

Cultural Leaders

A community of over 40 Cultural Leaders joins the Annual Meeting in Davos to help inspire responsive and responsible leadership.



Zarifa Adiba, Kabul

Zarifa Adiba is a musician playing the viola and one of the conductors of the Afghan Women's Orchestra, the first all-female Afghan orchestra based at the Afghanistan National Institute of Music. In Davos, she will join the orchestra to perform the closing concert before embarking on tour in Europe.



Carol Becker, New York

In her role as Dean of the Columbia School of the Arts, Carol Becker has helped to launch international programmes for screen and television writing, film production and literary translation. She has written extensively about the impact of art and artists on society. Becker also worked closely with the World Economic Forum's Global Leadership Fellows to develop a unique programme on leadership development through art practice.



Lonnie Bunch, Washington DC

Lonnie Bunch is the founding Director of the Smithsonian Institution's brand-new National Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall in Washington DC. A historian and educator, Bunch has unique insights on embracing history to address current challenges in the US and around the world.



Matt Damon, New York

Matt Damon is a prominent actor, film producer and screenwriter. He is passionate about alleviating the global water crisis. He is the co-founder of Water.org, which seeks to ensure that everyone in the world has access to safe water and basic sanitation. Damon is a 2014 recipient of the Crystal Award.



Andrea Bandelli, Dublin

Andrea Bandelli is the Executive Director of Science Gallery International (SGI). He has led, managed and evaluated international projects linked with science, art, democracy and public participation, and writes widely on public engagement with science. Bandelli is participating in the Annual Meeting as part of SGI's collaboration on the exhibition *Benevolent Machine* in the Loft.



Jacques Berchtold, Geneva

Professor and author Jacques Berchtold is an expert in Enlightenment philosophy and literature. Since 2014, he has been Director of the Martin Bodmer Foundation, which hosts one of the largest collections of historical documents and manuscripts in the world. Berchtold is participating in the Annual Meeting as part of the Forum's collaboration with the Martin Bodmer Foundation on a series of interactive sessions on the high points of civilization.



Sabine Choucair, Beirut

Sabine Choucair is a theatre performer and trained clown who provides storytelling and clown workshops for marginalized communities. She is the artistic director of the street theatre Caravan Project, which provides Syrian refugees opportunities to act out their stories as a form of social therapy, becoming a street theatre performance that has toured Lebanon and become an online sensation.



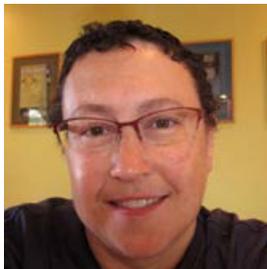
Angélica Dass, Madrid

Angélica Dass is a Brazilian artist who has received international acclaim for her Humanae photo project, a collection of portrait photos of diverse people revealing the true beauty of human colour and questioning our assumptions about race. In Davos, Dass presents a large-scale outdoor installation of Humanae intended to remind participants of the diversity of the human condition.



Marc Forster, Los Angeles

Marc Forster is a filmmaker and screenwriter, best known for directing the films *Monster's Ball*, *Finding Neverland*, *Quantum of Solace*, and others. He has worked with the Red Cross organization Our World, Your Move, as well as with Rokpa International, which helps the hungry, sick, orphaned and poor in Tibet and Nepal.



Tracy Fullerton, Los Angeles

Game designer Tracy Fullerton is a Professor and Chair of the Interactive Media & Games Division of the University of California's School of Cinematic Arts, and Director of their Game Innovation Lab. In Davos, Dass presents her award-winning video game, *Walden, A Game*, as part of the exhibition "Benevolent Machine" in The Loft.



John Grade, Seattle

John Grade creates large-scale sculptures designed to change over time and involve collaborations with large groups of people and communities to build. In Davos, he presents *Middle Fork*, a carved work-in-progress sculpture made from a 40-metre tree cast. Grade invites participants to build parts of the sculpture.



Daisy Guo, Beijing

Daisy Guo is the co-founder of Tezign.com, an online platform connecting creative professionals and clients with design demand. Prior to this, she was part of the curating team for the Chinese pavilion at the 2012 Venice Biennale and curated exhibitions around the world. As a young creative with a background in design, Guo has gained deep insight into today's creative economy. She is a Global Shaper of the World Economic Forum.



