



ASPEN IDEAS FESTIVAL

HEALTH
JUNE 20-23

FESTIVAL 1
JUNE 23-26

FESTIVAL 2
JUNE 26-29

2019 ASPEN IDEAS FESTIVAL | JUNE 20 – 29

Presented by the **Aspen Institute** in partnership with **The Atlantic** magazine, the Aspen Ideas Festival is the nation's preeminent gathering place for leaders from around the globe and across many disciplines to present and discuss the ideas and issues that both shape our lives and challenge our times.

A PUBLIC CONFERENCE Anyone may purchase a pass to attend – the Aspen Ideas Festival is open to all.

PROGRAMMING Session formats vary to offer attendees a variety of ways to stoke curiosity, gain insights, and be inspired. In addition to rich panel discussions and candid one-on-one interviews, we offer Aspen Lectures, Deep Dives, and Solve for X workshops that consider solutions to seemingly intractable problems. Days are filled from early morning to late evening with concurrent programming.

THE FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE Attendees have exceptional opportunities to interact with public officials, artists, scientists, authors, business executives, scholars, economists, foreign policy specialists, entrepreneurs, and leaders of all kinds – on footpaths and sidewalks, over lunch on the lawn, or coffee at the espresso bar, in auditoriums, and in small seminar rooms. The intimacy of gatherings at the Festival, in the unparalleled setting of a sophisticated mountain retreat, renders the experience unique and unforgettable.

DATES AND PASS OPTIONS

HEALTH, June 20 – 23

FESTIVAL 1, June 23 – 26

FESTIVAL 2, June 26 – 29

A Health pass may be purchased in combination with a Festival 1 or Festival 2 pass. However, Festival 1 and Festival 2 passes may not be combined. President's-level and Chairman's-level supporters of the Aspen Institute may purchase a partially tax-deductible Patron Pass, which provides attendance to the entire ten days of Aspen Ideas, June 20 – June 29. Patrons play an immeasurable role at the Festival, as their generosity supports the convening of 300 individually selected scholars.

CHOOSE YOUR FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

The following tracks are under development for 2019. The representation on the following pages reflects the spirit of the programming the Festival aims to present next summer.



HEALTH | JUNE 20 – 23

- **FRONTIERS OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE** From robotics and artificial intelligence to paradigm-shifting insights, scientific breakthroughs of unprecedented power just keep coming. As human creativity is paired with the power of computers and the speed of automation, new treatments for rare diseases are emerging. Now that two female mice have been mated to produce a healthy baby, our understanding of reproduction is on the cusp of change. Cold chain capacity may revolutionize vaccine delivery to the poorest communities, and skeletal stem cells have potential to regenerate bone and cartilage. Could we also reverse diabetes? What's in the lab, what's moving to the bedside, and where do we go next?
- **ETHICS, VALUES, AND HEALTH** Health is a valued resource in every society, rich and poor, urban and rural. But in the dynamic world of medicine, it's not certain how that translates into the ethical decisions that individuals, health systems, and governments face. Arguments about the price of care and the interplay of politics and health policy touch the heart of conflicting belief systems. Who deserves access to treatment? How do we nurture trust between doctors and patients? What is the role of profit in research? Should costly scientific and technological advances be rationed? When resources are limited, societies fractured, and choices hard, we can't expect to reach consensus about what is right and wrong — but together, we can confront these thorny philosophical questions.
- **SEX, DRUGS, AND ROCK-AND-ROLL** When *Life* magazine wrote in 1969 that sex, drugs, and rock-and-roll were the sacraments of the counterculture, the article was describing three ingredients of great pleasure and acute danger. The phrase retains its double edge today, referencing advances in reproductive medicine, pain relief, and the healing power of music — but also declining fertility rates, substance abuse, and lyrics celebrating violence. Such contradictions are widespread. Even as opioids are becoming highly stigmatized, marijuana is a legal buy in many places and psychedelics are being studied to ease mental illness. People are having less sex, yet sexually-transmitted diseases are on the rise. Access to contraception remains a global battleground issue as #MeToo revelations roil sexual norms. How do we handle it all?
- **POWER TO THE PATIENT** Consumers have more opportunities than ever to take control over their own health. An explosion in technology has generated powerful monitoring and diagnostic devices, while ready access to electronic health records and the proliferation of genetic tests offer new windows into our bodies. Direct-to-consumer advertising and social media platforms make it easy to act on all of that information. Meanwhile, redesigned health systems and global public health strategies are pushing patient-centered care forward, telemedicine is helping to ease worldwide workforce shortages, and the role of providers is being transformed. As consumers gain greater authority, are they equipped to accept the accompanying responsibilities? How do we share the benefits of the new tools more equitably?

