

TED Fellows

4 Year Anniversary
LONG BEACH 2013



Welcome

We're excited to be celebrating the fourth anniversary of the TED Fellows program! When we began, we'd hoped to gather extraordinary young people from around the globe and add their unique voices to the TED community. We've heard from you that the initiative has succeeded. As the program grows, and our Fellows grow along with it, we are continually inspired by their accomplishments and character. Originally, we'd hypothesized the program would slingshot Fellows' careers, creating opportunities and relationships, which it has. But we never could have imagined the camaraderie and cooperation that would develop between the Fellows themselves.

In the last four years, Fellows collaborations have resulted in innovations like SwiftRiver—a tool for filtering and verifying real-time data including during life-threatening, large-scale emergencies. Another collaborative project, We the Data, offers a hub of conversation, news, and events celebrating innovative communities, each focused on democratizing data. And Street Symphony provides therapeutic live classical music performed by world-class musicians for homeless, mentally ill and incarcerated individuals. Dozens more such collaborations exist or are coming down the pike.

Here at TED2013, we're thrilled to introduce our latest class of Fellows & Senior Fellows—including a hip-hop inspired Taiwanese street-food chef, a science visualization designer, a wartime photojournalist, boundary-challenging artists, a development critic, a cultural comedian, radical user-interface designers, appropriate technology inventors, a 3D computer interface designer, an ecological network scientist, a tissue-engineering researcher, a cosmologist, a whale biologist, human rights activists, NGO founders, an architect/computer scientist, breakthrough entrepreneurs and many more.

We currently have 45 active Fellows and Senior Fellows. So far, over the course of the program, we've fielded 310 Fellows from 75 countries*, spanning ten classes from 2009 to 2013. Amongst this larger group, you'll find the founders and leaders of organizations like Kickstarter, Patients Like Me (patient support communities), OpenROV (inexpensive DIY ocean exploration), Embrace

(baby warmers for the developing world), Working Villages International (agriculture in eastern Congo), Ushahidi (an open source project that allows users to crowdsource crisis information via mobile), Backyard Brains (neuroscience for young people), MakerBot Industries (3D printing technology), littleBits (Legos for the iPad generation), *Gopher Illustrated* magazine (art and culture), AIDG (engineers helping in Haiti and Guatemala) and the Innovations in International Health lab at MIT (low-cost health solutions for the developing world).

Due to the ever-growing numbers of Fellows, most have met only those in their cohort, about 40 out of 310. To rectify that, we will host the first-ever Fellows Retreat this summer in Whistler, Canada—225 Fellows gathering around the theme of "Fellows Moving Mountains."

Many of you have asked, "How can I get in touch with or keep track of the Fellows?" We're pleased to introduce the Fellows Network (ted.com/fellows), which contains detailed profiles on Fellows' bios, projects and passions. And you can contact them through the existing TED Profile system. Through this network, we hope that TEDsters and Fellows will enjoy a whole new level of engagement.

The Fellows program is extremely grateful for the support of the Bezos Family, the Dhanam Foundation, Ann and John Doerr, the Harnisch Foundation, the Arcus Foundation, Chandra Jessee, Karla and Steve Jurvetson, Gerry Ohrstrom and other supporters. We hope you will consider joining them in supporting the program through donations, corporate partnerships, in-kind contributions, mentoring, or investing. We invite you to meet as many of the Fellows as you can, if not at the conference, then soon afterwards.

Here's to the next four years; we believe it will be full of opportunity, collaborations, achievement, friendships and hope.

Have a great TED!

Tom Rielly & Logan McClure
& the TED Fellows team
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Launched at TED2009, the TED Fellows program brings outstanding individuals who have shown unusual accomplishment, exceptional courage and moral imagination into the TED community in order to amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities.

How it works

Each year, 20 Fellows attend the TED Conference in Long Beach, California, and 20 attend TEDGlobal in Edinburgh, Scotland, as full conference participants, with all expenses paid. They enjoy an exclusive Fellows pre-conference where they meet, share ideas, receive training in communication, fundraising, and design, and encounter a few surprises. They also have the opportunity to give a talk before or during TED, and potentially to see their talks posted on TED.com. Throughout the rest of the year, they tell their ongoing stories on the TED Fellows blog and YouTube channel, and receive personal coaching and mentoring.

The program focuses on individuals from six target regions: Asia-Pacific, Africa, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East, though people from the rest of the world are also represented and welcome to apply. Fellows are drawn from the many disciplines that reflect the diversity of TED's members: technology, entertainment, design, the sciences, the humanities, the arts, NGOs, businesses and more. Though we target innovators aged 21 to 40, anyone over 18 is welcome to apply.

TED Senior Fellows

Of the 40 Fellows selected each year, roughly 10 individuals are invited to participate in the extended Senior Fellows program, which begins the year after their initial fellowship. Learn more on page 63.

How you can get involved

You can help the TED Fellows in six ways:

- 1) donating to support the program
- 2) corporate underwriting
- 3) mentoring a Fellow
- 4) teaching at a Fellows event
- 5) nominating an excellent candidate
- 6) contributing in-kind goods and services

To learn more about the TED Fellows program,

visit: www.ted.com/fellows

contact: fellows@ted.com

follow: [@TEDFellow](https://twitter.com/TEDFellow)

Meet all of the Fellows: fellows.ted.com



Camille Seaman's photograph "The Lovely Monster Over the Farm" documents a low-precipitation barber pole supercell mesocyclone storm. Photo taken at 19:15 CST in Lodgepole, Nebraska, on June 22, 2012.





Muzzarabad, Pakistan-administered Kashmir, 2005. Survivors of a massive earthquake that killed 80,000 people and displaced 3.5 million gather at dusk in an IDP camp for cholera vaccination.





Touc**Hb**

Touc**Hb**

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Medical device innovator Myshkin Ingawale has created the TouchHb, a needle-free device that tests for anemia. Here, TouchHb devices are being manufactured for distribution to rural clinics in India.





Seven-year-old Mohamed herds his family cattle in the impoverished Afar region of Northern Ethiopia. Most Afar tribesmen are pastoralists, their lives bound to the fate of their cattle, sheep, goats and camels, which they raise in one of the harshest environments on the planet. Boys start to herd livestock as young as 5, while girls help with household chores. Most are unable to attend school.





Artist and scientist Angelo Vermeulen taking soil samples for bacteriological analysis during a simulation mission at the Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS) in Utah. This mission was a shakedown for the four-month HI-SEAS Mars simulation in Hawaii.





Fashion designer Suzanne Lee's Bio-Scar Bodice: molded microbial cellulose grown in fermented green tea. Commissioned by Modemuseum Hasselt, Belgium for the exhibition *AlterNature*.





Farmer and technologist Marcin Jakubowski and the Open Source Ecology team have achieved a single-day production time for their automated Compressed Earth Brick Press. This is a photo from December 18, 2012, when this milestone was achieved.



