

22–25 January 2019, Davos-Klosters, Switzerland

# Arts and Culture Annual Meeting 2019

At the 49th Annual Meeting in Davos, 40 Cultural Leaders joined world leaders to inspire, challenge and spur action on a journey to Globalization 4.0. Through inspiring talks, immersive experiences, interactive exhibitions and world-class performances, the impact created by these Cultural Leaders spread beyond Davos, reaching an online audience of more than 1,680,000 people. From launching a global campaign on disability inclusion to issuing a call to action on the future of our planet, these are their impact stories at Davos.

## Our Focus:

DISABILITY INCLUSION

NATURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

YOUTH, DIVERSITY AND  
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



# Disability Inclusion

To build a fair and equal society, the estimated **1 billion people** living with a disability need to be included.

The Annual Meeting put a spotlight on disability as the next frontier for inclusion. In collaboration with the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, the **ACCESS+ABILITY** exhibition allowed participants to try out some of the world's best inclusive designs that benefit everyone. A panoply of sessions addressed issues from inclusive education to tools that improve disability inclusion in business. A [landmark panel](#) ignited a global debate about diversity in the workplace, and resulted in the launch of **#valuable500**, a campaign where companies commit to putting disability inclusion on their board agenda. In collaboration with Capaxia and Sight of Emotion, a series of **Sensory Dinners in the Dark** led by visually impaired guides addressed unconscious bias and our perception of self and others.

## WHAT THEY SAID



*"Disabled people need platforms, not pedestals."*

**Sinéad Burke**

Academic, teacher, writer and inclusion advocate



*"If we can urge business to take the lead on inclusion in all its forms, then I am certain society will follow."*

**Caroline Casey**

Social Entrepreneur, Business Woman and Founder of #valuable



*"Inclusion should not be treated as a minority issue."*

**Yetnebersh Nigusie**

Lawyer, Educator and Disability Inclusion Advocate

## TOP MEDIA STORIES

**BBC** | How dining in the dark can open your eyes. [Read more](#)

**The Art Newspaper** | Empathetic and user-centred products go on show at the World Economic Forum in Davos. [Read more](#)

**Forbes** | Making disability inclusion a leadership issue. [Read more](#)

**Time** | Revolution on Disability Inclusion. The tipping point for an inclusion revolution is close. [Read more](#)

**Independent** | There is not just one body. Designers of infrastructures need to include people with disabilities in their design process. [Read more](#)



01



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**01** Participant playing with the Chandelier Harp, ACCESS+ABILITY

**02** will.i.am experiencing The SoundShirt, ACCESS+ABILITY

**03** Caroline Baumann speaking on designing for everyone

**04** Prosthetic leg covers, ACCESS+ABILITY

# Nature and Sustainability

Our natural habitat is facing catastrophic destruction: 60% of wildlife has been lost in the last 50 years.

The Annual Meeting featured an unparalleled look into the threats facing the natural world. Through an array of exhibitions and projections, including the prestigious [Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award](#) with the Natural History Museum, London, and the highly acclaimed immersive experience [Tree VR](#) by artists Milica Zec and Winslow Porter, participants had a timely opportunity to reflect on the role of nature and the actions needed to protect it.

Poignant visuals and storytelling highlighted humanity's connection to nature with [a world-premiere screening of "Our Planet"](#), in collaboration with Silverback Films, WWF and Netflix. [A conversation](#) with 2019 Crystal Awardee [Sir David Attenborough](#) and [HRH The Duke of Cambridge](#) and [a moving encounter](#) between [Jane Goodall](#) and young photographer [Skye Meaker](#) further captivated participants. In addition, a [global online action #voicefortheplanet](#) was launched, calling on world leaders to urgently create a new deal for nature and people by 2020.

