The Aspen Ideas Festival brings scientists, artists, politicians, historians, educators, activists, and other great thinkers together to present, debate, and discuss some of the most important and fascinating ideas and issues of our time. Across ten days, Festival presenters will contribute unique perspectives from myriad fields of endeavor, with objectives to deepen understanding, enliven dialogue, and perhaps inspire further action among those who take part.
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21
8:00 PM – 9:00 PM
HOTEL JEROME BALLROOM | $35
Three HHS Secretaries in Conversation
With an annual budget of $1.65 trillion, the vast U.S. Department of Health and Human Services oversees Medicare, Medicaid, the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and much else. Three secretaries, past and present from both sides of the aisle, share their experiences about leading the agency and exchange ideas about making tough decisions, setting priorities, and dealing with Congress, the White House, and the American public — all while promoting scientific research, providing access to health insurance, addressing public health emergencies, funding programs to combat poverty and hunger, and creating workforce training opportunities. Spoiler alert: Navigating all that isn’t easy!

Alex Azar, 24th HHS secretary
Xavier Becerra, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary
Kathleen Sebelius, 21st HHS secretary
Moderator: Julie Rovner, Kaiser Health News

THURSDAY, JUNE 22
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
HOTEL JEROME BALLROOM | $35
Presented by Johnson & Johnson: Stories from the Heart of Health
During this intimate evening of storytelling, hear directly from health workers who are innovating and advocating every day to deliver better care to their communities. Five storytellers will share their personal stories on the challenges they face; how they are driving solutions; and how we can better support their needs to ensure that everyone has access to quality care. These storytellers include Bre Loughlin, a nurse and founder of Nurses Disrupted, Inc., who is addressing the nursing shortage and fostering better patient care by providing access to virtual nurses. Other storytellers will speak to issues that range from working with the faith community to destigmatize mental health care to creating a more diverse and representative pipeline of health workers to address health equity. (A reception will follow.)

Sandra Clark, StoryCorps
Honey Estrada, North Carolina Community Health Worker Association
Bre Loughlin, Nurse Disrupted
Glenn McMillan, Columbia University
Chris McNeil, Youth Medical Mentorship
Host: Tzion Ghedamu, The Aspen Institute
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
DOERR-HOSIER CENTER, MCNULTY ROOM | $35
Preventing Gun Violence: When Legislation Isn’t Enough
It sometimes feels like we can do nothing to stop gun violence. But easy access to mental health services, widely available trainings to identify individuals at risk, school curricula that elevate social and emotional learning, and community outreach and mentoring programs are all strategies for interrupting gun violence before it occurs. Despite often-angry rhetoric, there is a lot of common ground between individuals who own firearms and those who don’t. Learn more about ways that communities across the United States are actually reducing gun suicide, breaking the cycle of street violence, and healing in the face of tragedy.

Franklin Cosey-Gay, University of Chicago Medicine
Megan Ranney, Yale School of Public Health
Michael Sodini, Walk the Talk America

Moderator: Luria Freeman

8:00 PM – 9:00 PM
HOTEL JEROME BALLROOM | $35
Birth Justice: The Maternal Mortality Crisis
If Black women bear the heaviest burdens of the maternal mortality crisis — they are 2.6 times more likely to die during pregnancy or shortly after childbirth — they are also the most determined to address it. Moving beyond grief and rage, their leadership is prioritizing culturally sensitive care, respect for best practices, and greater use of community-based models and licensed midwives. More Black clinicians, broader public health and anti-racist commitments, and vigorous evidence gathering are also core to curbing the epidemic. Clips from a new PBS documentary launch a vigorous discussion with Black women who are taking the lead to fix a broken system.

Elaine Batchlor, MLK Community Healthcare
Ebony Marcella, Community of Hope
Denise Pines, Women in the Room Productions

Moderator: Céline Gounder

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
DOERR-HOSIER CENTER, MCNULTY ROOM | $35
How Female Athletes Excel
Female athletes seem to get faster and stronger every year, thanks to more sophisticated sports science, improved training techniques, and the growth in competitive opportunities made possible by greater public and sponsor interest. Yet the bias towards studying male athletes endures, women earn less than their male counterparts, and the hurdles of sexism, racism, ageism, and abuse continue to hold them back. Our peak performers deserve better, not only to reward their extraordinary talent and discipline, but also because understanding what optimizes athleticism will guide us to practices that can power the bodies of far more ordinary women.

