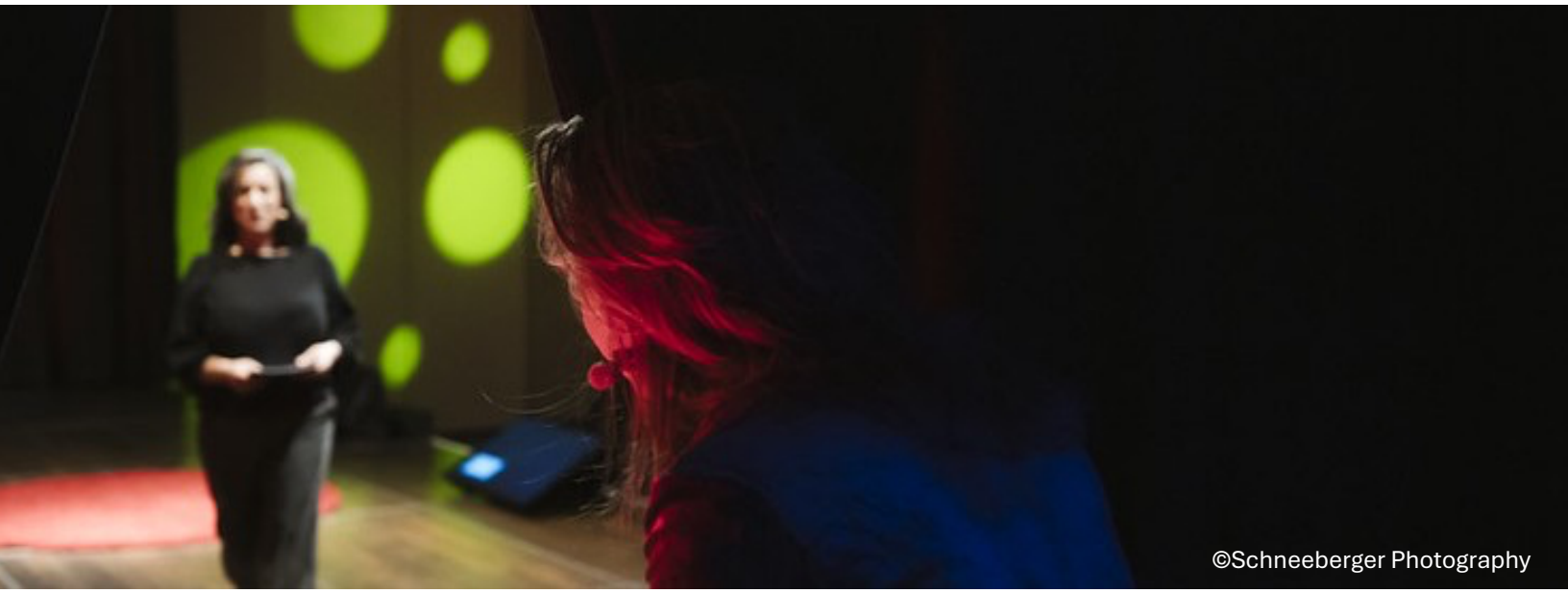


SPEAKER APPLICATION FORM

Thank you for your interest in **TEDx**Linz!