Dhanam Foundation

Ann & John Doerr

The Bezos Family

arcus
FOUNDATION

THE HARNISCH
FOUNDATION

**Karla & Steve
Jurvetson**

TED Thanks

Chandra Jessee

Gerry Ohrstrom

Sharon Lyle

Renee Freedman

Colleen Keegan

Autodesk®



Special thanks to:

David Albertson, Erich Broksas, Allie Burns, Angela Cheng, Karen Eng, Mike Femia, Michael Glass, Alexander Jutkowitz, Benjamin Kellogg, Sandy Leong, Anjali Mohan, Mark O'Donnell, Emeka Okafor, Paul Torres, Ladan Wise, Megan Wyatt.

Finally, we would like to thank all of the TED Fellows. Not only have they been remarkable classes, but they have also provided invaluable feedback that continues to shape the program. To learn more about and connect with all of the TED Fellows, please visit the new TED Fellows Network: fellows.ted.com.

BEN BURKE

TED Fellows
2013

Writer, performer + designer

USA



Writer, performer and designer Ben Burke's creations combine fantasy, philosophy, humor and a bit of the macabre. As a designer, his preferred medium is junk, and his favorite creations are boats and automatons. Ben co-founded both the Stars and Garters Theater Company and the Apocalypse Puppet Theater in San Francisco. He has led two art raft projects/performances known as Swimming Cities in New York City and in Venice. Upon his return to San Francisco, he was Recology's artist-in-residence at the San Francisco dump. His current work explores the intersection of neuroscience and Buddhism. He is also writing a one-man show that will incorporate some of his automatons and contraptions in a semi-fictitious scientific narrative. In the meantime, he's fixing up his ship, *Serabella*—a 47-foot teak ketch built in 1973—in preparation for sailing around the world.

NOTES ON BEN



FURTHER EXPLORATION

- Follow-up
- Introduce to
- Check out website
- Get in touch
- Fund
- Start conversation

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KITRA CAHANA

TED Fellows
2013

Documentary photographer

Canada



Kitra Cahana is a documentary photographer and artist. She shoots for such publications as *National Geographic* magazine and *The New York Times*, but her primary work involves long-term independent research projects. Over three years, she documented nomadic youth identities in the United States, living on and off the road in radical non-hierarchical communities with transients, train hoppers, dumpster divers and all-around visionaries who exist in an alternative, clandestine America hidden from the rest of the country. She spent the past year recording the slow rebirth of her father following a brain-stem stroke, which left him “locked in”—a state of having a fully functioning mind trapped in a quadriplegic body. She has also traveled to Uman, Ukraine for Rosh Hashana, photographing a traditionally all-male pilgrimage as the only female participant.

NOTES ON KITRA



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ALICIA EGGERT

TEDFellows
2013

Interdisciplinary artist

USA



Alicia Eggert's artwork primarily takes the form of electronic, kinetic and interactive sculpture. She uses language as a sculptural material, constructing words and phrases in three dimensions and then assembling and disassembling them over time. Alicia's sculptures are often mechanical, sometimes incorporating sensors that allow words to appear and disappear as a result of viewer interaction. Inspired by highway billboards and neon signs, her work often imitates these familiar forms of communication in order to illustrate the inseparability of language, image and time. Alicia's work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally, at institutions in the US, the UK, China, Russia, Australia and in Europe. She is now preparing to embark on a guerrilla sculpture tour of Yorkshire, England: she will drive a neon sign around the county, displaying it in various public locations and documenting its journey.

NOTES ON ALICIA



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NEGIN FARSAD

Comedian + filmmaker

USA + Iran



Negin Farsad is a standup comedian and filmmaker who was recently named one of the 50 Funniest Women by the *Huffington Post*. She has appeared on the *Joy Behar Show*, at Town Hall on Broadway, the Laugh Factory in LA, and at umpteen comedy spots on both coasts and cities in between, and has written for and appeared on various shows on Comedy Central, MTV, and PBS, among others. She is also director/producer of feature film *Nerdcore Rising* (SXSW premiere, New Video Distribution) and upcoming release "The Muslims Are Coming!", featuring Jon Stewart, Lewis Black, Rachel Maddow, Janeane Garofalo and David Cross. She believes in 1) comedy and 2) social justice, spending most of her time trying to merge those two things.

NOTES ON NEGIN



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MOHAMMAD HERZALLAH

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2013

Neuroscientist

Palestine



Mohammad Herzallah is a Palestinian cognitive neuroscientist and physician, and founder and director of the Palestinian Neuroscience Initiative at Al-Quds University, which aims to build infrastructure for research and train the next generation of Palestinian neuroscientists. His work is currently focused on deciphering the cognitive correlates of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD)—a disease with a prevalence approaching 36 percent in Palestine—and the administration of antidepressants. He hopes that studying MDD in Palestine will address the unique environmental, familial, and clinical aspects of the disease among Palestinians, as well as ultimately help to advance the understanding and clinical treatment of MDD worldwide.

NOTES ON MOHAMMAD



FURTHER EXPLORATION

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RENÉE HLOZEK

TEDFellows
2013

Cosmologist

South Africa + USA



Renée Hlozek is a cosmologist who uses data from telescopes around the world to understand the basic questions of the universe: how it began, what it is made of and how it evolves with time. She is particularly interested in understanding the initial conditions of the universe—the tiny fluctuations that later grew to be the large structures we see today. She is currently working on a paper on the cosmology of the universe based on data gathered with the Atacama Cosmology Telescope in Chile. This telescope measures tiny differences in temperature across the sky, which can tell us volumes about what the universe was like 380,000 years after the Big Bang. Renée is passionate about science communication—and strives to get everyone as switched on to science as she is.

NOTES ON RENÉE



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RYAN HOLLADAY

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2013

Musical artist

USA



Ryan Holladay is one half of the innovative music/technology duo BLUEBRAIN, along with his younger brother Hays Holladay. Their projects range from a multichannel walk-through sound installation in an abandoned funeral home to performing live to never-before-seen footage of the World's Fair in New York, in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institute. The brothers recently garnered critical praise for their pioneering work in "location-aware albums," designed as iPhone apps that use GPS functionality to alter music as listeners traverse a landscape. Each app/album has been created for a specific location (first for The National Mall in Washington, DC, and later for New York's Central Park), with musical pockets placed virtually throughout that blend seamlessly. In spring 2013, as artists-in-residence at Stanford University, the Holladays will begin work on a composition mapped for Pacific Coast Highway.

NOTES ON RYAN



FURTHER EXPLORATION

- Follow-up
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EDDIE HUANG

Writer, host + chef

USA + Taiwan



Born in the American South to parents from Taiwan, Eddie Huang struggled to find his place in the American wilderness. His journey took him from work as a lawyer to comedian to chef, each endeavor informing his ideas about the interplay between identity, culture and socio-economic circumstances. Through his work at BaoHaus—a New York City restaurant specializing in Taiwanese-style street food—his memoir *Fresh Off the Boat* and a *VICE* show by the same name, he demonstrates that one's skin, eyes, and beliefs should never determine who you'll meet, where you'll go and what you'll see.