Imogen Heap, London

Imogen Heap is a singer, songwriter and composer from the musical duo Frou Frou. Her album *Ellipse* won the Grammy award for best engineered album, the only female artist to have earned this accolade. She is part of a collaboration on blockchain technology that could change the future of the music industry.



David Hertz, São Paulo

Chef and social entrepreneur David Hertz is the founder of Gastromotiva, a social enterprise working in low-income areas of Latin America. Gastromotiva runs a state-of-the-art food waste restaurant

school, Refettorio Gastromotiva, providing culinary training for underprivileged youth, and enables students to develop sustainable gastronomic businesses within their communities. Hertz is a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.



Jin Xing, Shanghai

Jin Xing is a TV talk show host and one of China's most influential opinion-makers. She is a trained dancer, choreographer and owner of the Jin Xing Dance Theatre in Shanghai, the country's first independent dance company. Jin was the first transgender person in China to receive the government's approval to undergo gender reassignment.



Karan Johar, Mumbai

Karan Johar is one of India's most influential film directors, producers and TV personalities. He hosts the wildly popular television chat show, Koffee with Karan, and has served as a judge on the reality show India's Got Talent. Johar is considered a leading figure in the Hindi cinema industry and, through his extensive work, has brought a fresh and modern outlook to Indian commercial cinema.



Zoe Keating, Northern California

Celebrated cellist Zoe Keating is a one-woman orchestra. She uses a cello and a foot-controlled laptop to record layer upon layer of cello, creating intricate, haunting and compelling music. She is also known for her DIY approach, releasing her music online without the help of a record label. Keating is a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader and a Steward of the Forum's System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Digital Economy and Society.



Negin Khpolwak, Kabul

Negin Khpolwak is Afghanistan's first female conductor. Despite repeated death threats against her for her courage to learn and play music, she conducts the Afghan Women's Orchestra, the first all-female Afghan orchestra, based at the Afghanistan National Institute of Music. The Orchestra will perform the closing concert in Davos before embarking on tour in Europe.



Richard Kurin, Washington DC

Richard Kurin is the Acting Provost and Undersecretary for Museums and Research at the Smithsonian Institution, overseeing the work of the world's largest museum, education and research complex in 145 countries. A cultural anthropologist, Kurin was previously the Director of the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.



Yo-Yo Ma, Boston

Yo-Yo Ma is one of the most recognized cellists of all time. With his Silk Road Ensemble he creates musical collaborations and education programs across cultures. He is a 2008 recipient of the Crystal Award. In 2016 he became the first artist ever to join the Board of Trustees of the World Economic Forum.



Mokena Makeka, Cape Town

Mokena Makeka is an architect and founder of Makeka Design Lab, an innovative design practice, and the House of Makeka, a brand that confronts social and environmental change in Africa. His vision is to create a global African aesthetic that brings dignity and grace to the built environment. He is a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.



Haifaa al-Mansour, Los Angeles

Haifaa al-Mansour is the first female filmmaker in Saudi Arabia. Her feature debut, *Wadjda*, is the first feature film shot in Saudi Arabia and the first by a female director. The film received wide critical acclaim after its premiere, establishing her as an important talent emerging from the Arab world. Al-Mansour's latest film, *A Storm in the Stars*, is based on the life of *Frankenstein* author Mary Shelley.



Keiichi Matsuda, London

Keiichi Matsuda is a designer and filmmaker. He works with video, architecture and interactive media to propose new perspectives on reality. In Davos, Matsuda presents his video installation Hyper-Reality as part of the exhibition Benevolent Machine in the Loft.



Anne-Sophie Mutter, Munich

Anne-Sophie Mutter is among the greatest violinists of our time. After her debut at the age of thirteen at the Lucerne Festival, she has performed concerts in all the major music centres. She is committed to supporting young, talented musicians worldwide through her foundation, which provides scholarships for musicians to fulfil their dreams of developing a professional career in music. She is one of the recipients of the 2017 Crystal Award.



Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Karachi

Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy is a two-time Academy Award winning documentary filmmaker. Her films cover topics of refugees, women's advocacy and human rights. She is a 2013 recipient of the Crystal Award and a member of the Young Global Leaders community. She joins us in Davos as the first artist to be a Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting.



Jamie Oliver, London

Jamie Oliver is a renowned chef and restaurateur. He has long been the face of the United Kingdom's campaign to bring radical change to the school meals system by replacing unhealthy food with nutritious substitutes. Oliver is also a patron of the environmental charity, Trees for Cities.