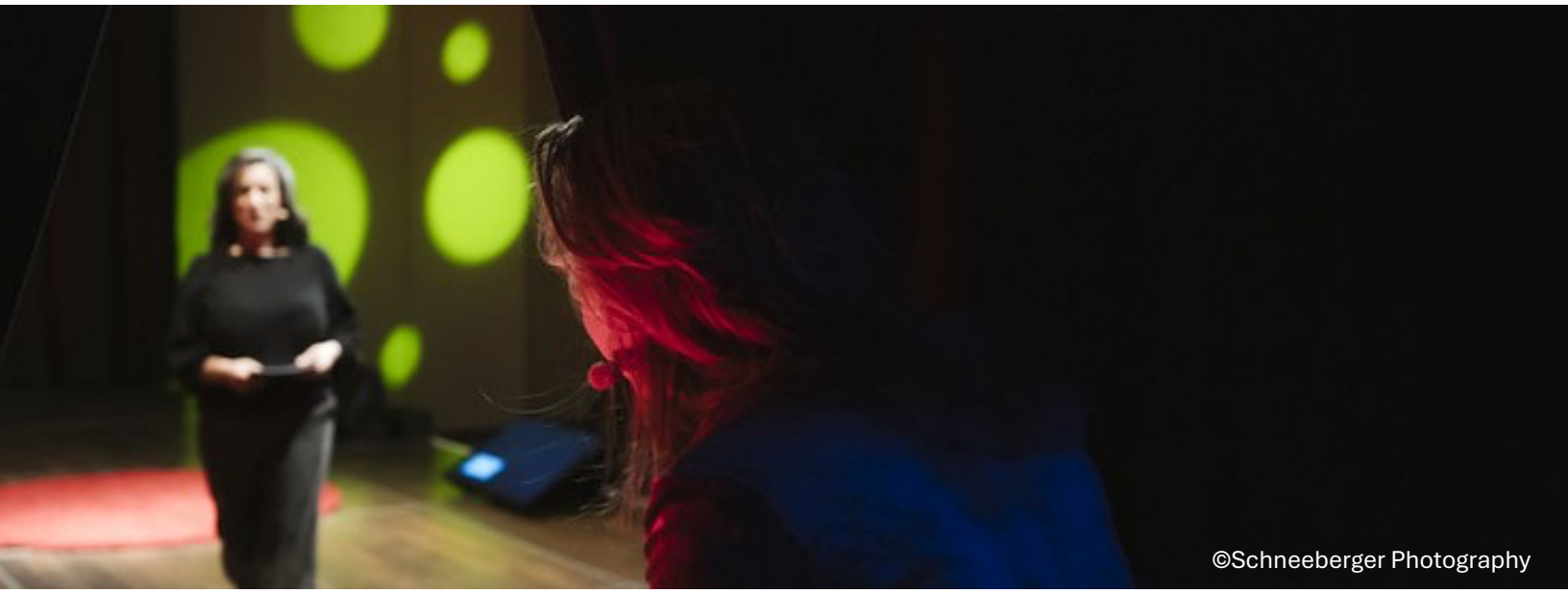
This application form is designed not only to help us understand your exciting idea, but also to learn about your particular way of thinking and seeing the world. It's meant to start a conversation—not just about the idea itself, but about how it came to life.

Many speakers tell us that working through these questions helps them clarify their thinking, sharpen their message, and uncover the intention and impact behind their talk—often long before anything feels "finished."

You'll also notice that we ask about *you* as a person. TEDx talks resonate most when they are rooted in authenticity, lived experience, and a perspective **only you** can bring. These questions help us understand how you think, feel, and see the world—because that context is essential for curating meaningful talks.

Important note

Some applicants may find the depth of the form a little overwhelming at first. That's completely okay. Your idea does **not** need to be fully formed at this stage, and you're not expected to have all the answers. **Think of this as the beginning of your talk, not a final version.** These questions are here to guide your reflection, help you approach the process with confidence and most importantly — provide both you and the curation team with a shared foundation for a meaningful conversation.



Our curation team takes great care in building a diverse line-up — not through quotas, but by paying close attention to ideas that showcase different perspectives on life, ways of thinking, and approaches that encourage our community to engage in new creative solutions to society's most relevant issues.

To ensure that the "Idea" remains the central focus, the first stage of our evaluation process is conducted anonymously. We review the core concepts of every application without seeing names or backgrounds; this allows the strength of the idea to shine through on its own merit, without devaluing the incredible people behind them. Our experience has shown that when we focus on selecting diverse ideas and mindsets, the people behind them are, by definition, diverse as well.

