

2022

in Ideas and Action

A quick look at the ripple effect from great ideas spread around the world.

The TED logo, consisting of the letters "TED" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid black circle.

Summary

When the TED community attends a TED conference, they're also supporting real-world impact in communities around the world. Our 2022 Ideas and Action recap highlights this past year's most transformative ideas, inspiring stories of on-the-ground impact beyond the stage, and a sneak peek at the year ahead. **If you're looking for inspiration and a community dedicated to building a better future, join us.**

About TED

TED is a nonprofit giving voice to ideas that unlock new possibilities and inspire people to be better humans. TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics—from science to business to global issues—in more than 100 languages. Through a variety of initiatives, including TED Conferences, TED Talks, The Audacious Project, TEDx events, and our TED-Ed lesson series, we showcase exceptional thinkers and ideas that point to possibility.

Contents (LINKED TO PAGE)

[2022 in Ideas](#) pgs 3–9

- [Big idea 1](#)
- [Big idea 2](#)
- [Big idea 3](#)
- [Key stats & numbers](#)

[2022 in Action](#) pgs 10–19

- [The Audacious Project](#)
- [Countdown](#)
- [TEDx](#)
- [Key stats & numbers](#)

[2022 and Beyond](#) pgs 24–30

- [Stories to watch](#)
- [Speakers to watch](#)
- [2023's New Possibility](#)

2022 in ideas

TED discovers and shares transformative ideas with the world. Don't miss the three that felt most resonant and relevant in that wild ride of a year...

Big Idea 1

Our global passion
for democracy **is**
being reawakened...

Big Idea 1

Historian and philosopher Yuval Noah Harari shared a larger context for the war in Ukraine just six days after the Russian invasion began. [This 50-minute conversation](#) has been seen over 7M times to date, bucking assumptions about the appetite people have for historically rich, nuanced explanations of global dynamics.

And, of course, it's not just Russia: Democracies around the world are under threat from a myriad of forces—from voter suppression and disinformation to crackdowns on protests and religious violence—making this type of conversation more critical than ever.

ALSO SEE:

- ▶ [A different understanding of American patriotism](#)
- ▶ [What wikipedia teaches us about balancing truth with beliefs](#)
- ▶ [A new understanding of human history and the roots of inequality](#)
- ▶ [The future will be shaped by optimists.](#)

Big Idea 2

**The world of work is
changing—and so are
workers' priorities...**

Big Idea 2

The workplace has undergone seismic shifts in the past few years. The COVID-19 pandemic upended jobs and blurred work-home boundaries, prompting many people to reevaluate the essence of a meaningful career. Some of this year's most popular talks reflect the questions we're all grappling with.

For media executive [Bevy Smith](#), whose heartwarming talk has been viewed more than 3.2M times, real success meant being brave enough to quit her so-called “dream” job. For YouTube star and late night host [Lilly Singh](#), whose talk has almost 2.5M views, success is less about “getting a seat at the table,” more about building a different table altogether.

ALSO SEE:

- ▶ [Why great leaders take humor seriously](#)
- ▶ [What makes a job “good”—and the case for investing in people](#)
- ▶ [The power of purpose in business](#)
- ▶ [The real reason you feel so busy \(and what to do about it\)](#)



Big Idea 3

**Scientific advances are
reshaping medicine and
healthcare...**

Big Idea 3

Today we're living longer than ever, but we continue to face the new challenges thrown up by the modern era: drug resistance, novel viruses, zoonotic disease and inequitable access to healthcare, to name a few. Luckily, this is also a time of extraordinary advance in research and development, and scientists worldwide are developing exciting new technologies to address the daunting issues.

“We have entered an entirely new era of medicine,” says chief scientific officer of Moderna, Melissa J. Moore, whose work was integral to the development of the company’s COVID-19 vaccine. In [her talk](#), viewed more than 2 million times, Moore explains how the medical breakthroughs of the vaccine can *also* help us treat ailments that have haunted humanity for millennia.

ALSO SEE:

- ▶ [Could we treat Alzheimer's with light and sound?](#)
- ▶ [We can make COVID19- the last pandemic](#)
- ▶ [How does heart transplant surgery work?](#)
- ▶ [The deep sea's medicinal secrets](#)



By the numbers

In 2022, TED shared...