NOTES ON EDDIE



FURTHER EXPLORATION

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amazon.com/Fresh-Off-Boat-A-Memoir/dp/0679644881

TUNDE JEGEDE

Composer

Nigeria + UK



Tunde Jegede is an international contemporary classical composer steeped in the worlds of Western classical and African traditions. A pioneer of African Classical Music, Tunde has toured all over the world with his ensembles, both as a cellist and kora (African harp) player. Although his music is rooted in two distinct traditions, Tunde is an innovator who bridges genres, often bringing together artists from very different worlds and backgrounds into creative collaboration. He is currently finishing two solo albums: a recording of two Bach suites and several of his own compositions, and a solo kora album. He is also editing a short visual piece on his opera project, *African Messiah*, which premiered last month in London at the Royal Opera House.

NOTES ON TUNDE



FURTHER EXPLORATION

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CYRUS KABIRU

TED Fellows
2013

Found object artist

Kenya



Cyrus Kabiru is a self-taught painter and sculptor whose paintings often humorously portray contemporary life in Kenya. He adopts the role of a *flâneur*—the observer, explorer and loner—using his paintings as the output for his experiences. Cyrus's sculptural work embodies his role as a collector of Nairobi cast-offs: he fashions and refashions waste, recycled, and found materials into various forms. He is best known for his C-STUNNERS, an ongoing work in which he creates and wears artistic bifocals. These straddle the boundaries between fashion, wearable art, performance, and one-of-a-kind commodity objects. Cyrus is now at work on a series that depicts African nature using thousands of sewn-together bottle caps, and a sculpture series of ten life-size street musicians, each piece with a musical instrument embedded in it.

NOTES ON CYRUS



FURTHER EXPLORATION

- Follow-up
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CHRISTINE SUN KIM

TED Fellows
2013

Sound artist + composer

USA



Christine Sun Kim uses technology to investigate and rationalize her relationship with sound and spoken languages. Due to her deafness, figuring out what she actually “owns” remains a long process. She gives workshops and talks on sound art, combines musical notations and several other information systems to produce visual scores and transcripts, conducts a choir that uses facial expressions to “sing” and vocalizes through a set of piano wires and transducers. These are conceptual and literal attempts to resituate or shift the “ownership” notion of sound and language, solely based on the legitimacy of her perception. Christine’s limited access to academic lectures and cultural events has inspired her to host a symposium on her own communication terms. Presenters will give talks without using their voices, in an attempt to liberate the voice from social constraints and norms.

NOTES ON CHRISTINE



FURTHER EXPLORATION

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DAVID LANG

TED Fellows
2013

Maker + writer

USA



David Lang is co-founder of OpenROV, a community of DIY ocean explorers and developers of low-cost, open-source underwater robots. His goal: democratizing ocean exploration by providing a platform for people to connect and share information. David is also focused on creating local maker communities and empowering people to get started with digital fabrication tools, and writes an ongoing column for *MAKE* magazine, “Zero to Maker,” about his year-long quest to reskill himself. Before he began developing underwater robots, David managed a sailing school in Berkeley, California. He now lives on a sailboat on the San Francisco Bay.

NOTES ON DAVID



FURTHER EXPLORATION

- Follow-up
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JINHA LEE

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2013

Inventor + interaction researcher

South Korea



Inventor and interface researcher Jinha Lee blurs the boundary between the physical and digital. Using physical space and objects as interaction media, he designs ways to use our tactile and kinesthetic senses to work with data, redefining relationships between space, object and digital information. Often, his work creates the perception of defying the laws of nature. One of his inventions, ZeroN, is a levitating tangible interface with a see-through 3D desktop; virtual windows float around the user's hands, and a pen penetrates the computer screen. He also co-founded EONE Timepieces—a tactile line of watches serving both the sighted and unsighted. Inspired and informed by ancient mythologies, Jinha's next-generation user interfaces will alter the way we design, visualize and browse data.

NOTES ON JINHA



FURTHER EXPLORATION

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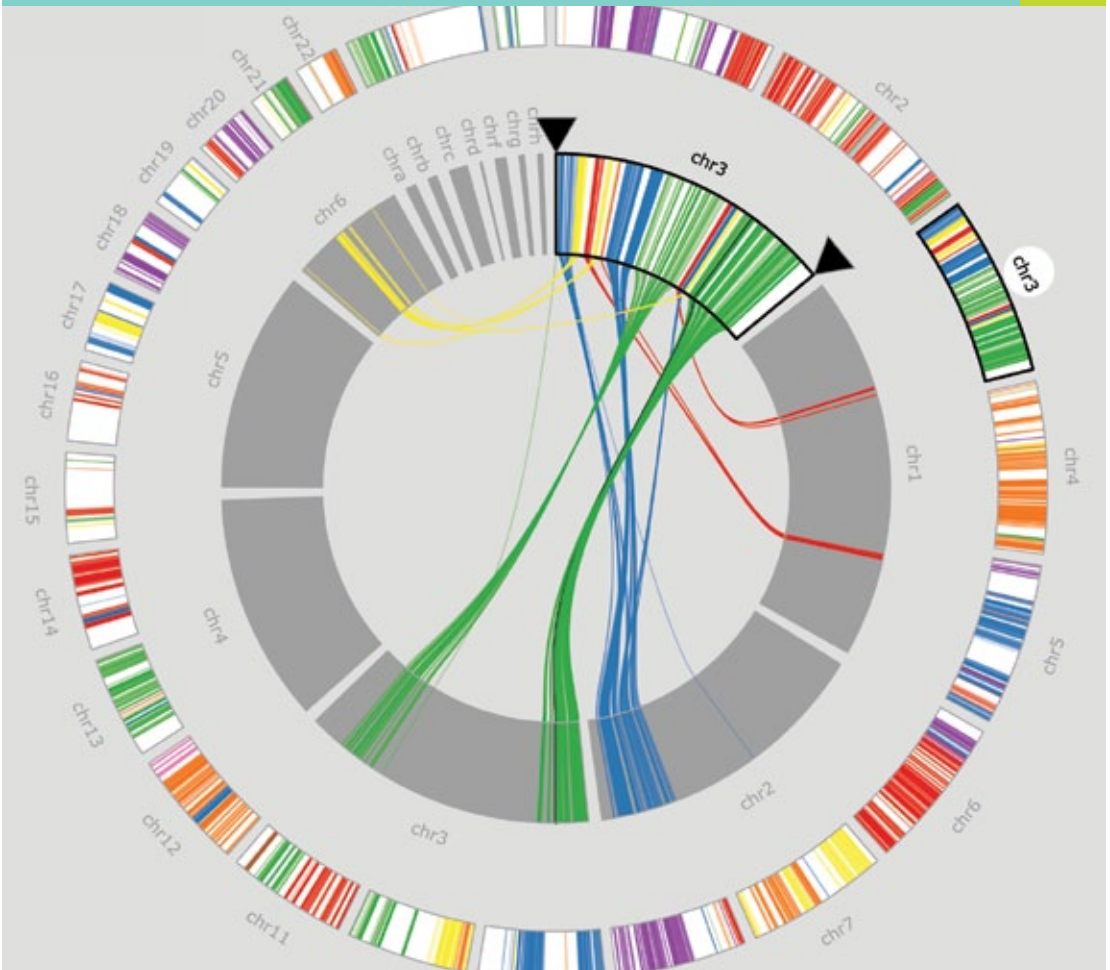
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MIRIAH MEYER

TED Fellows
2013

Science visualization designer

USA



Miriah Meyer designs interactive visualization systems that help scientists make sense of complex data. Working closely with scientists in an iterative and collaborative process, Miriah focuses on visualization tools that support research in genomics and systems biology, taking a user-centered, problem-driven approach to developing visualizations that target specific scientific questions. She is currently working on projects that aim to bring more sophisticated visualization capabilities to a broad range of people, including a cloud-based platform that will allow biologists to piece together visualizations into custom, interactive tools; a system for designing rich data visualizations without programming; and a process for collaboratively designing visualizations with scientists. Her tools are integrated into the workflow of numerous biological labs and have led to several scientific discoveries, as well as to the validation and refinement of experimental and computational methods.

