



## SXSW ANNOUNCES INITIAL KEYNOTE AND SECOND ROUND OF FEATURED SPEAKERS

*Chair and CEO of AMD Lisa Su Announced as Keynote*

*Featured Speakers Announced include Rony Abovitz, Jessica Brillhart, Sandy Carter, Chuck D, Tommy Dorfman, Jeri Ellsworth, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Dr. Vin Gupta, Dara Khosrowshahi, Lady London, Jennette McCurdy, Dylan Mulvaney, John Oates, Julieanna Richardson, Kelley Robinson, Dr. Simran Jeet Singh, and more*

**Austin, Texas — October 24, 2023** — South by Southwest® (SXSW®) Conference and Festivals has announced its initial Keynote and the second round of Featured Speakers for the 38th edition of its annual Conference, which celebrates the convergence of technology, film, television, and music. SXSW takes place March 8-16, 2024 in Austin, Texas.

The Keynote and Featured Speakers announced today include Chair and CEO of AMD **Lisa Su**; COO and Head of Business Development at Unstoppable Domains and founder of Women of AI and Blockchain **Sandy Carter**; rapper, social activist, author, multimedia producer, digital music pioneer, visual artist, and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer **Chuck D**; neurosurgeon, professor, multiple Emmy Award-winning Chief Medical Correspondent for CNN and Host of the CNN podcast *Chasing Life* **Dr. Sanjay Gupta** in conversation with pulmonologist, Medical Analyst for MSNBC and NBC News, and Chief Medical Officer of Amazon Pharmacy **Dr. Vin Gupta**; CEO of Uber **Dara Khosrowshahi**; transgender influencer and actress **Dylan Mulvaney**; member of the top-selling duo in pop and rock history, Hall & Oates, and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer **John Oates**.

“Every year at SXSW, we’re privileged to host leaders and trailblazers who have risen to the top of their fields through hard work, thought leadership, and passion for their craft,” said Hugh Forrest, Co-President and Chief Programming Officer. “Our first announced Keynote Speaker, Chair and CEO of AMD Lisa Su, is an innovator who continues to pioneer advancements in the chip industry and new ideas that will accommodate the needs of quickly developing AI-related technologies.”

The SXSW Conference is organized into 24 programming tracks presented in a variety of session formats. Tracks for 2024 include 2050, Advertising & Brand Experience, Artificial Intelligence, Climate Change, Creating Film & TV, Creator Economy, Culture, Design, Energy, Fashion & Beauty, Film & TV Industry, Food, Game Industry, Government and Civic Engagement, Health & MedTech, Music & Tech, Music Careers, Psychedelics, Sports, Startups, Tech Industry, Transportation, Workplace, and XR. More information about SXSW programming tracks and formats can be found [here](#).

#### **Newly-announced SXSW 2024 Keynote:**

- Chair and CEO of AMD **Lisa Su**

#### **Newly-announced Featured Speakers include:**

- Author and founder of Backstage Capital and HireRunner.co **Arlan Hamilton**
- CEO of Uber **Dara Khosrowshahi**

#### **Newly-announced Featured Sessions include:**

- **15 Counterintuitive Tactics Smart Marketers Can Exploit:** Face it, marketers, your customers and prospects don't always make sense. Current brain science research shows they often act irrationally, making decisions that aren't considered. Yet you can take advantage of certain counterintuitive tactics to get them to consider you. In this session featuring author and co-founder and Chief Creative Officer at HBT Marketing **Nancy Harhut**, you will discover exactly what these tactics are, see numerous market-tested examples, and gain 15 fast, new ways to increase the response to your emails, ads, web pages, etc. These tactics may not make sense, but they do make money!
- **All About Games. Data, Trends, and What's Next for 2024:** In this session, author, professor, and co-founder and CEO of Aldora.io **Joost van Dreunen** will provide a data-driven overview of the current state of interactive entertainment. Discover where the \$300 billion industry is heading — from shifting business models to emerging tech and consumer behavior. Gain strategic intel, including perspectives on why non-gaming firms are pushing into the sector, the impact of Microsoft's \$69 billion acquisition of Activision Blizzard, Meta and Apple's pushes into mixed reality platforms, and more. Whether you're an investor, developer, brand, or just a gaming enthusiast, this session will give you a deeper understanding of this fascinating industry. You'll also have a chance to ask questions and receive your copy of Joost's update.
- **Author Your Life: Clarity in an Age of Uncertainty:** Change continues to surge at an unprecedented pace. AI and the automation era are upon us, rippling through our lives in profound ways and eroding once-dependable paths. Clarity about who you are, what you believe, and what you want is the most effective playbook to have when making your

next move in a constantly shifting and surprising world. In this session, author and Partner and Head of Brand Strategy at Goodby, Silverstein & Partners **Bonnie Wan** will show you how to cut through the noise and reestablish clarity in your life through curiosity, creativity, and courage to thrive amid change.