24,974 ideas*

...that were watched, heard, or read...

2.72 billion times

...by a global audience of...

139 million

*In all formats – TED Talks, podcasts, TED-Ed animations, TEDx Talks, and social content

2022 in Action

TED brings people together in order to advance real-world impact. Here's a snapshot of the communities—and their trailblazing ideas—that TED uplifted this year...



The Audacious Project

Every year, The Audacious Project unites philanthropists and social entrepreneurs to fund bold solutions to our most urgent problems. In 2022, The Audacious Project continued to breathe possibility into paradigm-shifting projects and gather cutting-edge insights about making change.

Debt destroys oceans.

The great minds behind **The Nature Conservancy** know that debt inhibits island nations from taking action to protect their oceans. Their solution? Debt conversion and restructuring, which unlocks millions of dollars to put towards Indigenous-led marine protection.

This year, the Conservancy secured a third “Blue Bond” for their ocean conservation deal, freeing up approximately **\$50 million** to restore oceans in Barbados. Coming off the heels of equally successful campaigns in Seychelles and Belize, this revolutionary project is poised to protect **4 million square kilometers** of ocean over the next five years.



Image Credit: ©Jordan Robins/TNC Photo Contest 2019

Maps move mountains.

The **Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team** launched its Open Mapping Hub for West & Northern Africa—allowing communities to create, adapt, and share mapping data.

In Senegal, where coastal communities are increasingly being driven from their homes as a result of climate change, OpenStreetMap's tools successfully provided critical response information, safe migration routes, and resources to affected populations. In sub-Saharan Africa, where **86 million people** will have to relocate due to climate change by 2050, this resource will continue to nurture resilience within climate refugee communities.



Legal aid empowers refugees.

The International Refugee Assistance Project has far exceeded its first-year Audacious goals to scale legal assistance to support displaced people worldwide, including those fleeing the war in Ukraine, and Afghan refugees resettling in the US.

They have distributed legal information to over **156,000 people**, supported **366,000 refugees** through advocacy efforts, and are providing direct legal aid to 4,354 new and continuing clients in **52 countries**.



Countdown

TED Countdown is our first-ever issue specific initiative dedicated to accelerating solutions to the climate crisis. In June 2022, TED Countdown launched the [Dilemma Series](#): a new event designed to tackle the most divisive challenges facing the climate movement, and ultimately, build bridges.

We gathered 100 cross-sector thought leaders to grapple with a controversial question: *Is there a role for carbon credits in the transition to a fair, net-zero future?*

Over the course of 36 hours, attendees with divergent viewpoints coalesced around common goals and began mapping a radical new framework for building effective carbon markets based on TED speaker Gabrielle Walker's proposal for three key strategies:

- Reduction credits aimed at preventing new emissions;
- Protection credits that conserve existing carbon stores;
- Removal credits that involve removing CO2 from the air and storing it safely.

Walker and Global Curator Bruno Giussani also penned an [op-ed published in TIME](#) to further amplify the ideas discussed during the session. [Watch this short documentary](#) to learn more.



Images from the Dilemma Session event held at the TED World Theater (NYC) in June.

TEDx

TEDx brings the spirit of TED to communities around the globe through locally organized events designed to bring people together, spotlight big ideas and spark conversation. Although war and upheaval tragically dominated headlines this year, our TEDx organizers have persisted to gather people and infuse their lives with solutions, wisdom, connection, and joy.



TEDxYouth@Meydan, Iraq

When militants seized control of Mosul in 2014, they destroyed countless cultural artifacts and artworks. TEDx organizer Karam Al Snarjæe believes resurrecting lost art is an antidote to extremism. In that spirit, he organized an exhibition showcasing 12 painters at TEDxYouth@Maydan. “Art generates love,” he says.



TEDxAddisKetema, Ethiopia

The TEDxAddisKetema team has not let political instability stop them from nurturing an engaged community. This new TEDx team, based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, held six events in 2022. Opting for a “small but mighty” approach, the team has experimented with holding intimate but frequent gatherings to deepen community bonds.