Kathryn Ackerman, Female Athlete Program at Boston Children’s Hospital
Mary Cain, Professional mid-distance runner
Clara Wu Tsai, Brooklyn Nets and New York Liberty co-owner

Moderator: Luria Freeman

2 Ways to Experience Big Ideas

Aspen Ideas Passes
All-access passes to Aspen Ideas: Health and Aspen Ideas Festival (Fest 1 and Fest 2) are available at aspenideas.org/register. Join us to revel in ideas, wrestle with hard topics, and celebrate innovations that will shape our collective future. Pass prices range from $2,200 to $5,000, with discounts for students, anyone under 40, and Society of Fellows members. Call (970) 544-7960 for pass info.

Tickets to Individual Events
Ticket prices for public sessions range from $35 to $150 for the Afternoon of Conversation. Tickets go on sale Friday, June 16, at 9 AM through the Wheeler Opera House box office in person, by phone at (970) 920-5770, and online at aspenshowtix.com. Due to high demand, individuals are limited to purchasing four tickets per event. The schedule and presenters are subject to change.
**SATURDAY, JUNE 24**

8:15 PM – 9:15 PM  
HOTEL JEROME BALLROOM | $35  
*How to Stand Up to a Dictator: A Conversation with Maria Ressa*  
Maria Ressa, Rappler  
Interviewer: Vivian Schiller, Aspen Institute

---

**SUNDAY, JUNE 25**

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM  
PAEPCKE AUDITORIUM | $35  
*In Conversation with Patagonia’s CEO*  
Ryan Gellert, Patagonia  
Interviewer: Baratunde Thurston, storyteller

---

**MONDAY, JUNE 26**

5:30 PM – 6:20 PM  
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE BAR | $35  
*It. Goes. So. Fast.: The Year of No Do-Overs*  
Mary Louise Kelly, NPR  
Interviewer: Kelly Corrigan, TV and podcast host
MONDAY, JUNE 26

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
ASPEN CENTER FOR PHYSICS | FREE
Opening the Infrared Treasure Chest: Images from the James Webb Space Telescope (hosted by Aspen Center for Physics)
From the first galaxies that grew after the Big Bang, to black holes swallowing their neighbors, to stars and planets being born today in the Cosmic Cliffs, the James Webb Space Telescope has shown us our own cosmic history. See how it works and what has been found. It’s not what NASA expected. (Space is limited for this free community event; please RSVP in advance to https://bit.ly/RSVPMather)

John Mather, NASA

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
HOTEL JEROME BALLROOM | $35
A Lens on Present Day America: Abraham Lincoln and the Struggle for Democracy
Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Jon Meacham shares a view of Abraham Lincoln, who managed to hold the country together despite threats to democracy and the devastations of the Civil War. Understanding Lincoln, his unwavering commitment to democratic principles, and this period in history provides a critical lens to comprehending America’s contemporary challenges, and the kind of leadership needed to balance the complexities of our democracy.

Jon Meacham, author
Interviewer: Perri Peltz, documentary filmmaker

8:15 PM – 9:15 PM
HOTEL JEROME BALLROOM | $35
In Search of a ‘Soul Boom’
From “The Office” to being cheerleader for spirituality, comedic actor, writer, and producer Rainn Wilson is on a mission to show the world how embracing spirituality can help us navigate increasingly challenging times. NBC’s Jenna Bush Hager sits down with Wilson to discuss his new book and travel show.

Rainn Wilson, actor
Interviewer: Jenna Bush Hager, “TODAY with Hoda and Jenna”

TUESDAY, JUNE 27

2:45 PM – 5:00 PM
BENEDICT MUSIC TENT | $150
Afternoon of Conversation
See back page for more information on this signature event.

Liz Cheney, Former U.S. representative
Katie Couric, journalist
Brian Cox, actor
Brian Greene, theoretical physicist
Lester Holt, NBC
Walter Isaacson, Tulane University
Almar Latour, Dow Jones
Lyle Lovett, singer-songwriter
John Mather, author
TUESDAY, JUNE 27

8:15 PM – 9:15 PM
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE BAR | $35
The Pope in the Puffer Jacket: Deepfakes and the Media’s Role in Policing A.I.

As A.I.-generated images and deepfake videos flood our feeds, what tools do news organizations have to vet their validity? Journalists share how they’re preparing for and being impacted by a new frontier in artificial intelligence.

Chris Berend, NBCUniversal News Group
Joanna Stern, The Wall Street Journal
Nilay Patel, The Verge

Moderator: Jenn White, NPR

8:15 PM – 9:15 PM
HOTEL JEROME BALLROOM | $35
Bringing Shakespeare to Life

HBO’s hit show “Succession” is the latest example of how well the themes of tragedy, betrayal, ambition, and love — which Shakespeare depicted for the stage centuries before even the most basic technology — are capable of being magnificently transformed for the screen. Brian Cox, renowned Shakespearean actor and star of “Succession,” and Simon Godwin, Shakespeare Theatre Company artistic director and Aspen Institute Harman/Eisner Artist in Residence, join former CEO of The Walt Disney Company Michael Eisner to discuss how they bring the Bard to life.