NOTES ON MIRIAH



FURTHER EXPLORATION

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LOUISA PRESTON

TEDFellows
2013

Astrobiologist

UK



Louisa Preston is an astrobiologist and planetary geologist who spends her time thinking up ways to find life on Mars. She works in Mars-like environments on Earth where life is able to survive our planet's most extreme temperatures and pressures. Using specialist techniques, she unearths the rocks in these alien landscapes to study microbes that have been preserved for millions of years. She examines what they are composed of and how they got trapped inside the rocks to figure out where life might be hiding on Mars, and what it might look like. Her main work currently consists of creating a web-based database of places on Earth that provide analogues for the moon and Mars, where researchers can simulate future space missions. In the process she is essentially designing a "how-to" manual for Earth-based space missions that includes information on logistics, infrastructure, climate and, of course, science.

NOTES ON LOUISA



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SAFWAT SALEEM

TED Fellows
2013

Graphic designer + satirist

Pakistan + USA



Safwat Saleem is a Pakistani graphic designer, filmmaker and artist based in Phoenix, Arizona. His work uses humor to tell stories of people—and creatures—who have the odds stacked against them. Previous works include a silly short film about a day in the life of a lonely bear and an angry political exhibit that no one liked. His illustration project, Greetings from Nowhere, is a series of satirical Venn diagrams and bar charts letterpressed onto greeting cards. Accompanying the illustrations is a short film about a sentient greeting card that is tired of traditional greeting cards. In a previous life, Safwat was the founder of an online Pakistani magazine called *Bandbaja*, known for its blunt views and the promotion of modern popular music as a socio-political tool.

NOTES ON SAFWAT



FURTHER EXPLORATION

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SHIVANI SIROYA

TED Fellows
2013

Mobile finance entrepreneur

USA + India



Shivani Siroya is an Indian innovator focused on mobile technology and financial inclusion. She is the founder of InVenture, a mobile technology company creating an SMS platform that offers simple accounting tools and access to credit scoring to anyone with a simple mobile phone—even people without bank accounts.

NOTES ON SHIVANI



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ANTONIO TORRES

TEDFellows
2013

Architect + naturalist

Mexico



Antonio Torres is an architectural breeder, working with air, color and organic matter as building materials to create supernatural spaces. Most recently, this has included investigations of ice palaces and inflatable water gardens. His projects merge fantasy with reality and are mesmerizing to move through. To create and breed new species of architectural fodder, he co-founded design firm The Bittertang Farm as a place to experiment with the physics, biology, behaviors and emotions of our surroundings. His work delves deep into traditional architectural references, extracting and exploring characteristics—such as pleasure and coloration—that are often overlooked.

NOTES ON ANTONIO



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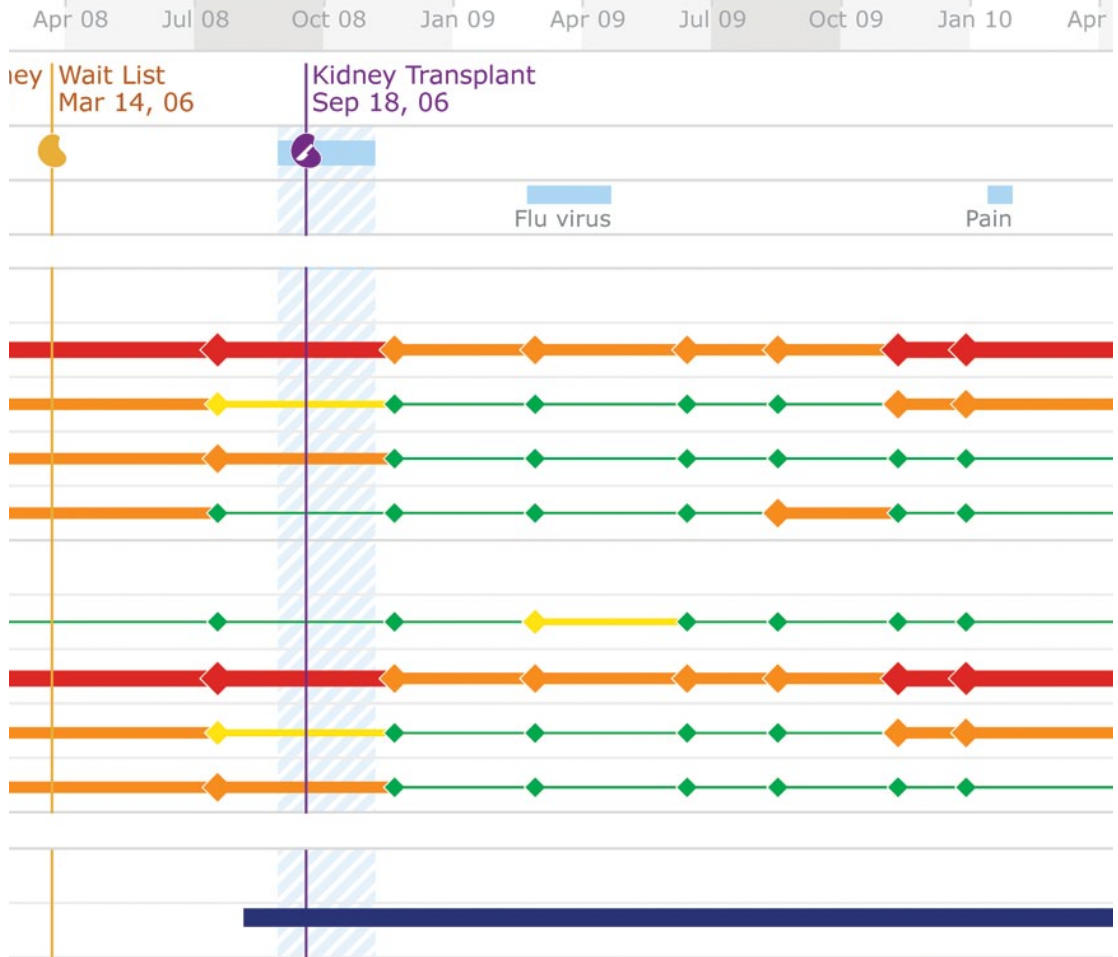
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PAUL WICKS

Medical architect

UK



Paul Wicks is R&D director at PatientsLikeMe, an online community for people living with medical conditions. Paul is responsible for shaping the scientific validity of the PatientsLikeMe platform, generating insights from the personal health data shared by its community members. This sharing of medical data has led to over 30 peer reviewed publications, including a patient-led observational trial of lithium in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), new patient-reported outcome measures in neurology, and a “dose-response” curve for the benefits of friendship between epilepsy patients. PatientsLikeMe is now also beginning to link parents of young patients with “orphan” diseases—those with only a few hundred cases in the world. Prior to joining PatientsLikeMe, Paul worked at the Institute of Psychiatry (King’s College London,) studying cognition and neuroimaging in rare forms of ALS and the psychological consequences of Parkinson’s disease.