TEDxSana’a, Yemen

TEDxSana’a organizer Waleed El-Haj shepherded his TEDx community through both a pandemic and a protracted period of civil unrest. While managing threats to his team’s safety, Waleed curated TEDxSana’a 2022 with the goal of helping Yemenis from diverse backgrounds better understand each others’ experience and bridge divides.

By the numbers

Behind every example of TED communities coming together to advance real impact are thousands more individuals working towards the same mission. Here's a look at the strength and size of TED communities across our initiatives.

The Audacious Projects catalyzed
\$920 million
to catapult forward **nine projects** to address the world's most urgent challenges.

The TEDx community organized
3,010 events
that generated over **800,000 views** around the world.

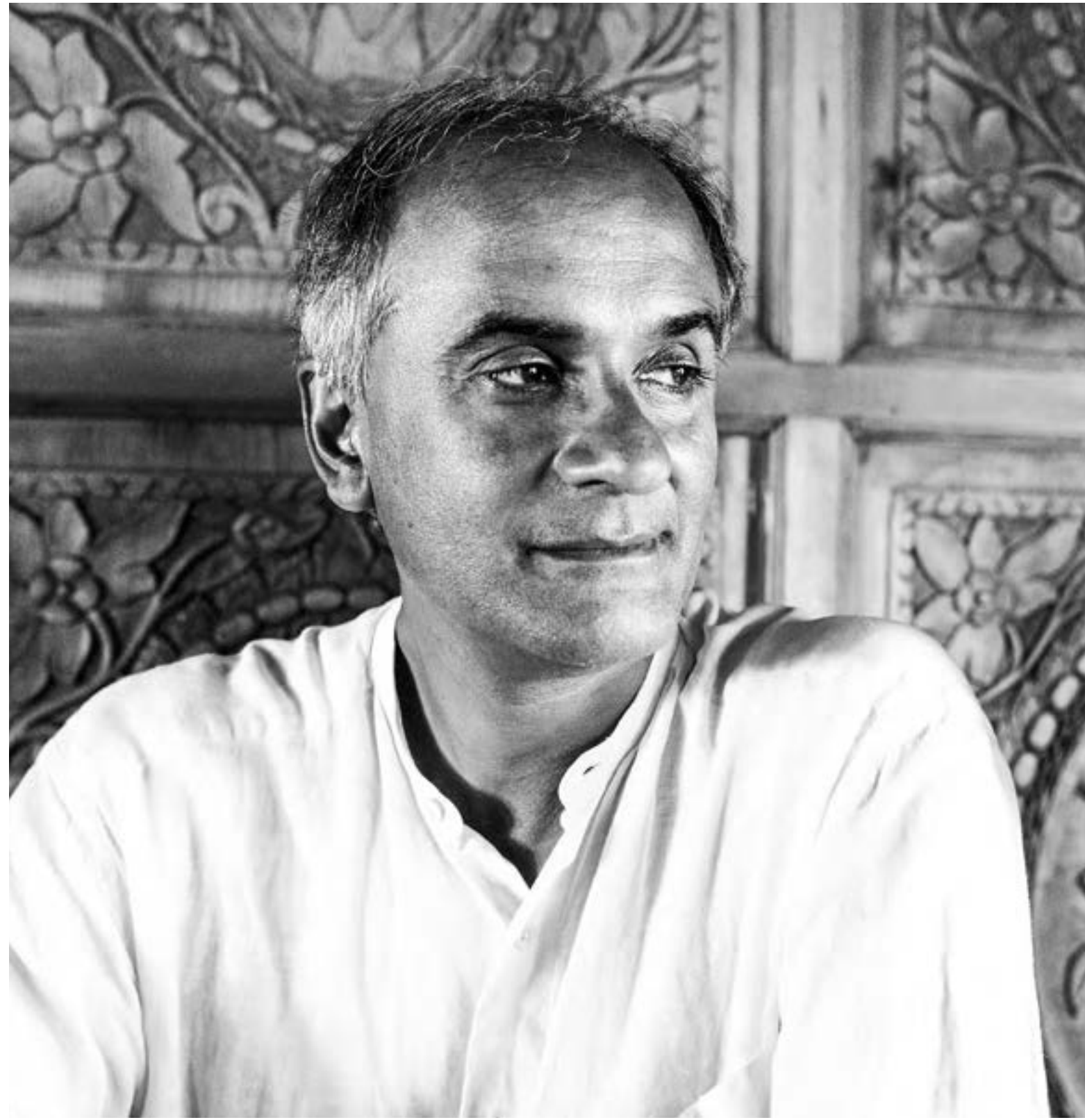
39 TED Fellows
shared their innovative, next generation ideas with TED's global audience (joining the global community of **525 Fellows**).