Sarah Parcak, Birmingham, Alabama

Sarah Parcak is a satellite archaeologist and a professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She founded the Lab for Global Observation and has created a crowdsourced platform to engage the world with discovering and protecting ancient sites from space.



Platon, New York

Photographer Platon is the founder of the People's Portfolio, which uses portraiture to celebrate human rights defenders and advocate responsible citizenship. Platon's iconic portraits have appeared in the world's most influential magazines, including over 25 TIME magazine covers. He is a member of the World Economic Forum's World Arts Forum and a Steward of the Forum's System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Economic Growth and Social Inclusion.



Cory Richards, Bozeman, Montana

A climber and visual storyteller, Cory Richards was named National Geographic Adventurer of the Year as well as National Geographic Photographer Fellow. His work attempts to capture not only the soul of adventure and exploration, but also the beauty inherent in modern society. More recently, Richards' photography has addressed larger geopolitical and socio-economic issues as well as environment and climate change.



Tomás Saraceno, In and beyond planet Earth

Artist Tomás Saraceno's work can be seen as ongoing research informed by art, architecture, natural sciences, astrophysics and engineering. His floating sculptures, community projects and interactive installations propose and explore new, sustainable ways of inhabiting and sensing the environment. In Davos, Saraceno presents Aerocene, large-scale sculptures that point towards a future free of carbon emissions.



Ahmad Sarmast, Kabul

Ahmad Sarmast is a musician and the intrepid founder of the Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM) in Kabul. The ANIM is a beacon of hope in a country devastated by war. It provides an outlet

and a future for hundreds of Afghan children regardless of their gender, ethnicity, religious sect or socio-economic circumstances.



Shakira, Barcelona

Singer/songwriter Shakira is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador devoted to Early Childhood Development. She is the founder of the Pies Descalzos Foundation which provides over 6,000 students with access to quality education for displaced and underprivileged children in her native Colombia. Activities include nutritious meals, educational enrichment through art, music and recreation, and workshops for families and the community at large. She is one of the recipients of the 2017 Crystal Award.



Elif Shafak, London

Elif Shafak is one of today's most influential international authors and intellectuals. Her books have been published in 47 languages and she has been awarded the prestigious Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government. An advocate for women's and LGBT rights, freedom of speech and a new humanism, Shafak's unique work straddles cultures, East and West.



Anant Singh, Durban

Anant Singh is the producer of award-winning films, including Long Walk to Freedom, the film adaptation of Nelson Mandela's autobiography. He has produced a number of documentaries including Nkosi: Voice of Africa's AIDS Orphans, and is a commentator on human rights and apartheid. Singh is a 2001 recipient of the Crystal Award.



Patrick Tresset, London

Patrick Tresset is an artist who presents installations in which robotic agents are actors, with their behaviour perceived as artistic, expressive and obsessive. Tresset presents Human study #1, 3RNP as part of the exhibition Benevolent Machine in the Loft. In this installation, three robots sketch portraits of human sitters.



Ana Cristina Vargas, Caracas

Ana Cristina Vargas is an architect who established her own architecture practice in 2015 and founded Tracing Public Space (Trazando Espacios), an NGO focused on teaching children urban design skills to transform public spaces within their communities. Vargas is a Global Shaper of the World Economic Forum.



Corine Wegener, Washington DC

Corine Wegener is the Cultural Heritage Preservation Officer at the Smithsonian Institution. She leads the Smithsonian's Cultural Rescue Initiative for cultural heritage impacted by disasters, including armed conflict. From Iraq to Nepal, Wegener conducts disaster recovery, training and capacity-building activities for the protection of cultural heritage.



Forest Whitaker, Los Angeles

Artist and social activist Forest Whitaker is the founder and CEO of the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative, co-founder and chair of the International Institute for Peace, and UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation. His work as a global advocate and peacebuilder focuses on empowering youth as leaders and entrepreneurs in communities touched by violence and poverty. He is one of the recipients of the 2017 Crystal Award.



will.i.am, Los Angeles

will.i.am is a musician, producer and entrepreneur, best known as a founding member of the Black Eyed Peas. His i.am.angel Foundation created a new model for education that serves at-risk youth using STEAM-focused after-school tutoring activities and accelerates youth entrepreneurship in underserved communities through technology. He is a 2016 recipient of the World Economic Forum Crystal Award.