NOTES ON PAUL



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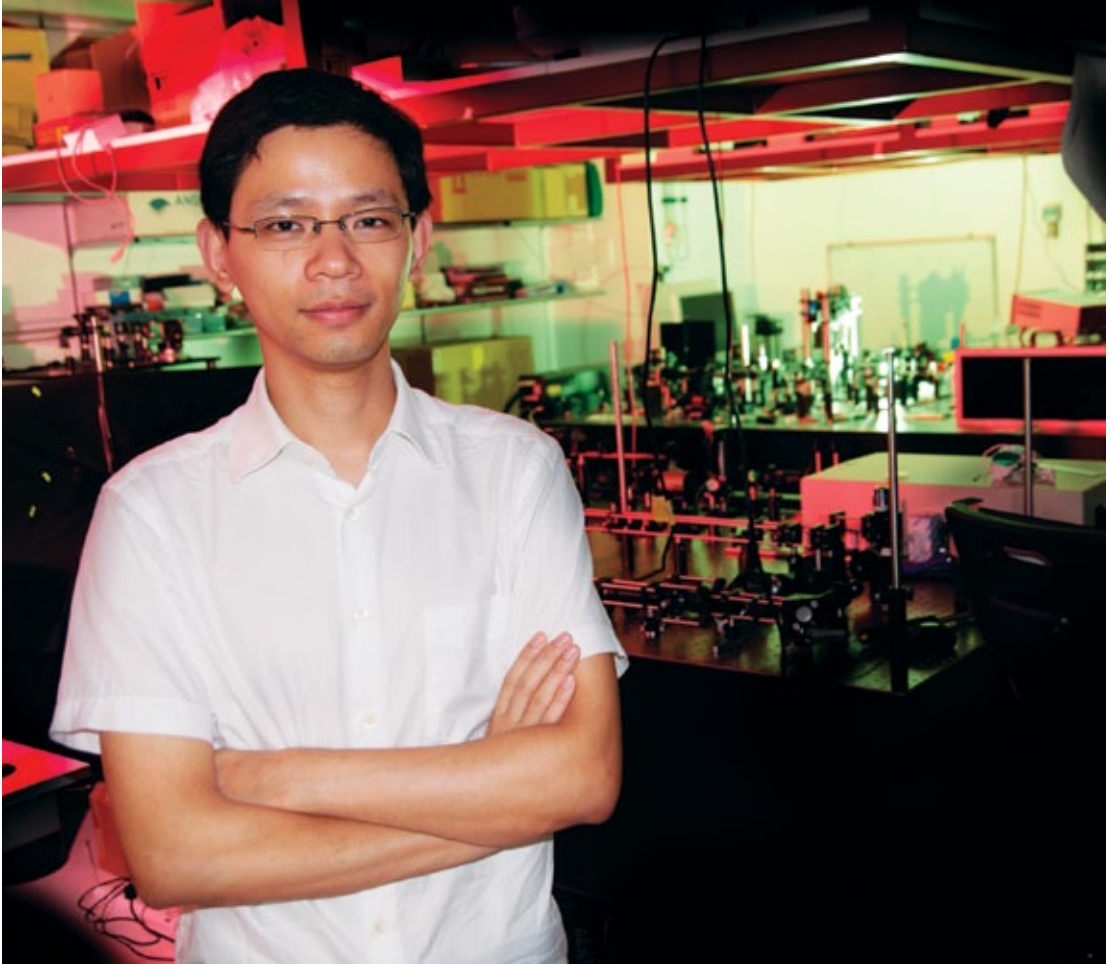
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patientslikeme.com

BAILE ZHANG

Electrical engineer

China + Singapore



Baile Zhang's research focuses on the analysis and control of electromagnetic waves, from radio to light. He is currently working on transformation optics theory as well as experimenting with how to guide electromagnetic waves effectively. Applications can range from macroscopic invisibility to nano-photonics devices. His recent invention of a macroscopic invisibility cloak using simple methods was voted 4th place in the "Top 10 Breakthroughs of 2010" by *Physics World*, and 57th place in the "Top 100 Stories of 2011" by *Discover* magazine. Baile is the recipient of the 2012 MIT Technology Review TR35 Global Young Innovators Award. Currently, he is an assistant professor of physics at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

NOTES ON BAILE



FURTHER EXPLORATION

- Follow-up
- Check out website
- Fund
- Introduce to
- Get in touch
- Start conversation

BAILE'S PROFILE

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blzhang@ntu.edu.sg

LINKS
www3.ntu.edu.sg/home/blzhang/index.htm

KIBWE TAVARES

Filmmaker + architect

UK



Kibwe Tavares may have studied engineering and architecture, but he takes just as much inspiration from comics, manga and sci-fi books when it comes to telling stories. A co-founder of Factory Fifteen, Kibwe creates unique, surreal and unimaginable visual experiences. His latest short, *Robots of Brixton*, has shown in more than 50 film festivals around the world—including Sundance, SXSW and The Creators Project—snapping up numerous awards. Kibwe is currently directing his next short *Jonah*, due out early 2013. Set in Zanzibar, the film is about tourism, the biggest fish in the world and the importance of local development. Through 3D animation, Kibwe is able to visualize a fictional future.

NOTES ON KIBWE



FURTHER EXPLORATION

- Follow-up
- Check out website
- Fund
- Introduce to
- Get in touch
- Start conversation

KIBWE'S PROFILE

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factoryfifteen.com
kibwetavares.blogspot.co.uk

At TED2013, Senior Fellows join us from the 2012 and 2013 Senior Fellows classes. While you may have met a few before, take a moment to read through the following pages to meet the newest class (2013) and reacquaint yourself with the returning class (2012).

About the program

Each year, 10 Fellows are selected for the TED Senior Fellows program, an extended two-year fellowship. Over the course of the fellowship, the Senior Fellows work on projects within their individual disciplines.

Benefits to the Senior Fellows include attending four additional TED conferences (TED and TEDGlobal), participating in four Senior Fellows pre-conferences, the opportunity to deliver a talk on the TED University or main TED stage and the potential for that talk to be posted on TED.com. The Senior Fellows' responsibilities include mentoring newer Fellows, holding TEDx events in their communities, posting on the TED Fellows blog and year-round participation in the TED community.