- ***Being Non-Obvious: How Futurists See What Others Miss (And You Can Too)***: What if you could see the world like a futurist? After exploring the front lines of world changing trends and writing about them for more than a decade, this session will be the exclusive premiere of the new book, *Being Non-Obvious* (coming from Ideapress in Spring 2024) from #1 *Wall Street Journal* best-selling author and founder and Chief Trend Curator at The Non-Obvious Company **Rohit Bhargava**. Going beyond offering the usual secretive futurist's tour of emerging trends and scenarios, this session will reveal what it takes to identify trends for yourself and isolate patterns the way futurists do. Based on his own successful work teaching tens of thousands of professionals how to be non-obvious thinkers who anticipate the future, this talk will not only share Rohit's latest trend insights, but also open the Non-Obvious playbook on how to curate and leverage trends for yourself to help you win the future.
- ***Billion Dollar Teams: The Future of an AI Powered Workforce***: The AI honeymoon is over, but its impact has barely begun. What happens when we no longer interact with AI on discrete tasks, but it's pervasive in our work? We'll reach that reality faster than we did with the digital revolution. In this session, CEO and Chief Futurist of Signal and Cipher **Ian Beacraft** will explore the ability and practices of AI-enabled individuals and teams to provide exponential value and show examples of how new team structures, workflows, and cultures are built, including several experiments within our own organization using AI to enhance employee productivity 10x and more on specific tasks.
- ***The Critical Path Forward for Affordable, Accessible Health***: In this fireside chat, neurosurgeon, professor, multiple Emmy Award-winning Chief Medical Correspondent for CNN and Host of the CNN podcast *Chasing Life* **Dr. Sanjay Gupta** and Air Force pulmonologist, Medical Analyst for MSNBC and NBC News, and Chief Medical Officer of Amazon Pharmacy **Dr. Vin Gupta** come together for a thought-provoking discussion on the need for healthcare to adapt to meet the needs of a changing nation. Through their experience as doctors, media correspondents, and business leaders, they will shed light on technology's role in innovating the healthcare experience to be more affordable and accessible, and building trust with patients.
- ***CURRAN CHATS***: In this session, actress, writer, director, producer, and co-founder of CURRAN **Tommy Dorfman** will host a curated group of queer innovators on stage in a fireside chat to talk about business, artistry, and liberation.
- ***Def Jam Renewed: The Hip-Hop Legend's Next 40 years***: In this session celebrating Def Jam Recordings' 40th anniversary, Chairman and CEO of Def Jam Recordings **Tunji Balogun**, President of Songtradr and General Manager of Bandcamp **Bryan Biniak**, rapper, social activist, author, multimedia producer, digital music pioneer, visual artist, and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer **Chuck D**, and rapper **Lady London** will explore the roots of this iconic hip-hop label and the key decisions that have propelled it to global recognition for its creativity, quality, and authenticity. Discover how Def Jam's innovative

approach to nurturing and promoting diverse artist voices positions it as the epicenter of hip-hop and at the forefront of cultural vision and voice.

