

uncharted



## **Welcome to TEDxPortsmouth 2026: UNCHARTED**

This immersive, full-day event showcases a diverse lineup of inspiring speakers, rousing artistic performances, great local food, and a fun after party. It's also where the Seacoast comes together to connect and explore big ideas—science, the arts, the environment, humanity, entrepreneurship—in a shared experience emphasizing community, conversation, and inspiration. Enjoy!

TEAM



## **LEADERSHIP**

**Kaarin Milne:** Producer & Licensee

**Anna Goldsmith:** Artistic Director

## **OPERATIONS**

**Katya Hvozdetska:** Operations

**Andrea Martin:** Community Engagement

**Leslie Scuderi:** Student & Educators Day

## **IMAGE & DESIGN**

**Katinka de Ruiter:** Lead Designer

**Alyssa Duncan:** Photographer

**Ruth Ganev:** Photographer

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

**Sharon Ippolito:** Music Director

## **SPEAKER COACHES**

**Melissa Christenson:** Performance Coach

**Katie Drasser:** Content Coach

**Allison Dudas:** Writing Coach

**Tom Holbrook:** Writing Coach

**Debbie Kane:** Writing Coach

**Rob Sneddon:** Writing Coach

## **MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT**

**Amber Buttermore:** Digital Strategy

**Amanda Giles:** Web & Technology Director

**Karen Lyons:** Digital Marketing Director

**Deb McNeilly:** Marketing Manager, Stylist

## **DAY-OF VOLUNTEERS**

A huge thank you for making this day possible!

8:00 – 9:00 A.M.  
**ARRIVAL/NETWORKING**

9:00 A.M.  
**SESSION 1**

603 Brass Band

*New Orleans soul. New England grit.  
All brass.*

Shawn Walsh  
Jessica Bolker  
Cameron Miner

10:10 A.M.  
**MORNING BREAK**



10:30 A.M.  
**SESSION 2**

Mike Palace  
Kate Scarcella  
Bridget Shannon  
Steve Turner

11:45 A.M.  
**LUNCH BREAK**

12:45 P.M.  
**SESSION 3**

Flying Gravity Circus

*Circus is the medium — growth  
is the journey.*

Keith Wasserman  
Cheryl Elizabeth Field  
Marie Ramas

1:45 P.M.

## AFTERNOON BREAK

2:00 P.M.

## SESSION 4

**Abdi Iftin**  
**John St.Pierre**  
**Tricia Rose Burt**

Jennifer Moore:  
Ideas In Action Honoree  
*Secondhand first fashion show.*

3:00 – 4:00 P.M.

## AFTER PARTY

Music Hall Lobby  
Cash bar available

*Be sure to visit Portsmouth Book Nook in the lobby during breaks. Books were handpicked by speakers!*

## LUNCH OFFERINGS

Headquartered in Portsmouth and founded in 1816, Gather is one of the nation's oldest nonprofit organizations, offering innovative programs that build food security in welcoming and dignified ways. One of the region's largest hunger relief providers, we serve 25 households and distribute 1,200 pounds of food every hour we're open.

### Harvest Bowls from the Gather Kitchen

*Prepared by Gather's culinary team, where every meal is rooted in nourishment, community, and care.*

#### Choice of:

- Lemon-Herb Chicken
- Marinated Tofu (Vegan)

Served over quinoa with roasted sweet potato, seasonal vegetables, and a lemon vinaigrette.

Fresh Fruit Cup & Homemade Granola Bar

*Dietary options are available, while quantities last.*



## Mary Johanna Brown

Mary Johanna Brown is the Founder and President of Brown & Company Design and Big Brown Books. A UNH BFA graduate, she's built a career blending creativity with business. Mary Jo has been recognized by numerous New Hampshire publications for her leadership, but she's especially proud of her volunteer work. She currently serves on the board of NicaLove animal rescue and is Chair Emeritus of the NH Women's Foundation. Mary Jo enjoys boating in her hand-made wooden dinghy, photography, and traveling with her daughter Haley, an Emerson College student.