SPECIAL INSIGHTS

- **HEALTH AND WEALTH**
- **FROM LIFESPAN TO HEALTHSPAN**
- **INFLAMED!**
- **MENTAL HEALTH: OUT OF THE SHADOWS**



FESTIVAL 1 AND FESTIVAL 2 Four main tracks span all days of Festival 1 and 2:

- **NEXT WORLD ORDER** International order, as we've known it for more than 70 years, is in flux. With changing alliances, abandoned treaties, disputes over globalism versus nationalism, and the rise of authoritarian rule, liberal democracy is deteriorating. Populist movements in Europe, America, and beyond are fueled, in part, by deep-seated grievances. Those movements have led to Brexit and unrest in Italy and Austria — putting the European Union's cohesion at risk. Throughout much of Africa and the Pacific, countries are grappling with China's rising influence. What is the role of the United States in maintaining, replacing, or abandoning the current international system? What will come next and who will thrive?
- **AMERICAN RECKONING, AMERICAN RENEWAL** Our national conversation is increasingly defined by deep divisions, worries about the stability of our political system, and even threats of political violence. Yet, even in the midst of our national partisan rancor and political and cultural upheaval, you can find heroes, visionaries, and bold leaders — if you know where to look. We'll dig deep to explore the issues and forces that are surfacing — or in many cases resurfacing — to tear at the ties that bind us together, such as race, religion, economic worries, immigration, and the politics of identity. And we'll shine light on the individuals and communities across the country that are stepping up with bold, pragmatic, and future-oriented solutions to the day-to-day problems they face.
- **DEFINING ECONOMIC PROGRESS** When we measure economic growth, we gauge the increase in the value of everything produced in an economy. For many, growth equals economic progress. But the notion of progress is harder to unpack. Indicators such as standard of living, access to health care, minimum wage, access to tech, and environmental externalities are critical measures of economic well-being. With the ubiquity of technology, new applications of artificial intelligence, a rise in protectionism, and more, how should we define progress? Who benefits from what growth and why? How do we reconcile economic growth with an increasing wealth gap? What does low unemployment actually look like? Across the week, we will explore how to assess and address economic development and its impact on our lives, our businesses, our families, and communities.
- **THE ART OF THE STORY** Are we in a golden age of storytelling? From podcasts to novels, fine art to live performance, pop-ups to monuments, YouTube, Netflix, and Instagram, the ancient artform of storytelling is being reimagined across all platforms, granting greater access for millions of individuals to share their stories. For centuries, artists have been pioneering methods to tell a story. Over the week, artists and cultural leaders will come together to discuss the art of the story in the 21st Century.