To learn more about the TED Fellows program,

visit: www.ted.com/fellows

contact: fellows@ted.com

follow: [@TEDFellow](https://twitter.com/TEDFellow)

Ayah Bdeir

Engineer + artist Lebanon + US

fellows.ted.com/profiles/ayah-bdeir



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Links

littleBits.cc
ayahbdeir.com
karajbeirut.org

“ Ayah believes everyone is an innovator. littleBits are breaking down the boundaries of technology to empower young and old alike, to simply create.” — Sanjay Gupta, CNN ”

Biography

Engineer and founder of littleBits, a kit of electronics that snap together with magnets for learning and fun. She is a graduate of the MIT Media Lab and founder of Karaj Media Lab, Beirut.

What are you doing now?

I'm working on creating next-generation toys and educational tools. My company just launched 39 new products, and our toys are being used in schools and classrooms. We have won more than 14 toy awards.

What do you need most?

I need help figuring out how to scale, create a valuable brand and grow a product line while still staying true to our mission.

Kaustuv De Biswas

Digital community builder India + US

fellows.ted.com/profiles/kaustuv-de-biswas



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Links

kaustuv.net
sunglass.io

“ Sunglass: one of 25 hottest enterprise startups in 2012 — Business Insider ”

Biography

Technology entrepreneur building next-generation tools to make design more democratic and accessible to the world.

What are you doing now?

I run Sunglass, a cloud-based design platform enabling product designers from around the world to build things together remotely. Inspired by my peers at MIT's Design Computation Group, I hope Sunglass will help deliver the newest apps in design to a global audience.

What do you need most?

I need to connect and collaborate with progressive doers and makers in the do-it-yourself space—from rockets to robots.

Asha de Vos

Blue whale scientist Sri Lanka

fellows.ted.com/profiles/asha-de-vos



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Links
whalesrilanka.blogspot.com

“ Here [is] a young woman...independently establishing an excellent long-term study of endangered blue whales in conditions that could euphemistically be called ‘challenging’.
— Phil Clapham, Leader, Cetacean Assessment and Ecology Program, National Marine Mammal Laboratory ”

Biography

Sri Lankan cetologist, oceanographer, and PhD candidate studying the unique population of non-migrating blue whales found only in the Northern Indian Ocean.

What are you doing now?

I'm analyzing exciting data on prey availability on the southern coast of Sri Lanka in an attempt to understand how the blue whales sustain themselves year-round in these apparently low-productivity waters. Meanwhile, I get the word out about these unorthodox whales to as many people as possible.

What do you need most?

I need funding to continue this work as a post-doc, data-collecting equipment, access to research platforms, support, encouragement and enthusiasm—and help with spreading the word of our efforts.

Julie Freeman

Artist UK

fellows.ted.com/profiles/julie-freeman



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Links
translatingnature.org

“ Freeman...alerts us to what is irrevocably human and individual under the apparently mechanistic surfaces of the sciences and technologies. — Martin Kemp, Emeritus Professor of the History of Art, Oxford University ”

Biography

UK-based artist combining science, technology, and natural systems in order to create data-driven work that questions how we translate nature.

What are you doing now?

I'm currently working on a collaborative project with artists, scientists and technologists to create art driven by real datasets from many sources: subatomic particles, nano-materials, cellular biology, fungi, fish, animals, people, trees, landscapes, atmospheric, astrophysics. The project explores the scale of scientific exploration, and data that's deeply and personally meaningful.

What do you need most?

I'm looking for scientific and artistic collaborators who can provide or are interested in working with open datasets. I'm also seeking funding sources, advocates and sponsors.

Myshkin Ingawale

Medical device innovator India

fellows.ted.com/profiles/myshkin-ingawale



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Links

myshk.in

biosense.in

“ We are quite excited about [TouchHb] because it is targeted at and developed for front-line health workers. — Noah Perin, Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) on *BBC News* ”

Biography

Medical device innovator who's running around India doing needle-free, point-of-care anemia screening for 20 cents a test!

What are you doing now?

I've just finished putting in place a production system and batch production for TouchHb anemia screening devices. I'm working with different distribution and field partners to scale adoption and usage. Biosense is also about to showcase two more innovative healthcare projects. Watch this space!

What do you need most?

For TouchHb and my healthcare projects: guidance, encouragement, patience. For the book series *Accidentally Unreasonable*: your awesome life stories and time!

Lars Jan

Director + media artist US

fellows.ted.com/profiles/lars-jan



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Links

earlymorningopera.com

visualanimals.com

“ Didn't get to go to Sundance this year? *Early Morning Opera's Abacus...* topped the list for one of the most edgy, thought-provoking spectacles at the festival. — *Huffington Post*, January 2012 ”

Biography

Founder of Early Morning Opera, a genre-bending art lab creating works that chart constellations of ideas using technically innovative live performance.

What are you doing now?

I'm leading HOLOSCENES, a multiformat suite of artworks about flooding that investigates the future of empathy, long-term thinking, and the communication of climate catastrophe. I'm identifying collaborators in 52 geographic points across the globe, who will provide the "source" material, while designing an installation to present HOLOSCENES in public spaces.

What do you need most?

I need collaborators across disciplines interested in engaging a new creative project/model—including behavioral scientists, anthropologists, climate scientists/paleontologists, and expansive thinkers working at the intersections of these and other fields. I also need sophisticated web development consultation and implementation. And, less sexily, funding.

Greg Gage

DIY neuroscientist US

fellows.ted.com/profiles/greg-gage



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Links

backyardbrains.com

on.ted.com/Gage

bit.ly/Zo114E

“Gage’s experiments are exposing invaluable young minds to science they’d only have access to in college or graduate school. — *Fast Company*”

Biography

Neuroscientist and co-founder of Backyard Brains, an organization teaching kids and amateurs neuroscience through hands-on experiments with living neurons and via robotic control of cockroaches.

What are you doing now?

I’m developing new hardware and experiments using the SpikerBox—not on insects, but on experimenters themselves. This allows kids to listen to and see the voltages of neurons that control muscles in the human body. I’m also developing a Bluetooth version of the RoboRoach: the world’s first commercially available cyborg.

What do you need most?

I’m learning how to get new products into the education system. It’s a slow process. I’d like to make contacts within school districts. We also need help with sales and marketing. I am a good engineer and scientist, but not as good at selling inventions!

Boniface Mwangi

Photo activist Kenya

fellows.ted.com/profiles/boniface-mwangi



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Links

pawa254.org

mavulture.com

pichamtaani.org

“Your photography is absolutely stunning and tells an important and powerful story for the world to hear.”
— *US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton*”

Biography

Award-winning Kenyan photo activist and founder of Pawa 254, a community of creative journalists and activists in Nairobi.

What are you doing now?

I am continuing to expand Pawa254, which has trained more than 2,000 youth in journalism skills, creative arts, design and activism, and changed political discourse literally overnight through political street graffiti and political actions.

What do you need most?

We need a network of friends and supporters to ensure that we are not silenced by the rogue elements in the Kenyan government. And we need funding: Pawa254 was founded on personal investment, and continues to function entirely as an independent space through its social enterprise model.