- ***Design as a Medium Within Visual Art:*** Join artist and professor **Michael Ray Charles**, art and cultural historian, professor, and founder of Vision & Justice **Sarah Elizabeth Lewis**, American contemporary artist **Deborah Roberts**, and performance and visual artist, singer, songwriter, musician, human rights lawyer, and activist **Laolu Senbanjo** to discuss design and how it functions as a non verbal medium in art making.
- ***The DNA of a Unicorn Leader:*** Author, consultant, Silicon Valley veteran with 15 years reporting directly to CEOs Jeff Bezos (Amazon) and Eric Schmidt (Google/Alphabet), and founder of Hipergiant **Ann Hiatt** has worked as the right hand to some of the most world changing CEOs and now partners with VCs to identify and invest in the next generation of unicorn leaders all over the world. In this session, she will share her methods for recognizing a unicorn, or "soonicorn", founder in their most humble of beginnings. Ann has the scorecard of the essential attributes, skillsets, habits, and behaviors (many of which are not what you might expect) that anyone can adopt to increase their impact and trajectory as a leader.
- ***HARD FEELINGS Live with Jennette McCurdy:*** In this session, *New York Times* best-selling author **Jennette McCurdy** will record a special episode of her weekly podcast *Hard Feelings*, from Lemonada Media.
- ***The HistoryMakers, Documentation, Storytelling and Black AI:*** Over the past 23 years, The HistoryMakers has grown into the nation's largest African American video oral history archive, as well as the digital repository for the Black experience. In this session, founder and President of The HistoryMakers **Julieanna Richardson** will discuss how The HistoryMakers is committed to making AI inclusive and informed and how AI is helping to fast track the preservation and accessibility of this one of a kind, unprecedented digital repository.
- ***How Teams Can Skip the Drama and Embrace Healthy Conflict:*** Is there a lot of unspoken tension or gossiping on your team? Do colleagues shut down opposing views or blame others when things go wrong? Do you find yourself wishing everyone would just get along? Research shows that teams in which people feel free to safely disagree outperform other teams. And the friction that accompanies disagreement can allow for creativity and growth. But there's a difference between healthy conflict and griping or backstabbing. You can encourage productive tension without inviting drama, and you don't have to be the team leader to lay the groundwork for valuable disagreements. In this session, author and Host of the podcast *Women at Work* **Amy Gallo** will share insights and advice from her latest work on how to create the right conditions for healthy conflict, ensure conversations remain collaborative, and repair team relationships.
- ***How We Build Resilience and Compassion:*** Resilience and empathy have become cultural buzzwords. Everyone talks about how crucial they are — yet, too often, we don't know why these qualities matter or how we can cultivate them. In this session, learn from author and Executive Director of the Religion & Society Program at the Aspen Institute **Dr. Simran Jeet Singh**, who has written extensively about how these two qualities can improve our lives. He'll discuss the biases embedded in our perceptions of resilience and

how we overcome them. He'll also share personal stories and daily practices that we can incorporate to help grow our empathy.

- **John Oates Talks Fame, Fortune, and Managing A Hit Music Career:** In this session, founder and CEO of music finance firm Sound Royalties **Alex Heiche** will be chatting with one half of the top-selling duo in pop and rock history, Hall & Oates, and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer **John Oates**. With a 50+ year career in music, Oates has seen it all while garnering dozens of top 40 hits including “Maneater”, “Out of Touch”, “She’s Gone”, and many more. Join them as they take you through Oates’ career journey as one of America’s biggest acts and reveal how he has been able to navigate the music business with lasting and meaningful success.
- **Make Curiosity Contagious:** Imagine you combined the four different styles of the most curious minds in the world into one person. And that person is you! You’d be lit up, your best self, more creative, more confident, and more able to change the game. In this session, founder and CEO of Now What **Paul Barnett** and Head of Creative Questions at Now What **Hannah Singleman** will get together to discuss diversity of curiosities. Grounded in their years-long research, they’ll show you in a live on-stage experiment how to channel multiple styles so your curiosity is always contagious. Are you curious?
- **Mind-Machine Merge: Seven Future Trends in a Post-AI World of Work:** The rise of the gig economy and remote working has made the Internet an essential front for many. Now, a Cambrian explosion of nascent technology is changing the game once again. In this session, join COO and Head of Business Development at Unstoppable Domains and founder of Women of AI and Blockchain **Sandy Carter** for a glimpse into the future of work through seven transformative trends arising from the bleeding edge of technology — where human brains and tech collide in brilliantly bizarre ways. Explore the potential of the “mind-machine merge” and uncover insights into AI innovations and blockchain identities and gain actionable takeaways for boosting productivity through pioneering digital tools. Discover how breakthroughs in self-powered wearables and spatial computing are fueling the rise of digital nomads and evolving the value of blue-collar roles. Carter’s utopic, tech-infused perspective invites us to re-envision how we work and embrace new opportunities to hone our productivity and proficiencies.
- **Radical Respect: How To Work Together Better:** Do you want to create a work culture where everyone feels valued, respected, and empowered? Do you want to learn how to foster collaboration and trust among your team members? Do you want to hear from experts who have been there and done that? If you answered yes to these questions, this session is for you! Join co-Hosts of the podcast *Just Work* **Wesley Faulkner** and **Kim Scott** as they share practical tips and insights from Kim’s latest book, *Just Work*.
- **Storyworlds, Hour Blue & Amplifying Humanity Ethically with AI:** A Storyworld is a conceptual immersive digital vessel for art and culture with a richness that passes the “Kyoto Test.” This is not a virtual world designed around game loops, but one that approaches the depth, messiness, and non-linear richness of our world. Can Computing Intelligence help create such a rich environment? It can, if architected correctly. In this session, join founder and CEO of Sun and Thunder and founder of Magic Leap **Rony Abovitz**, designer, author, theorist, and founder of Vrai Pictures **Jessica Brillhart**, futurist and founding partner and Chief Creative Technologist at argodesign **Jared**