## Lionel Loveless

Lionel Loveless, known as Mr. Bowtie Daily, is a creator who transforms memory into wearable art. As a master of upcycling and storytelling, he handcrafts bow ties that honor legacy, celebrate individuality, and spark meaningful connection. A committed community builder and sustainability advocate, Lionel also serves as Co-Owner of Route 1 Antiques, a local business dedicated to preserving history and inspiring discovery. His work bridges fashion, heritage, and entrepreneurship, reminding audiences that creativity can heal, unite, and uplift. Mr. Bowtie Daily is Lionel's daily practice of joy, resilience, and honoring the stories that shape us.



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TO ENJOY THE

# uncharted

PLAYLIST

SKOOCH







## 603 Brass Band

*New Orleans soul. New England grit. All brass.*

603 Brass Band is New Hampshire's powerhouse brass collective, blending the soul of New Orleans with the grit of New England. Founded by Army Band veterans, the group brings explosive horns, deep grooves, and unstoppable energy to every stage they hit — from festival grounds to your backyard. Their mission is as bold as their sound: honoring the roots of traditional brass band music

while creating opportunities for the next generation of musicians to learn, grow, and keep jazz alive.

Featuring Dave Selmer (*drums*), Johnny Trudeau (*percussion*), Frank Barbaro (*sousaphone*), Max Lalos (*trombone*), Dominick Wood (*trumpet*), Bradley Lamonica (*tenor sax*), and Chazz Rogers (*alto sax*)

*Photo credit: Jim Barbere*

# Flying Gravity Circus

*Circus is the medium — growth is the journey.*

Flying Gravity Circus is a youth performance and education organization based in Wilton, NH, using circus arts as a vehicle for positive youth development. Through hands-on training in the discipline and joy of circus, FGC ignites in children and teens a love for learning, performing, and building community. In partnership with High Mowing School, their Circus Studies Program weaves rigorous circus training with a premier Waldorf high school education — developing not just performers, but whole individuals.

*Photo credit: Justin Miel*







**JESSICA  
BOLKER**

Jessica Bolker is a zoologist who studied fish embryology until she got distracted by philosophy. A UNH faculty member since 1997, she teaches developmental biology, scientific writing, marine ecology, and a seminar on Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia*. As Associate Director of the Shoals Marine Laboratory, she helped launch engineering internships and an island production of *The Tempest*. She holds a B.S. from Yale and a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley.



**TRICIA  
ROSE  
BURT**

Tricia Rose Burt hosts the award-winning podcast *No Time to be Timid* and founded *No Time to be Timid Productions*. After years in business, she enrolled in art school — until the 2008 crash forced a pivot. She created the one-woman show "How to Draw a Nekkid Man" and launched her storytelling career with *The Moth*. Today she teaches executives, produces creative work, and leads a movement for anyone who makes something out of nothing.



**CHERYL  
ELIZABETH  
FIELD**

Cheryl Elizabeth Field is a senior care consultant, three-time international bestselling author, and leader in post-acute rehabilitation. With over 35 years in nursing — from clinical director to Chief Product Officer — she specializes in analytics, compliance, and quality. Her book "Prepared! A Healthcare Guide for Aging Adults" empowers caregivers worldwide through relatable stories. A speaker at local and national conventions, Cheryl serves on multiple advisory boards focused on caregiver wellness.



**ABDI  
NOR  
IFTIN**

Abdi Nor Iftin is the award-winning author of *Call Me American*, whose immigration story has been featured by NPR, CNN, and Time magazine. His journey was the subject of a *This American Life* episode selected for a Peabody Award. A former Maine newspaper columnist and Boston College graduate, Abdi is a frequent speaker on immigration, identity, and global affairs — and continues to tell stories that bridge cultures and challenge assumptions.



**CAMERON  
MINER**

Cameron Miner is charting a path to preserve human agency in the Age of AI. His 30-year track record spans DARPA research that became the da Vinci surgical robot, automated CPR saving lives worldwide, pioneering wearables at IBM Research, neural interfaces at Meta, and Digital Twins at MIT. A parallel entrepreneur working with startups throughout Boston's R&D ecosystem, Cameron was mentored by IDEO founder David Kelley — and remains a technologist trying to make technology disappear.