Camille Seaman

Polar photographer US

fellows.ted.com/profiles/camille-seaman



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Links

camilleseaman.com

“ Seaman captures images that are dramatic and at times ominous. — David Griffin, guest curator, LOOK3, Charlottesville Festival of the Photograph ”

Biography

Native American photographer whose work captures the harsh beauty of remote polar landscapes.

What are you doing now?

I've completed a polar photography project that spanned more than a decade, and am looking for someone to publish the historic body of work. I chase and photograph storms in the Great Plains, and recently started a project documenting American captive wolves and wolf hybrids, examining our strange relationship with the idea of "wild."

What do you need most?

It would help me to find not only new collectors and financial supporters but also introductions to individuals and organizations that would find value in collaborating with me on future projects, or using my talents to enhance their endeavors.

Angelo Vermeulen

Artist + scientist Belgium

fellows.ted.com/profiles/angelo-vermeulen



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Links

angelovermeulen.net

facebook.com/angelovermeulenartistpage

biomodd.net

“ I quickly realized that Vermeulen is one of those people who can drum up enthusiasm about his project from everyone, which is probably the main reason why he's the ideal leader of such a multifaceted, constantly evolving project as Biomodd. — Michelle Ong, The Creators Project ”

Biography

Artist and biologist who builds large-scale community art projects and works with space agencies to shape the future of space settlement.

What are you doing now?

I'm working on Biomodd, a computer system that incorporates a living ecosystem (new versions are being prepared in London and Brazil), and on a PhD at TU Delft on new concepts of highly resilient, evolvable spacecraft. I'm currently the crew commander of the NASA-funded HI-SEAS Mars mission simulation.

What do you need most?

A chance to fly to space.

Genevieve von Petzinger

Culture curator Canada

fellowships.ted.com/profiles/genevieve-von-petzinger



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Links
bit.ly/zQd2Ce

“ **What is new and exciting in Genevieve von Petzinger’s research is, thanks to the possibilities of the computer, she has completed a database of the geometric signs from 146 painted caves, attempting to analyze their relationships to one another.** — Peter Robinson of the Bradshaw Foundation ”

Biography

Canadian doctoral candidate studying ancient geometric signs from the Ice Age.

What are you doing now?

I’m expanding my database of geometric signs to include images from all European Ice Age rock art sites. This data will be used to investigate the movement of ancient ideas and people. I’ll be in the field for much of 2013 documenting geometric signs throughout Europe.

What do you need most?

An academic like myself always needs funding, exposure for my research and opportunities to collaborate with interesting colleagues. I’m lucky—my current project is already quite well-funded, and being a TED Senior Fellow has already opened up exciting opportunities. I’m looking forward to the same with my next project!

Lucianne Walkowicz

Stellar astronomer US

fellowships.ted.com/profiles/lucianne-walkowicz



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Twitter [@shaka_lulu](https://twitter.com/shaka_lulu)

Links
tangledfields.com

Lucianne was profiled in the January 2012 issue of *Wired*, and one of her current projects was recently featured in *Time* magazine.

Biography

Lucianne works on NASA’s Kepler mission, studying starspots and the tempestuous tantrums of stellar flares.

What are you doing now?

I study stellar magnetic fields and their effects on planetary habitability, hoping to find the best real estate for discovering life beyond Earth. I’m also an artist working in a variety of media, from comics to oil paint to sound.

What do you need most?

I’m in search of a permanent home for both my research and art, where I can continue delving into the mysteries of the Universe while fostering innovation in science and art. I’d also love another eight or so hours added to the day.

Walid Al-Saqaf

Anti-censorship activist Yemen + Sweden

fellows.ted.com/profiles/walid-al-saqaf



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Links

yemenportal.net

alkasir.com

arabiportal.net

Walid's story was recently featured in the *Columbia Journalism Review*. (bit.ly/IAVRwm)

Biography

Yemeni journalist, software developer, media researcher and activist. Walid directs the Global Journalism master's program at Örebro University.

What are you doing now?

I am studying Internet censorship using a tool I created to allow people in the Arab world and worldwide to overcome censorship. I've trained Yemeni activists and journalists in cyber security and have been developing an aggregator for news content in the Arab world.

What do you need most?

I need networking, ideas for collaboration and friendships.

Eric Berlow

Ecological networks scientist US

fellows.ted.com/profiles/eric-l-berlow



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Links

vibrantdatalabs.org

wethedata.org

ericberlow.net

“ We've been working on this problem for two years, and when we saw Eric's analysis, we felt like we were playing in a band and Jimi Hendrix walked in. — The head of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Personal Data ”

Biography

Eric Berlow is an ecologist and network scientist who simplifies complexity.

What are you doing now?

I harness the power of many brains to map and navigate messy problems. My network analysis of collective expert input recently helped launch WeTheData.org. This site fosters a decentralized approach to the control of data by identifying grand challenges for catalyzing a personal data economy that benefits everyone.

What do you need most?

I'm looking for collaborators with interests in collective intelligence, game development, open governance, social investing, and data-driven philanthropy.

Jane Chen

Infant health entrepreneur US + India

fellows.ted.com/profiles/jane-chen



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Links
embraceinnovations.com
embraceglobal.org

“ Embrace’s portable device—designed as a tiny sleeping bag—enables mothers to hold their premature babies close to their bodies, a feature which on its own is priceless.” — CNN ”

Biography

Social entrepreneur who empowers the disadvantaged through disruptive medical technologies, starting with an affordable infant warmer for premature babies.

What are you doing now?

I’m scaling Embrace’s first product: a low-cost infant warmer that costs about 1% of the price of a traditional incubator and works without electricity. Embrace is also developing other disruptive medical technologies to drastically reduce the cost of healthcare in emerging markets.

What do you need most?

We’re seeking partnerships for distribution and funding.

Anthony Vipin Das

Eye doctor + entrepreneur India

fellows.ted.com/profiles/anthony-vipin-das



Email dr_dubbehsix@yahoo.co.in

Links
lpei.org
youtube.com/REPORtProject
utimes.pitt.edu/?p=15605

“ Dr. Vipin’s work in Eyecare IT in the rural sector has great potential and a high impact.” — NABARD Rural Innovation Award 2012 (Government of India) ”

Biography

An ophthalmic surgeon by profession, a clinician scientist at heart and an innovator by choice.

What are you doing now?

I am building a state of the art data-mining system and preventive projects for ocular trauma and eye diseases in rural India. I’m also looking for ways to transplant a human eyeball, particularly limbal stem cell transplant techniques used for chemical injuries of the eye.

What do you need most?

I need funding for my ocular transplant research.

Lope Gutiérrez-Ruiz

Culture curator Venezuela + US

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Links
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cityscript.org
weareinhouse.com

“ **Gopher Magazine: WOW! What else do you want from a magazine?** — O.K. Festival, Netherlands ”

Biography

Venezuelan culture curator, art director and co-founder of Gopher Projects/*Gopher Magazine*, an arts and publishing platform for emerging artists.

What are you doing now?