## TOP MEDIA STORIES

**BBC** | People are out of touch with the natural world. David Attenborough tells Prince William how humans could wreck the natural world. [Read more](#)

**Bloomberg** | 17-year old Young Wildlife Photographer 2018 wows participants. Skye Meaker brought nature to the people at Davos. [Read more](#)

**Corriere della Sera** | Vivere como un albero (Living like a tree)  
The rain forests are the lungs of our planet and we need to preserve them to protect our natural ally against climate change. [Read more](#)

## WHAT THEY SAID



*"The Garden of Eden is no more."*

**Sir David Attenborough**  
Broadcaster and Naturalist,  
2019 Crystal Awardee



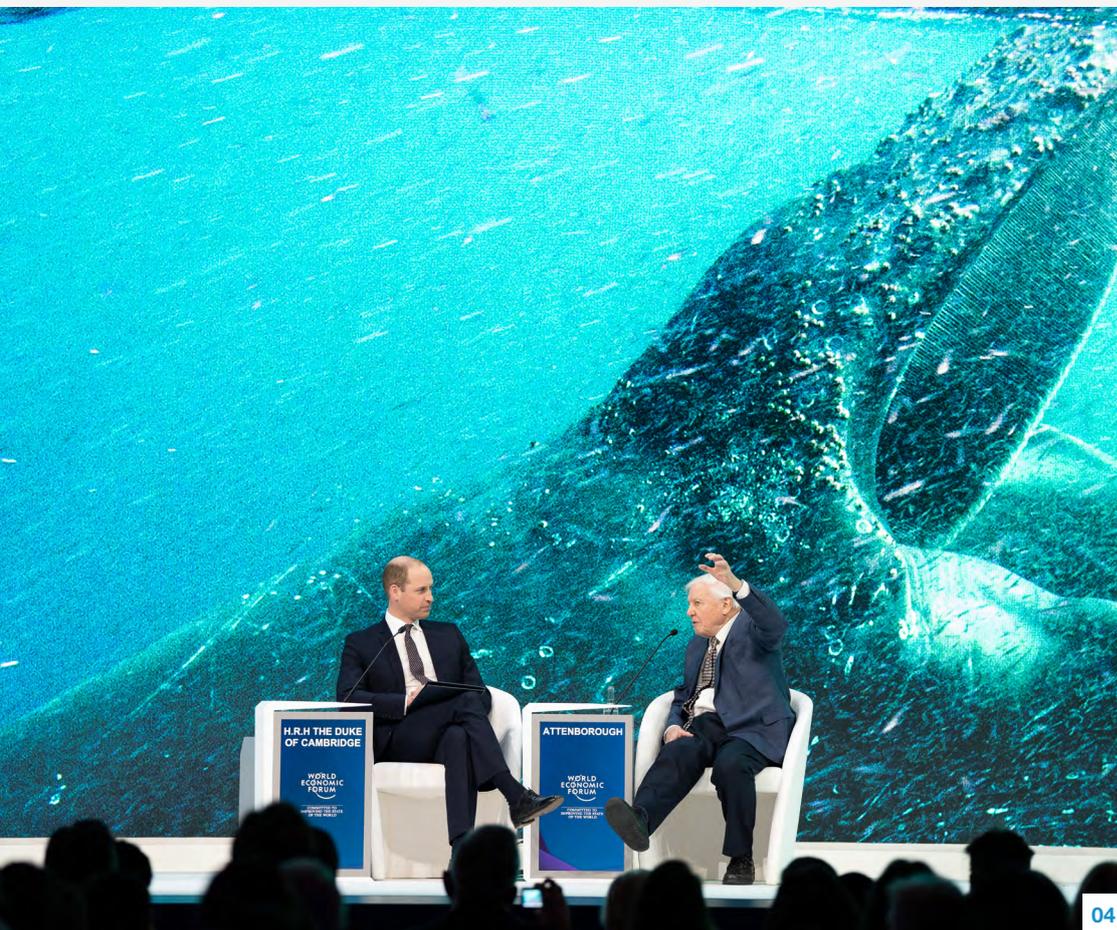
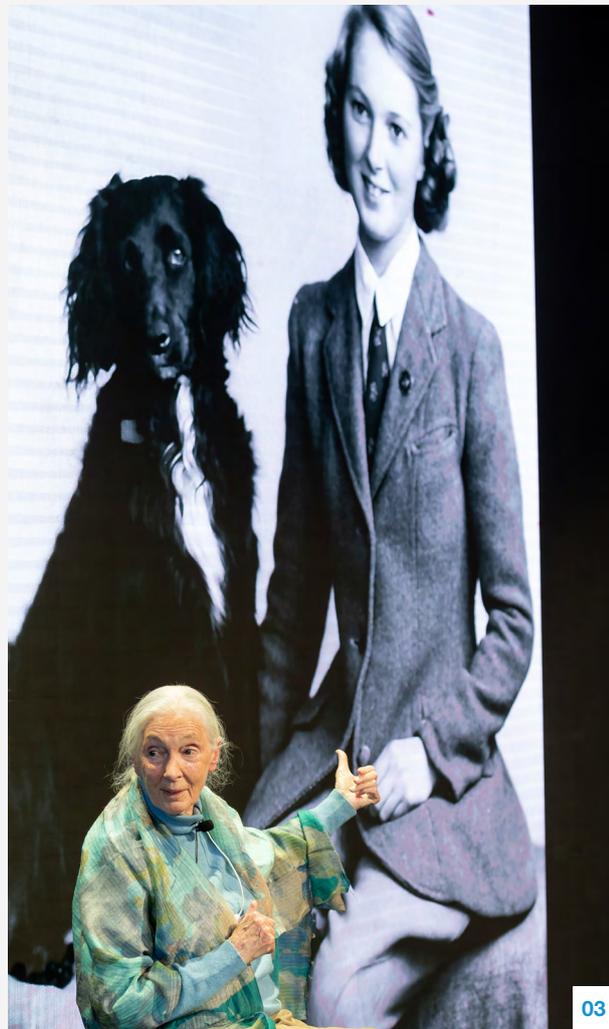
*"By showing the beauty of the natural world, people can understand what we are trying to protect."*