**MICHAEL  
PALACE**

Michael Palace is an environmental scientist and professor of Earth Sciences at UNH who uses satellites and drones to better understand our planet. He studies the terrestrial carbon cycle, forest dynamics, and the hidden signatures of past human settlements written into the land. Using geospatial science and remote sensing, he maps and interprets the world — predicting disease outbreaks, tracking forest responses to drought and fire, and revealing patterns invisible to the naked eye.



**DR. MARIE-  
ELIZABETH  
RAMAS**

Dr. Marie-Elizabeth Ramas is a family physician and nationally recognized advocate with more than 15 years of full-scope practice, including obstetrics, across rural and urban America. A National Health Service Corps Scholar, she served on the American Academy of Family Physicians board and chaired health equity efforts on a federal commission addressing maternal and infant mortality. In 2021, she founded MedRizon Consulting after identifying parallels between healthcare dysfunction and toxic human dynamics.



**JOHN  
ST.PIERRE**

John St.Pierre is a seasoned entrepreneur whose journey spans major wins and hard-hitting losses. He co-founded and scaled two companies beyond \$50 million in global revenue — one he lost dramatically, the other he grew to \$100 million-plus. Author of *The \$100M Journey* and co-host of the *Entrepreneurs United* podcast, he shares the raw truths of entrepreneurship. As a coach, speaker, and mentor, he helps others build sustainable businesses without sacrificing health, freedom, or purpose.



**KATE  
SCARCELLA**

Kate Scarcella is a cybersecurity architect with more than 20 years designing security systems for Fortune 50 enterprises. She built her career at IBM, growing from hands-on technical roles into broader enterprise leadership. Known for modernizing Security Operations Centers through behavioral intelligence and IoT integration, Kate explores a central question: What if the architecture that stabilizes digital systems also explains how humans recover when life changes without warning?



**BRIDGET  
SHANNON**

Bridget Shannon owns Nowadays Flowers, a cut flower farm and floral design studio serving the Seacoast community. The team creates garden-inspired weddings and events across New England, pops up with Clover, the vintage flower truck, and leads educational workshops. Certified in therapeutic horticulture and a former Intuitive Eating Counselor, Bridget runs the Flourish program, supporting mental health through nature-based experiences. She lives in Dover among the flowers with her husband, daughter, and dogs.



**STEVE  
TURNER**

Steve Turner is the owner of Turner's Upholstery in Rye, N.H. — a business he started at 19, right after high school. Now celebrating 37 years, it's known for craftsmanship, quality, and dedication to auto upholstery. In 2017, Steve founded Bring Back The Trades, a grassroots movement that grew from a simple idea and a baseball cap into a national nonprofit promoting skilled trades careers and awarding scholarships to students pursuing trade school.



**SHAWN  
WALSH**

Shawn Walsh is an author, strategist, and former U.S. Army leader whose work on logistics, energy, and sustainment helped shape U.S. and allied doctrine. He served more than 25 years in high-pressure roles worldwide, including tours in Bosnia and Iraq and service at the Pentagon. After the Army, he led projects to strengthen energy resilience and modernize critical infrastructure. A Citadel and Army War College graduate, he is a Bronze Star recipient.



## KEITH WASSERMAN

Keith Wasserman is an artist and educator spanning visual art, film, music, and youth-centered arts education. His collage work explores "The Deep Wink" — that goosebump moment when coincidence feels like collaboration with the universe. His award-winning documentary *Dear Ani* (2023), which aired on Vermont PBS, traces obsession, connection, and delusion transformed into art. As KB Whirly, he creates acclaimed music for kids that adults love; his debut album received a Parents' Choice Award.