The TED-Ed community organized
3,300 student groups
for **36,000 convenings** to support young people in identifying, developing and sharing their best ideas.

37,000 volunteer TED Translators
translated **22,000 Talks** into **115 languages**.

Beyond 2022— What's Ahead?

TED's incredible global network keeps us way ahead of the curve. Here's a look at some of what we're seeing just beyond the horizon.



In TED Speaker **Pico Iyer's** new book, *The Half Known Life*, Iyer travels from the Dalai Lama's Himalayas to Japan's temples to upend our ideas of utopia and ask how we can find peace in the midst of difficulty. Slated for release in January 2023, fellow TED speaker Elizabeth Gilbert called it, "Nothing less than a guided tour of the human soul."



TED Fellow Kibwe Tavares' upcoming futuristic film *The Kitchen* — co-written by Academy Award-winner Daniel Kaluuya — is expected to premiere on Netflix in 2023. This provocative film transports audiences to the year 2044, a future where income inequality has been stretched to its limits. The dystopian story follows two relatable characters trying to navigate out of this human-made disaster.



TED Speaker **Ariel Waldman's** new book, *Out There: The Science behind Sci-fi Film and TV*, is scheduled for release in August 2023. In this thought-provoking volume, Waldman interviews a host of scientists, educators and journalists to reveal the fascinating real science behind popular science fiction—from artificial intelligence to hypersleep.

What makes an idea worth spreading?

TED's curators strive to identify and uplift ideas that:

1. Are powerfully world-changing
2. Spark imagination and reveal new possibilities
3. Transcend echo chambers to reach diverse global audiences

Here are just three (of many) that we're excited about in 2023...

Tina He

Web3 Entrepreneur

When some of us hear “tokens,” we’re transported back to an era of neon lights, coin machines and arcade games. Today, digital tokens have become a revolutionary tool in our modern world, one with the potential to reshape economies, art, technology, and access in years to come. At TED2023, the brilliant Web3 entrepreneur Tina He will break down what these digital currencies could mean for our future.



Anne Morris

Leadership Expert

For years, Silicon Valley’s driving ethos has been “*move fast and break things.*” This mindset has arguably resulted in some exciting disruptive technologies—and some unintended consequences. Anne Morris believes there’s a solution, one with a new catchphrase: “move fast and fix things.” Anne’s talk at TED2023 will walk us through how to rapidly identify problems—and fix them—without sacrificing thoughtfulness.



Shane Campbell-Staton

Evolutionary Biologist

Life on Earth is under relentless stress from one species: humans. How are animals responding? According to the groundbreaking work of biologist Shane Campbell-Staton, they're rapidly evolving. Animals, he says, must adapt to the world we have made; from tuskless elephants, who became more common after ivory poachers wiped out herds, to cancer-resistant wolves living in Chernobyl's irradiated landscape. Shane's talk will offer a unique look at the world we are making—and the legacy it will leave for all of Earth's inhabitants.



...and this is just a glimpse of what you've helped make possible.

Thank you.

Here's to the better future we are building together. From all of us here at TED, we hope to see you at a gathering soon.

...AND THIS IS JUST A GLIMPSE OF WHAT OUR COMMUNITY MAKES POSSIBLE.

TED2023 is all about


POSSIBILITY

Much of today's public conversation is eaten up by zero-sum battles between divided groups. But the world doesn't have to be zero-sum. At TED2023 we will explore together a strange and beautiful space called the adjacent possible.

We'll be guided there by dreamers, inventors and creatives. Innovators, entrepreneurs and builders. Explorers and change-makers. Visionary thinkers and doers from every field of human endeavor.

They use the power of imagination to make the world bigger, better, more thrilling, more hopeful. And the incredible thing is... their visions may inspire us to actually make that possible world real.

At a time of great challenges, this is the antidote we need. Come dream with us!



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Vancouver, Canada

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