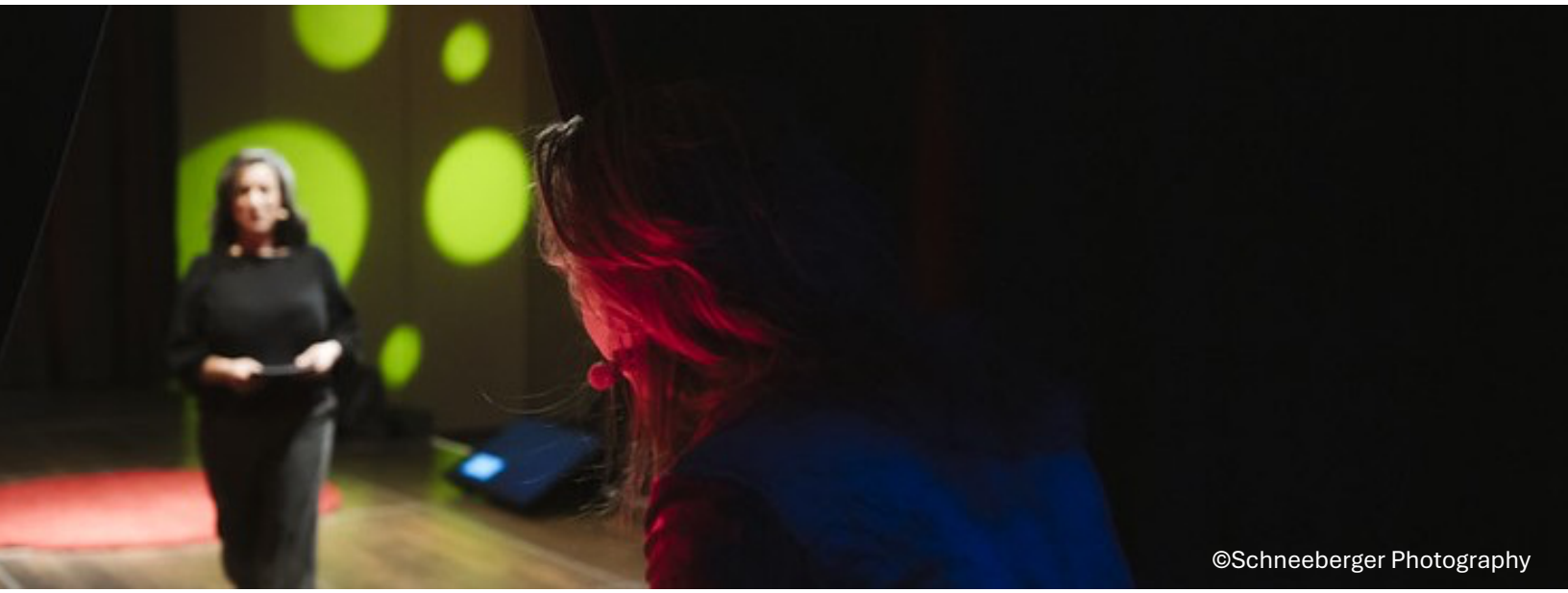
For this reason, our curation process **begins with anonymized application forms from all nominees.** This is why "Introducing your idea" and "Introducing yourself" are clearly separated into different chapters. **Please do not change the format of this form in any way, as all these changes will be reversed before reviewing your idea. Do feel free, though, to highlight with BOLD and *italics*.**

As soon as the form is complete, send it back to our speaker curator at catherine@tedxlinz.at

We're looking forward to hearing from you!