## New for 2026: IDEAS IN ACTION AWARD

*Honoring the speakers who turned one talk into lasting change.*

Some people leave TEDxPortsmouth inspired to volunteer, reconnect with an old colleague, or finally pursue an idea they'd been sitting on too long. For our speakers, that one day is the culmination of months of hard work — excavating a big idea, challenging it, sharpening it, and finding the words to share it with the world. But the journey doesn't end when the lights go down. Ideas in Action honors the past speaker whose momentum kept building long after the stage went dark.

## Meet honoree **Jennifer Moore**.

Jennifer is a community builder and sustainability advocate who turns ideas into action. She is the founder of Project Upcycle — a sustainable fashion competition for emerging New England designers, produced by 3S Artspace — and PortSwap, a community clothing swap that grew into an official City of Portsmouth program.

In her 2023 TEDxPortsmouth talk, Jennifer explored the environmental toll of fast fashion and the promise of change through one simple shift: choosing secondhand first. Online, she goes by Recovergirl, a playful nod to a reduce, reuse, recycle way of life.

Special thanks to the participating stores in today's fashion show:

- **Cotillion Bureau**  
*Portsmouth, NH*
- **Esta Resale**  
*Portsmouth, NH*
- **Fair Tide**  
*Kittery, ME*
- **Flower Moon Vintage**  
*Exeter, NH*
- **Goodwill**  
*Portsmouth, NH*
- **Hello Again**  
*Dover, NH*
- **Inherit Vintage**  
*online only*
- **Once and Again Gowns**  
*Newmarket, NH*
- **Wear House**  
*Portsmouth, NH*





## JBC COMMUNICATIONS

TEDxPortsmouth talks are filmed and edited by JBC Communications Director, Jay Childs. An Emmy-honored producer, Jay brings more than 25 years of experience in many facets of media production and communications consulting. He leads a cadre of diverse creative and technical talent, collected over a lifetime of telling stories that inspire action.





## AFTER PARTY

Join us for the 2026 TEDxPortsmouth after party in the Music Hall lobby, cash bar available until 4 p.m.

A toast to our community, filled with ideas worth spreading!

Talk to speakers and other attendees about the ideas shared today that have blown your mind, informed your perspective, or inspired you to take action.



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x = independently organized TED event

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PARTNERS



The logo for Creative Training Resources (CTR) features the letters 'CTR' in a stylized, sans-serif font. The 'C' is blue, the 'T' is green, and the 'R' is a lighter green.

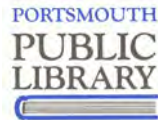
Creative Training Resources

Educate | Motivate | Transform

The logo for Alyssa Duncan Photography features a dark blue square icon with a white diagonal line on the left side. To the right of the icon, the name 'ALYSSA DUNCAN' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and 'photography' is written below it in a smaller, lowercase, brown sans-serif font.The logo for dbg Design Studio features the lowercase letters 'dbg' in a bold, red, rounded sans-serif font. Below the letters, the words 'DESIGN STUDIO' are written in a smaller, red, all-caps sans-serif font.The logo for Ruth Ganev Photography features a large, stylized 'R' and 'G' intertwined in a black, serif font. Below the letters, the name 'RUTH GANEV PHOTOGRAPHY' is written in a smaller, black, all-caps sans-serif font.The logo for Blue Dolphin Screenprint & Embroidery Inc. features a blue silhouette of a dolphin leaping out of the water. To the right of the dolphin, the words 'BLUE DOLPHIN' are written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, and 'screenprint & embroidery inc.' is written below it in a smaller, blue, lowercase sans-serif font. Below the entire logo, the website address 'www.printedtees.com' is written in a blue, lowercase sans-serif font.The logo for Lovebirds Craft Donuts & Coffee features the word 'Lovebirds' in a large, black, cursive script font. Below it, the words 'CRAFT DONUTS & COFFEE' are written in a smaller, black, all-caps sans-serif font.The logo for Flatbread Co. features the words 'flatbread co.' in a black, lowercase, sans-serif font, with 'flatbread' in a larger size. Above the text is a stylized rainbow with red, orange, and yellow bands. Below the text, the words 'EARTH OVEN PIZZA' are written in a black, all-caps sans-serif font, with 'EARTH', 'OVEN', and 'PIZZA' separated by vertical bars.The logo for Skooch features the word 'SKOOCH' in a bold, black, blocky, sans-serif font.The logo for gather features the word 'gather' in a lowercase, sans-serif font where each letter is a different color: 'g' is orange, 'a' is green, 't' is yellow, 'h' is purple, 'e' is blue, and 'r' is red. Below the word, the phrase 'FOR A HUNGER-FREE COMMUNITY' is written in a smaller, black, all-caps sans-serif font.

