

## **FOR PRESS:**

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### **“Speakers Wanted for TEDxHickory 2016”**

April 16, 2016 –

A group of local volunteers are planning the fifth year of TEDxHickory, a full-day event to be held August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the SALT Block Auditorium. The independently organized event — **TEDxHickory** — is licensed by TED and will feature a combination of live speakers and TED Talk videos that is sure to elevate the thinking and broaden the perspective of all who participate.

TEDxHickory is looking for speakers to present at this coming year’s event, under the theme “(un)common.” To us, (un)common is all the similarities and differences, however big and small, that makes us who we are. It’s the big ideas that have revolutionized industries. Or the tiniest idea that just leads to others. It’s the seemingly small and innocuous changes that have shaped our way of life. It’s the smallest variations that create uniqueness. It’s how we can be so incredibly similar yet so exceptionally different. It’s how, on paper, Hickory can be perceived as just another American small town – but when you look deeper, you uncover the individual and collective differences that makes us truly unique (just ask any of us what makes Hickory, well, Hickory).

Anyone interested in speaking will be asked to provide talks that fall under the (un)common theme – however broad or specific. Per the rules of TEDx, presenters are allowed to speak for no more than 18 minutes each. There will be breaks in-between sessions for discussions on the topics presented.

From now through June 6, 2016, those interested can apply online to be considered as a speaker at this coming year’s event. The application process asks for the topic of your talk, some general points you wish to communicate, and general contact information. The application can be found online by visiting [www.TEDxHickory.com](http://www.TEDxHickory.com). Presentations will be chosen based on how well they fit the idea of TEDx and the variety of the presentations for the day.

The TED Conference provides general guidance for the independent TEDx program, but individual TEDx events, including the one being held in Hickory, are self-organized. TEDxHickory has been organized by local members of the community.

For more information about TEDxHickory or to purchase a ticket for the event, visit the website at [www.TEDxHickory.com](http://www.TEDxHickory.com).

## **About TEDx, x = independently organized event**

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TEDTalks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection in a small group. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED event. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events are self-organized. (Subject to certain rules and regulations.)

## **About TED**

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. Started as a four-day conference in California 30 years ago, TED has grown to support its mission with multiple initiatives. The two annual TED Conferences invite the world's leading thinkers and doers to speak for 18 minutes or less. Many of these talks are then made available, free, at TED.com. TED speakers have included Bill Gates, Jane Goodall, Elizabeth Gilbert, Sir Richard Branson, Nandan Nilekani, Philippe Starck, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Sal Khan and Daniel Kahneman.

The annual TED Conference takes place each spring in Vancouver, British Columbia, along with the TEDActive simulcast event in nearby Whistler. The annual TEDGlobal conference will be held this October in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. TED's media initiatives include TED.com, where new TED Talks are posted daily; the Open Translation Project, which provides subtitles and interactive transcripts as well as translations from volunteers worldwide; the educational initiative TED-Ed. TED has established the annual TED Prize, where exceptional individuals with a wish to change the world get help translating their wishes into action; TEDx, which supports individuals or groups in hosting local, self-organized TED-style events around the world, and the TED Fellows program, helping world-changing innovators from around the globe to amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities.

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

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