**Skye Meaker**  
Wildlife Photographer



*"If we could save and restore tropical forests, that would be one-third of the solution to climate change."*

**Jane Goodall**  
Primatologist, Wildlife Activist  
and Environmentalist



**01** Participant experiencing what it is like to become a tree with Tree VR

**02** Young Wildlife Photographer Skye Meaker

**03** Primatologist Jane Goodall

**04** 2019 Crystal Awardee Sir David Attenborough and HRH The Duke of Cambridge

# Youth, Diversity and Freedom of Expression

The focus on youth empowerment and diversity fed into wider conversations in Davos. A champion of music education for inner city children, 2019 Crystal Awardee **Marin Alsop** opened the Annual Meeting, conducting the all-female orchestra **Taki Concordia** and 13-year old violonist **Clara Shen**, in collaboration with Intermusica and with the support of Intesa Sanpaolo. The closing concert featured the Sphinx Virtuosi Quartet, including some of the most talented young African-American and Latino and Latina soloists in the United States, with the support of Robert F. Smith. The importance of youth was further highlighted in the choice of six co-chairs from the [Global Shapers](#) community and the participation of environmental activist **Greta Thunberg**. Participants had the opportunity to rediscover their younger selves during a classroom-style workshop with [the world's best teacher](#). Reflecting the Annual Meeting's focus on diversity, the 25th Crystal Award also honoured Saudi Arabia's first female film director **Haifaa Al-Mansour** and broadcaster and naturalist **Sir David Attenborough**. [The Female Icon session](#) challenged participants' perceptions of gender while the [Cartooning for Peace](#) exhibition brought together all the different themes in a series of images that defended freedom of speech, explored gender and challenged cultural taboos.

## TOP MEDIA STORIES

**CNBC** | How to go after your dreams. Expose young people to art, culture and film and it will transform them. [Read more](#)

**Forbes** | How Iranian artist Mehdi Ghadyanloo brings hope to the world. [Read more](#)

**CNN** | The age of the absurd. How cartoons bring people together. [Read more](#)

**Deutsche Welle** | Female role models desperately needed. How can we close the gender gap in politics and business? [Read more](#)

**The National** | Don't take Arab women for granted. A lot more progress and women are needed for mutual support, particularly in the arts. [Read more](#)

## WHAT THEY SAID



*"When the front door is locked, and they won't let you in, just sneak around the side and go in the window."*

**Marin Alsop**

Conductor, 2019 Crystal Awardee



*"Creative subjects can teach children the skills to solve problems."*

**Andria Zafirakou**

2018 winner of the Global Teacher Prize



*"Something that prevents more women from coming forward is the culture of shame and stigma."*

**Rena Effendi**

Photographer



01



02



03



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**01** Closing Concert with The Sphinx Virtuosi Quartet

**02** 2019 Crystal Awardees Marin Alsop, Sir David Attenborough and Haifaa Al-Mansour

**03** *Finding Hope* by Iranian artist Mehdi Ghadyanloo

**04** Opening Concert with Marin Alsop and the Taki Concordia Orchestra



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