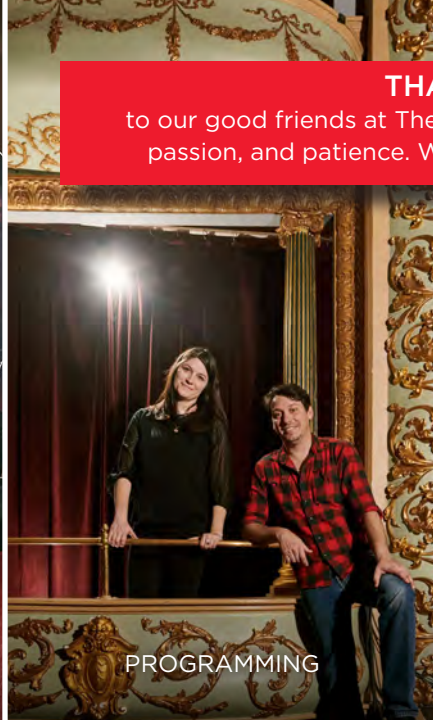


nhpr

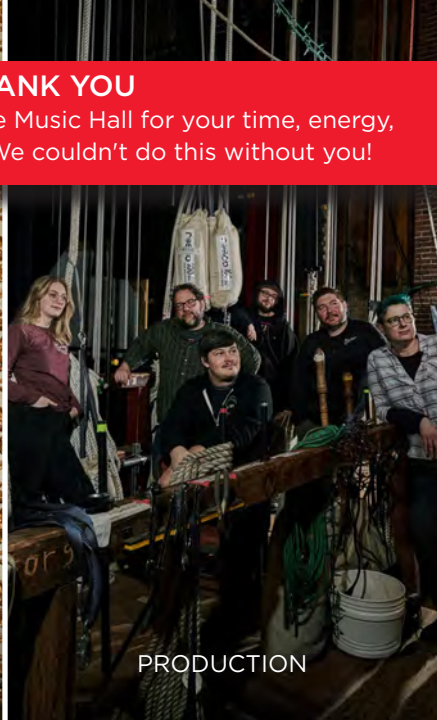




FRONT OF HOUSE



PROGRAMMING



PRODUCTION

## THANK YOU

to our good friends at The Music Hall for your time, energy, passion, and patience. We couldn't do this without you!



## KAARIN MILNE

Kaarin Milne is the licensee and producer of TEDxPortsmouth and principal of Flow Strategies organization development. She's dedicated to helping people and communities do their best, most satisfying work by creating environments where ideas flow, strengths are amplified, and collaboration feels natural. Kaarin partners with teams to refine culture and revitalize operations in ways that improve how work gets done—connecting people, optimizing capabilities, and building strategic relationships that enhance long-term stability. A seacoast native, Kaarin earned her MBA from Paul College of Business and Economics at UNH in 2015. She lives in Portsmouth with her husband and their three teenagers.

## ANNA GOLDSMITH

Anna Goldsmith is the artistic director of TEDxPortsmouth and a partner at The Hired Pens, an award-winning copywriting agency. Anna also works with TEDx speakers — and those who wish to deliver TED-style presentations — to craft the talk of a lifetime. Her speakers have been recognized across TED platforms and around the world. She lives in Portsmouth with her husband and two sons. Fun fact: Anna’s great-uncle, Ken Goldsmith, was the youngest mayor in Portsmouth history, elected in 1937 at just 22. The press nicknamed him the “boy mayor.”



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