



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TEDxRVA Opens the Stage to the Community Open Mic Night Audition Could Win a Spot on the Main Stage

Richmond, Virginia - January 7, 2013 – On January 31st TEDxRVA will host a free Open Mic night for the public at the Hippodrome. There, participants will be given two minutes each to pitch a potential idea worth spreading. The audience will vote on each presenter electronically. Topics for speeches will be based on a wide spectrum of creativity—including entrepreneurship, science, technology, community building, and the arts. All spaces for speaking at this event are full.

Top performers may earn a slot on the main stage of the first TEDxRVA event at the riverfront Power Plant on March 22.

Open Mic event coordinator, Katie Benson, is impressed by the enthusiastic responses to share great ideas. "TEDxRVA is about bringing people together to share in revolutionary discussion. We are humbled to be shoulder to shoulder with such an engaged community. By integrating our local thought leaders with those that are nationally and internationally known, Richmond's unique perspective will be able to reach a new stage and influence future events," Benson said.

Open Mic night will also be an exciting event for audience members. Musician David Schutz will open the evening with his acoustic guitar and hometown storytelling. After experiencing and voting on the best speakers of the night, guests can look forward to special musical performances by DJ Big Chair and Mikemetic as well as a drum circle from 9:00-11:30 p.m.

Attendees are advised to arrive early, since space is limited. Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. with music and a cash bar. Speakers will begin at 8:00 p.m. with more live music to follow.

On March 22, 2013, Richmond will celebrate its first ever TEDxRVA with the theme of CREATE. Through intriguing talks and creative experiences, the daylong event will combine experiential creativity with earnest thought and dialog, uniting intergenerational audiences from the Richmond region and beyond.

Event information for Open Mic Night:

January 31 @ The Hippodrome on 528 North 2nd Street.

Free admission; refreshments will be available for purchase

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Speakers begin at 8:00 p.m. Music will follow.

TEDx and TED

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.)

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. Started as a four-day conference in California 25 years ago, TED has grown to support those world-changing ideas with multiple initiatives. The annual TED Conference invites the world's leading thinkers and doers to speak for 18 minutes. Their talks are then made available, free, at TED.com. TED speakers have included Bill Gates, Al Gore, Jane Goodall, Elizabeth Gilbert, Sir Richard Branson, Nandan Nilekani, Philippe Starck, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Isabel Allende and former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown. The

annual TED Conference takes place each spring in Long Beach, California, along with the TEDActive simulcast in Palm Springs; the annual TEDGlobal conference is held each summer in Edinburgh, Scotland.

TED's media initiatives include TED.com, where new TEDTalks are posted daily, the recently launched TED-Ed platform for students and educators, the Open Translation Project, which provides subtitles and interactive transcripts as well as the ability for any TEDTalk to be translated by volunteers worldwide, and TEDBooks, short e-books by speakers that elaborate on a single idea originally presented on TED's stage. TED has established the annual TED Prize, where exceptional individuals with a wish to change the world are given the opportunity to put their wishes into action; TEDx, which offers individuals or groups a way to host local, self-organized events around the world, and the TED Fellows program, helping world-changing innovators from around the globe to become part of the TED community and, with its help, amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities. Follow TED on Twitter or on Facebook.

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