Warmly,

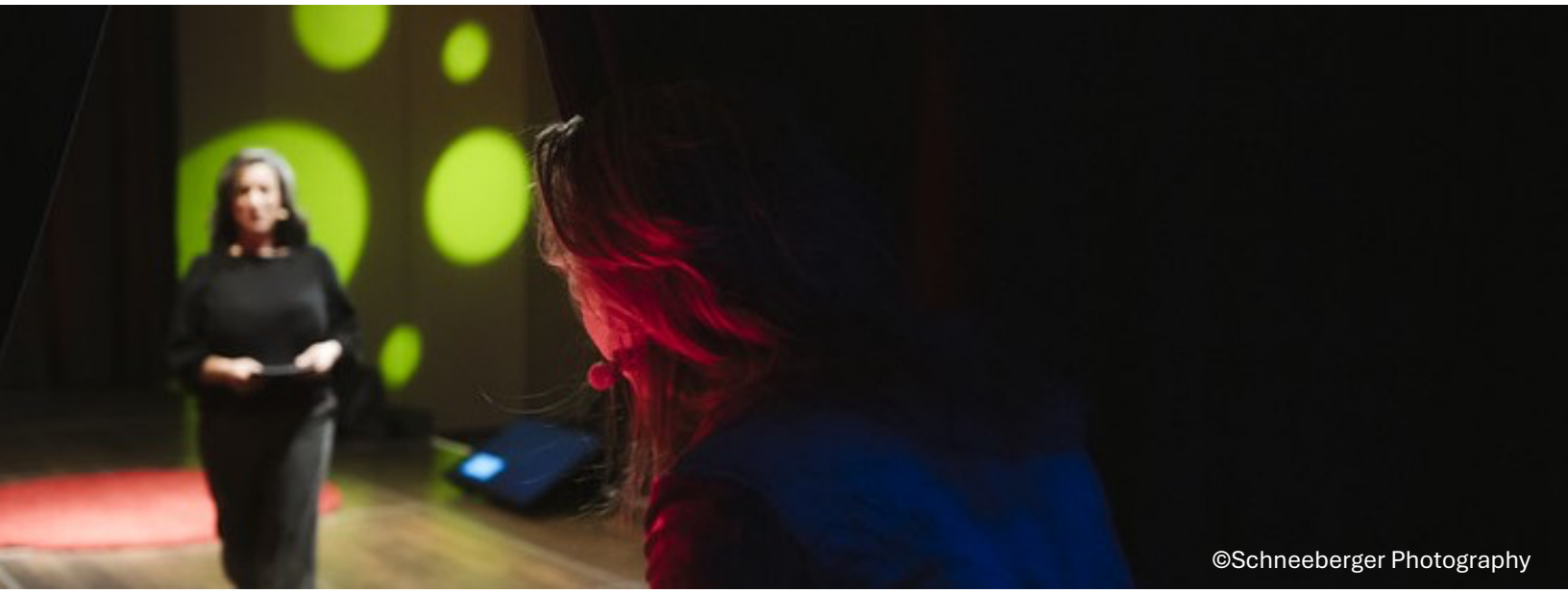
The TEDxLinz Team



INTRODUCE THE IDEA WORTH SPREADING

Before filling out this application form, we highly recommend downloading and reading our Speaker Nomination Guide from our online resources “Start Preparing your Talk” under: tedxlinz.at/speaker.

Tell us about your idea worth spreading. Whether it’s a brief snapshot or a full page, we’re excited to learn what inspires you. In case you have graphic material that is relevant to your idea, please include a link. *Keep your idea on point, covering it between 300 and an absolute maximum of 2500 characters, including spaces. Clarity often comes from conciseness, so keeping your message tight is essential. It is fundamental to focus on ONE clear takeaway of how this idea brings a novel perspective to the general audience’s conversation and how it is relevant to spark conversation which could potentially build bridges and avoid misinformation.*
If applicable, is there a project related to the idea already running or in the planning phase? If yes, how are you involved in it?
Have you given a keynote on this idea before? (Not necessarily on a TED/TEDx Stage) If yes, what differentiates the proposed idea to your past talk(s)? How do both messages stand out from each other/make each other stronger? Please provide available links to the talk(s).
What impact will the Talk have on the audience? What will be different for them the next day? What will have changed?
What is controversial about the idea? What are common misconceptions? Who would disagree with it and why?
Answer as many of the following questions as you’d like: What's the one thing you know about your topic that barely anybody else knows? Why? What gets you really angry? and why? What's the weirdest thing that you've ever seen? What keeps you awake at night? What really makes you laugh?
How much of this application was AI-generated? Why?

