Edward Stinson

Erward Stinson imbues passion, perspective, and purpose into the history taught at the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum in Delray Beach. As Museum Educator, he ensures all visitors leave with new knowledge and a deeper understanding of America's history.

Edward, also teaches several courses of art and writing throughout Palm Beach County while he continues to hold the position of Art Director within his family-owned publishing company: Visual Adjectives. He truly aims to bring his creativity into every aspect of his life.

Edward began his interest in history working as a historical reenactor for over a decade at the Florida Renaissance Festival. Here as an actor and stage combat enthusiast, he would gain a deeper understanding of history through the Medieval period to the Renaissance and age of colonialism.

He hopes to enlighten listeners of the truths we find in our past, connect them to the living stories around them, and call on them to protect the right of education as well as the responsibility of preserving history.

TEDx Delray Beach

x = independently organized TED event

X Gabriela Mendez

Dr. Gabriela Mendez has taught, supervised, advised, and guided students, and educational leaders in Argentina, Pennsylvania, and Florida. An awardee of a Fulbright scholarship, Dr. Mendez obtained her master's degree from Pennsylvania State University, where she also received her doctoral degree.

In 2007 Dr. Mendez joined Nova Southeastern University, where she is an associate professor at the Fischler College of Education & School of Criminal Justice. At NSU she designs curriculum and teaches classes in the curriculum and the educational leadership programs. Her publications focus on curriculum, equity and issues of identity, and online education.

To advocate for educational equity and inclusion beyond her classrooms, Gabriela works at her university's Belonging, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion council. An engaged member of the community, Dr. Mendez is a board member of the Hispanic Education Coalition of Palm Beach, and a member of the Academic Advisory Committee of the School District of Palm Beach County. Dr. Mendez believes that equitable education is a fundamental pillar of a democratic society.