I just finished co-editing the third volume of *Gopher Magazine* and am excited about the results of our crazy, ever-growing encyclopedia! I'm also working on The City Script Project, which tells the history of Austin using an alphabet composed of stories from the city, presented as large-scale public art installations.

What do you need most?

We need contacts! We would like to: 1) Take the City Script Project to other cities around the world, 2) Partner Gopher Projects with arts institutions from across America for art/design/culture projects, and 3) Keep doing amazing design with the outstanding people from the TED community!

Meklit Hadero

Singer + songwriter Ethiopia + US

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Links
meklithadero.com
nileproject.org
copperwiremusic.com

“ **You may not have heard Meklit Hadero's music before, but once you do, it'll be tough to forget. It paints pictures in your head as you listen.** — NPR ”

Biography

An Ethiopian-American singer, songwriter, musician and cultural instigator who uses music as a platform for bridging cultural boundaries and borders.

What are you doing now?

I've been working on the Nile Project, an initiative co-founded with Egyptian ethnomusicologist Mina Girgis. We gather musicians from across the Nile Basin to create music as an ensemble, and to tour down the river and source lakes, creating a healthy platform for cross-cultural dialogue in East Africa.

What do you need most?

The Nile River Project tour's stage will be a boat made of recycled water bottles, so we'd love to meet potential boat designers. We need specialists and education experts to help us develop our cultural/environmental campaigns, and we'd like to talk to film folks about developing a documentary.

Marcin Jakubowski

Farmer + technologist Poland + US

fellows.ted.com/profiles/marcin-jakubowski



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Links

bit.ly/vXpWAp

bit.ly/gCqQd5

***Time* magazine calls the Global Village Construction Set one of the 50 “Best Inventions of the Year 2012”.**

Biography

Marcin is an open-source industrialist working to build civilization from scratch.

What are you doing now?

I am currently optimizing production of our open-source Brick Press and Tractor to a single day of production time.

What do you need most?

I need to build a solid core team and advisory team.

Teru Kuwayama

Crisis photographer US + Afghanistan

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Twitter @terukuwayama

Links

about.me/terukuwayama

basetrack.org

lightstalkers.org

Teru was recently made a 2013 Media Fellow at the Hoover Institution for War, Revolution, and Peace.

Biography

Accidental photojournalist, AfPak hand, experimental media operator, amateur cook, tactical traveler.

What are you doing now?

I'm continuing my longterm photographic project in Afghanistan and Pakistan. I examine US military operations and the evolution of social media in reporting conflict, and design experimental journalism and performance projects. I also advise individuals, organizations and companies on personal and product development, media initiatives, and hearts-and-minds campaigns in Central Asia.

What do you need most?

I'm all right-hemisphere. I'm always on the make for partners and collaborators with left-brain skills sets in technology, design and business development.

Suzanne Lee

Fashion designer UK

fellows.ted.com/profiles/suzanne-lee



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Links
biocouture.co.uk
microbmaterials.org

“ **Bacteria-grown clothes with reduced environmental impact recast a fashion statement as an ecological stance.** — William Myers (author *Bio Design*, published by MOMA 2012) ”

Biography

British designer inspired by microorganisms to grow the sustainable consumer products of the future.

What are you doing now?

I am launching Biocouture, the first-ever biomaterials and biodesign consultancy. I am building relationships with scientists and consumer brands to visioneer the future of sustainable materials and manufacturing through living systems.

What do you need most?

I need introductions to spin out bio-based and biomaterial companies and visionary consumer brands.

Sey Min

Media artist Korea

fellows.ted.com/profiles/sey-min



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Links
randomwalks.org
ttoky.com

“ **Sey Min says data visualization is not only making graphics...it's also about changing behavior.** — *Korea Joongang Daily* ”

Biography

Multidisciplinary data visualizer and artist who believes in the power of data in our awareness, which eventually leads to changes in human behavior.

What are you doing now?

My current project, “the city, Seoul,” focuses on how to increase public awareness with public data. It visualizes Seoul's daily expenditure, and generates visual content for urban screens. I believe that city expenditure data tells us what the city is focusing on now and where it's heading.

What do you need most?

I would like to meet more potential clients and collaborators interested in expanding their industries and fields with data visualization and storytelling.

Nina Tandon

Tissue-engineering researcher US

fellows.ted.com/profiles/nina-tdandon



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Links
ninatandon.com

Nina was featured as one of *Fast Company's* most creative people of 2012, and as "Top Scientist" in *Marie Claire Magazine's* 2012 "Women on Top" Awards.

Biography

Nina is a cardiac tissue engineer who researches how electrical signals impact growth of cells and tissues.

What are you doing now?

I'm researching how electrical signals impact growth and repair of cardiac, skin and retinal tissues. I also develop the supporting technologies necessary for the scalable production of engineered tissues. An avid yoga practitioner and runner, I investigate the interactions of stress hormones and exercise on the development of cardiac tissue.

What do you need most?

TED makes my "pie in the sky" ideas seem worth chasing! In an era where academic research is more dependent than ever on new revenue streams and sources of inspiration, I look to the TED community for inspiration, collaboration and support.

Skylar Tibbits

Architect + computer scientist US

fellows.ted.com/profiles/skylar-tibbits



Email sjet@sjet.us
Twitter [@skylartibbits](https://twitter.com/skylartibbits)

Links
selfassemblylab.net
sjet.us
bioselfassembly.net

Skylar's work was recently profiled in *The New York Times*.
(nyti.ms/MicT5a)

Biography

Skylar is focused on developing technologies to reimagine processes for large-scale construction and manufacturing.

What are you doing now?

I'm developing an independent research lab at MIT called The Self-Assembly Lab, bringing together designers, scientists and engineers to invent self-assembly technologies and programmable materials for the built environment. We're teaming up with industry-leading partners to find large-scale applications addressing labor-intensive, outdated construction processes.

What do you need most?

We're looking for fundraising opportunities for the research lab with visionary individuals and industry collaborators. We've demonstrated the scalability and reliability of our systems, yet one of the main challenges we face is to find important applications to tackle across various industries.

Alanna Shaikh

Global health geek US + Azerbaijan

fellows.ted.com/profiles/alanna-shaikh



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Links

tomorrowglobal.com

bloodandmilk.org

alannashaikh.com

Alanna was included in *The Guardian's* list of “Global development Twitterati.”

Biography

A blogger and aid worker who wrote the global health TED Book *What's Killing Us*, Alanna Shaikh has worked on multiple continents.

What are you doing now?

I just launched TomorrowGlobal.com, a website devoted to thinking about the future of global health. We spend so much time solving the problems we face right now—I want to think about the problems we'll face in a century. I'm also writing a Kindle single on antibacterial resistance and finishing a book proposal on international development.

What do you need most?

I need journal subscriptions and support to travel. Not working in academia means no access to gated articles or funding to attend conferences. I'd love to supplement my on-the-ground experience with the newest research.

Designed by Albertson Design
in San Francisco

Creative Director: David Albertson

Designer: Paul Torres

albertsondesign.com

We  Fellows



Keep in touch.