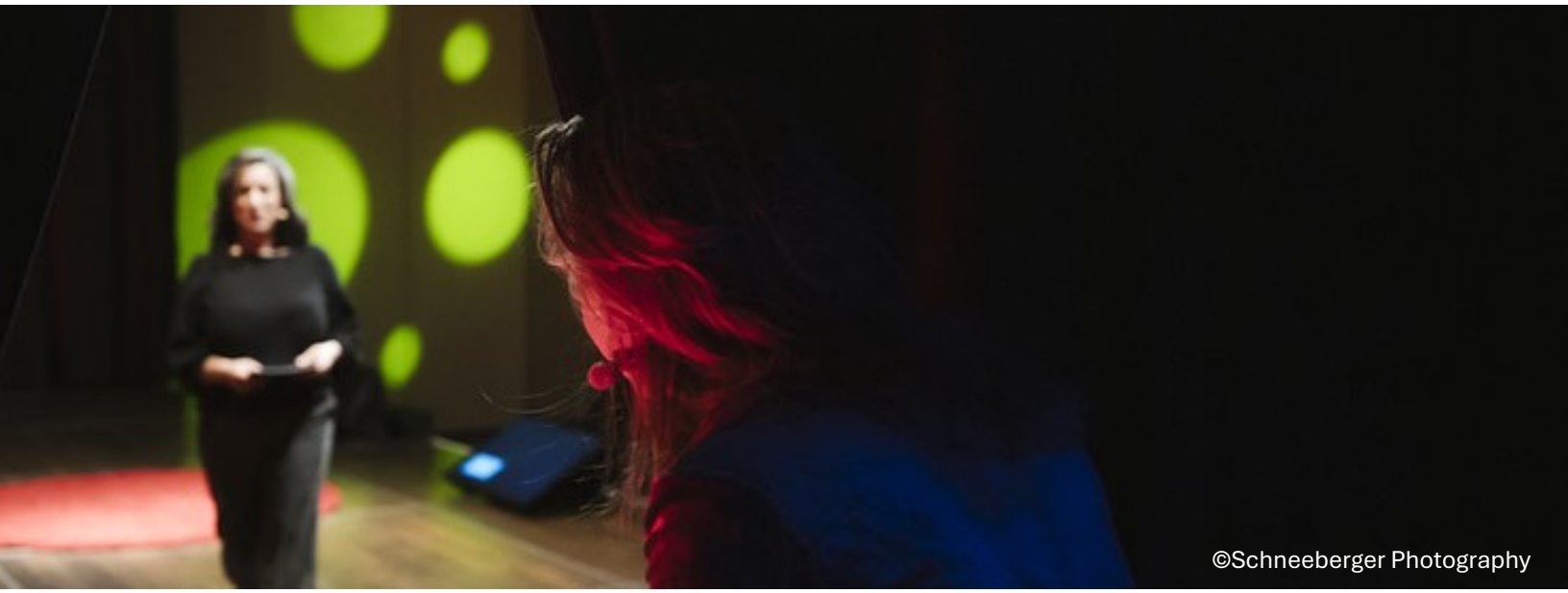


TALK FORMAT

IMPORTANT NOTE: This chapter of the application is entirely optional. We'd love to hear about any ideas you might have that go beyond the traditional talk format. And if you're not even sure what the "traditional format" is, that's completely fine.

The following questions are simply meant to help us understand how you imagine your stage presence. They're not a commitment to anything. If you were to become a TEDxLinz speaker, these elements would be reviewed again and shaped to the final form together with your lead coach throughout the coaching process.

LENGTH *TED/TEDx Talks are capped at 18 minutes and many assume that this is what everyone should aim for. However, a longer presentation is oftentimes not a better talk; the ceiling is not necessarily the goal – actually, there are examples of extraordinary talks delivered under 5 minutes. The natural length of a speaker's presence on stage depends basically on the essence of the idea.* With this in mind, how long do you feel your talk *wants* to be?
FORMAT *Presentations on stage come in all shapes and sizes—from a dance ensemble to a classic keynote supported by slides. Just like with length, the format can either strengthen or dilute the message you want to convey.* Considering the above, are there aspects of your talk's format—or creative elements beyond classic public speaking—that you're already envisioning?
LANGUAGE *TEDxLinz is primarily a full English Event. Both the stage and all official communication are conducted in English. However, exceptions are possible based on a strong reason.* In case you believe that your talk would benefit from being held in German, please share with us why.



INTRODUCE YOURSELF

Full Name
Email
Mobile Phone
City and Country of Residence
Which of your background information makes you the right person to tell this idea/story? If available, please share a link referring to you as a person.
To be answered if you are based outside Europe: At TEDxLinz, we follow the Austrian Green Event standard to minimize our environmental footprint. Because traveling from outside Europe involves a significant carbon footprint, what unique background or perspective do you bring that truly justifies that travel impact?
What is diversity to you?
If you had the power to nominate a Speaker, who would this person be and why?
Is there a talk that resonated with you and that you'd recommend? What about it spoke to you, and why do you think it matters?

NOTE: In case you are nominating a third person, please fill in the above information as thoroughly as possible with the nominee's contact information and add your full name, email address, and briefly tell us how you are connected/know about the nominee.

Thank you so much for applying as a TEDxLinz speaker!

As a fully volunteer-run **TEDx** team, we review each application with dedication in the moments we carve out beyond our day-to-day work.
This means the process can take a bit, but your submission is important to us, and we will get back to you with genuine care and thoughtful attention.