FESTIVAL 1 | JUNE 23 – 26

- **NEXT WORLD ORDER** (See above.)
- **AMERICAN RECKONING, AMERICAN RENEWAL** (See above.)
- **DEFINING ECONOMIC PROGRESS** (See above.)
- **THE ART OF THE STORY** (See above.)
- **UNDERSTANDING EMOTION** Whether we care to admit it, emotion is intrinsically linked to how we reason and make decisions. It's critical to learning and memory. It's one of the highest levels of bioregulation and it influences our well-being. Surprise, sadness, fear, anger, disgust, and joy all trigger unique physiological responses, while feelings are our conscious interpretations of those emotions. So where do emotions come from? Are they hardwired at birth, or are they constructed by our brains as we develop? Are our varied reactions somehow part of our genetic makeup? Why do emotions feel involuntary? We will explore the science of emotion and the hidden forces that drive our behavior and that of those around us.
- **PUSHING THE LIMITS OF HUMAN PERFORMANCE** Champions in all major professional sports are delivering peak performances that defy well-established limits of age, while Olympic athletes are consistently shattering long-standing world records. We will explore advances in science, technology, improved nutrition, sleep and recovery, equipment, mindfulness, personalized training, sports psychology, and real-time measurement techniques that are undoubtedly helping athletes around the world improve performance. What best practices can amateur athletes and other mere mortals adopt to improve at any level? What are the new brain-computer interfaces on the horizon to help improve mental performance? Have humans reached our potential for peak performance, or is there still room for improvement?
- **HOPE MADE VISIBLE: INNOVATION BY DESIGN** Can design change people's behavior? Our culture? Our lives? How about the future itself? Indeed, designers aspire to all of that. The human experience, some argue, is the core objective of design. Inherently optimistic, good design drives human progress. It improves well-being. It services invention. Whether it is simple and utilitarian object like a mouse, or a complex, extravagant system like a solar farm, design gives definition to our aesthetic sensibilities and our definition of quality. Importantly, design is not just what it looks like. In addition to creating the products, tools, and services we use in everyday life, designers are tackling the world's most complex problems in the most remarkable ways. Their ideas, brought to the stages in Aspen, will amaze and inspire, but also challenge us to imagine progress in an all new light.



FESTIVAL 2 | JUNE 26 – 29

- **NEXT WORLD ORDER** (See above.)
- **AMERICAN RECKONING, AMERICAN RENEWAL** (See above.)
- **DEFINING ECONOMIC PROGRESS** (See above.)
- **THE ART OF THE STORY** (See above.)
- **IN SEARCH OF MEANING** What are we doing here? Is there a higher purpose to the lives we lead? What does it mean to have a good life? What happens when we die? For millennia, people have been asking these central questions about what it is to be human. The search for answers and adherence to belief systems are crucial to how many people make sense of their pasts, live in the present, and envision their futures. We will examine the various ways people define and express spirituality and meaning, how that's changing with organized religion on the decline, and what it means for our culture, our communities, and ourselves.
- **REDEFINING CONSERVATISM IN AMERICA** American conservatives have traditionally supported a relatively free market domestically, free trade internationally, low taxes, limited regulation, and a general preference for a limited federal government, with authority residing with state and local officials. More recently, Tea Party activists added demands to reduce federal deficits and to roll back an expanded federal role in health care policy. Today, however, many Republicans and conservatives accept the possibility of higher deficits in their efforts to reduce taxes and support a tariff-based trade policy. They've also made strict immigration policies a central part of the conservative message. What, then, defines modern American conservatism and who are today's standard-bearers for conservative principles? Such questions are to be explored by noted and diverse conservative thinkers.
- **COMING TO GRIPS WITH CLIMATE CHANGE** The recent UN report urging swift and dramatic action to curb the rise of the planet's temperature, paints a stark picture of our near future. Experts argue that avoiding a crisis will require significant breakthroughs in renewable technology, a full stop on fossil fuel projects, fundamental changes to the way we feed the world, and a ubiquitous application of carbon taxes, among other measures. Who will lead the charge towards a multilateral response — public, private, or otherwise? Can we get to near-zero emissions by 2050 while maintaining or even improving our standards of living? We'll hear from the smartest thinkers in industry, policy, and design, whose ingenuity and passion can lead the way.