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Additional TEDxBradenton speakers announced

(July 25, 2023) Bradenton, FL --- What is better than watching an inspiring TED Talk online? Watching one in person! That's what organizers are betting on for the second annual TEDxBradenton conference taking place Friday, September 29, 2023 at the Bradenton campus of SCF Sarasota-Manatee.

Co-organizer Catherine Ferrer emphasized the local focus: "These are local voices addressing local issues that are relevant to a global audience. The best part is that people who attend TEDxBradenton can enjoy a world-class event-experience right here in our community."

Names of nine speakers have already been released on social media and the organization's website (TEDxBradenton.com). Today, Ferrer and co-organizer Evelyn Almodóvar shared three additional names of people scheduled to speak at the TEDxBradenton conference:

- Elma Felix, Urban Designer, "Maker of Places"
- Derek Ober CFP®, RICP®, ChFC®, CLU®, CLTC®, Financial Advisor with Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company
- Carlos Portillo, Director of Ministry & Juvenile Justice Ministry Director for Suncoast Youth for Christ

As important as the day-of event are the videos of each speaker's TEDx Talk, which will be recorded, edited for sound quality, and submitted to the TEDx YouTube channel for publication. Views from the 2022 TEDxBradenton speakers have exceeded 16,000 views and have grown continuously since being published late last year.

Pandemic response, youth sports, arts and healing, social capital, and more ... Anyone interested in viewing talks shared at the first TEDxBradenton event can tune into the YouTube channel at: [YouTube.com/@TEDxBradenton3825](https://www.youtube.com/@TEDxBradenton3825) and enjoy the playlist of 14 videos ranging from 10 to 15 minutes each on a variety of topics.

Anyone interested in learning more or buying tickets when they are available should stay tuned to the TEDxBradenton website (TEDxBradenton.com) as well as social media at platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn (@TEDxBradenton).

Speaker bios are continued below:

Elma Felix

An Urban Designer with a professional background in architecture and urban design, Elma is a Maker of Special Places. A designer at heart, she works to advance the relationship between urban-design and the social equity of places.

With over 17 years of experience, Elma has worked on a variety of global projects at every scale. Her research includes topics on resiliency, livable communities, sustainable development and public engagement. She most recently served as the Manager of Long-Range Planning and Neighborhood Services at Sarasota County and previously as a Project Director and Town Planner at Dover, Kohl, and Associates, a consulting firm known for thoughtfully designed and resilient communities.

Derek Ober

Derek has been in the Suncoast area since 2002. He grew up in the Bradenton area. He is married to his incredible wife Maria, and they are blessed to have a one-year-old son, Derek Mathias.

Derek graduated from the University of South Florida in 2016 with an Undergraduate degree in economics and finance. Since graduation, Derek has owned and operated a financial planning firm with Northwestern Mutual. He then continued his educational path at the American College of Financial services where he completed his Chartered Life Underwriter, Chartered Financial Consultant, and culminating in receiving his CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Professional designation in December of 2021. Derek attended the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and completed the CIMA Education program.

Derek serves in his local Rotary club, helping the community in a variety of service projects. His team sponsors a portion of Webber Road and organizes regular road clean ups. Him and his team also raise funds and support the Humane Society of Sarasota County. He and Maria are active members of the local community and enjoy gallivanting around Sarasota with their one-year-old.

Carlos Portillo

Carlos Portillo, is the Director of Ministry & Juvenile Justice Ministry Director for Suncoast Youth for Christ. He has worked with hundreds of system-involved youth throughout Manatee County. Carlos spends his days advocating for youth in court rooms, visiting youth who are incarcerated, helping navigate youth through probation, and mentoring youth towards their goals. He is passionate about creating spaces for these youth to succeed, create memories, and find purpose. Carlos is married to Kalli and they have two chihuahuas, Taco & Teeka. Carlos loves traveling, reading, and running.

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About TED

TED is on a mission to discover and spread ideas that spark imagination, embrace possibility and catalyze impact. Our organization is devoted to curiosity, reason, wonder and the pursuit of knowledge — without an agenda. We welcome people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world and engagement with others, and we invite everyone to engage with ideas and activate them in your community.

TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged. Today it spans a multitude of worldwide communities and initiatives exploring everything from science and

business to education, arts and global issues. Aside from the hundreds of TED Talks curated from our annual conferences and published on [TED.com](https://www.ted.com), we produce original podcasts, short video series, [animated TED-Ed lessons](#) and TV programs that are translated into more than 100 languages and distributed via partnerships around the world. Each year, more than 3,000 independently run [TEDx events](#) bring people together to share ideas and bridge divides in communities on every continent. Through the [Audacious Project](#), TED has helped catalyze nearly \$3 billion in funding for projects that seek to make the world more beautiful, sustainable and just. In 2020, TED launched [Countdown](#), an initiative to accelerate solutions to the climate crisis and mobilize a movement for a net-zero emission future. View a full list of TED's [many programs and initiatives](#).

TED is owned by a nonprofit, nonpartisan foundation. Our aim is to help create a future worth pursuing for all.

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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, TED Talks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection. 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.)