**Ficklin**, and founder, CEO, and Creative Director of Wētā Workshop and 5x Academy Award-winner **Sir Richard Taylor** as discuss what the Kyoto test is, the Hour Blue Storyworld, and an AI system that fulfills not just a backstory, but a mythopoeia.

- **Supercommunicators: Unlocking the Language of Connection:** We all know people capable of connecting with anyone. They are the ones we turn to for advice, who ask the best questions, and who hear what goes unsaid. Why are these people so good at connecting? And what can they tell us about how communication works? In this session, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and 2x *New York Times* best-selling author **Charles Duhigg** will present his reporting and insights into Supercommunicators and their understanding that there is a science to how human beings connect.
- **Top Entertainment Trends for 2024: What the Data Says:** Last year on the SXSW stage, CEO of Luminate **Rob Jonas** revealed that music streaming platforms saw an average of 120K new tracks uploaded per day in the first few months of 2023 -- a new record high. It was just one of the many entertainment trends Jonas highlighted using Luminate's consumption and audience research data, the most trusted in the industry. At SXSW 2024, Jonas will be back to do it all over again, using more than 20 trillion data points across music, film, TV, streaming, gaming, and more to inform the insights that will be shared. This year's insights will include everything from super fan behaviors and changes in the global music landscapes to trends in SVOD viewership and how audience behaviors continue to shift in an interconnected world.
- **When Beer Goes Viral: The Role of Brands & Media in Fighting Hate:** When transgender influencer and actress **Dylan Mulvaney** partnered with a major beer brand, the right-wing seized on the campaign. The company's response only exacerbated things further – while conventional and social media platforms helped elevate small groups of anti-trans radicals. In this panel, Mulvaney, President of the Human Rights Campaign **Kelley Robinson**, co-founder and CEO of Walton Issacson **Aaron Walton**, and reporter for NBC Out **Jo Yurcaba** will dive into the responsibility of brands and the media to not fuel the fire of misinformation and discrimination. Attendees will better understand how to spot the pitfalls of elevating sensational, hate-filled content aimed at undermining the acceptance and inclusion of LGBTQ+ people.
- **XR In The Age Of Vision Pro:** The introduction of Apple's new mixed reality headset is a long awaited milestone on the road to all day, everyday wearable, invisible computing. Samsung is working with Qualcomm and Google on an XR headset we should see in 2024. The Quest 3 is due fall of 2023, and Meta is now partnering with Magic Leap on a new spatial computing device. These headsets will be expensive at first, but that may not be a bad thing. In this session, founder and CEO of Sun and Thunder and founder of Magic Leap **Rony Abovitz**, entrepreneur, inventor, chip designer, and founder and CEO of Tilt Five **Jeri Ellsworth**, author, professor, and columnist at *Forbes* **Charlie Fink**, and Futurist at Paramount Global **Ted Schilowitz** will discuss how entrepreneurs, artists, storytellers, and developers need time to create must-have applications before the masses arrive. Will it be spatial avatar chat? Stereography? AI Assistants? Or something new?

SXSW dedicates itself to helping creative people achieve their goals. Founded in 1987 in Austin, Texas, SXSW is best known for its conference and festivals that celebrate the convergence of tech, film and television, music, education, and culture. An essential destination for global professionals, the annual March event features sessions, music, and comedy showcases, film and television screenings, exhibitions, professional development, and a variety of networking opportunities. SXSW proves that the most unexpected discoveries happen when diverse topics and people come together. SXSW 2024 will take place March 8–16 in Austin. Learn more at [sxsw.com](https://www.sxsw.com). To register for the event, please visit [sxsw.com/attend](https://www.sxsw.com/attend).

SXSW 2024 is sponsored by Porsche, C4 Energy, and *The Austin Chronicle*.

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Editor's Note: Media Registration for SXSW is open until Friday, January 26, 2024. Please go to <https://www.sxsw.com/press-center/press-accreditation> to apply.

Press Contacts:  
Benjamin Perez  
Elizabeth Derczo  
Jody Arlington

[press@sxsw.com](mailto:press@sxsw.com)  
512 467-7979