Brian Cox, Actor, “Succession”
Simon Godwin, Shakespeare Theatre Company

Moderator: Michael Eisner, Tornante Company

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

5:30 PM – 6:20 PM
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE BAR | $35
Where the Water Goes: The Next 100 Years of the Colorado River

The Colorado River Compact is 100 years old, and its guidelines for water use across the American West are about to expire. Facing drought, increased population, and disagreements on how to share the water, what policies and technologies could get a new agreement across the finish line? John Entsminger, Nevada’s lead negotiator for the Compact; Bidtah Becker, attorney with the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority; and lifelong expert on river ecosystems Jennifer Pitt shed light on the range of stakeholders, both human and animal, whose needs are up for debate.

Bidleh Becker, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority
John Entsminger, Southern Nevada Water Authority
Jennifer Pitt, National Audubon Society

Moderator: Tillie Walton, Conservationist and philanthropist

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
HOTEL JEROME BALLROOM | $35
What Does It Mean to Be a Better Person?

In our discussions about people’s and society’s most desirable attributes, we use all these vague abstract words, like morality, virtue, and justice. But what does it actually look like to be a good person, in practical terms? Let’s walk through the steps. Author, columnist, and political and cultural commentator David Brooks is your guide.

David Brooks, The New York Times

8:15 PM – 9:15 PM
HOTEL JEROME BALLROOM | $35
The A.I. Dilemma

Tristan Harris and Aza Raskin are deeply concerned about the deployment of tools like Chat GPT. As co-founders of the Center for Humane Technology, they are on a mission to close the gap between what the world hears publicly about A.I. and what the people closest to the risks and harms inside A.I. labs are telling them.

Tristan Harris, Center for Humane Technology
Aza Raskin, Center for Humane Technology

8:15 PM – 9:15 PM
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE BAR | $35
‘Ten Percent Happier’ Podcast: How to Do Life Better (live taping)

Life is hard. And messy. What can we do to make it happy? Dan Harris, host of the “Ten Percent Happier” podcast, sits down with philosopher Tamar Gendler for a conversation about how to do life the best we can, drawing on five secrets of the ancients about self-improvement.

Tamar Gendler, Yale University
Interviewer: Dan Harris, podcast host

EXPERIENCE
BIG IDEAS!

Passes available at aspenideas.org/register
THURSDAY, JUNE 29

5:30 PM – 6:20 PM
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE BAR | $35
The Parenting Journey: From Teens to Young Adults
Renowned psychologists Lisa Damour, author of *The Emotional Lives of Teenagers*, and Laurence Steinberg, author of *You and Your Adult Child*, delve into the complex landscapes of adolescence and young adulthood in today’s society. Each has devoted their career to studying and understanding adolescents — Damour as a clinical psychologist working with families and organizations and Steinberg as a developmental psychologist and researcher. Together they guide us on the odyssey of parenting, armed with the tools to navigate these complex stages with understanding and connection.
Lisa Damour, Clinical psychologist
Laurence Steinberg, Temple University

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
HOTEL JEROME BALLROOM | $35
Does America Need a New Party?
Some research suggests that 60 percent of American voters want a new political party. With extremists on either side of the aisle hobbling the government’s ability toward the kind of forward change that most citizens might agree on, is it time to consider a third path forward?
Andrew Yang, Forward Party
Interviewer: Savannah Sellers, NBC

8:15 PM – 9:15 PM
HOTEL JEROME BALLROOM | $35
Let’s Talk About Sex: Unveiling America’s Contemporary Landscape
Join Dan Savage and Christine Emba as they shed light on the ever-evolving realm of sexual ethics in modern-day America. In this captivating discussion, Savage, renowned Savage Love columnist, and Emba, the provocative author of *Rethinking Sex*, delve deeply into the realms of consent, mutual pleasure, and the moral complexities and intricate power dynamics woven into our intimate relationships. Kelly Corrigan, host of PBS’s “Tell Me More with Kelly Corrigan,” guides this candid conversation, fearlessly posing the most challenging and embarrassing questions.
Christine Emba, The Washington Post
Dan Savage, Writer and activist
Moderator: Kelly Corrigan, Author and podcast host

COMMUNITY ART INSTALLATION

The City of Aspen and Aspen Ideas Festival have partnered to create a temporary street mural dedicated to increasing pedestrian safety and engaging the community in public art. Bordering the iconic Dancing Fountain and the Wheeler Opera House, this pavement art will be installed in the street on the corner of South Mill Street and Hyman Avenue on the opening weekend of Aspen Ideas Festival. Join us on June 25 for activities, to watch, or to help paint the design by local artist Chris Erickson. Scan the QR to sign up to paint!

QUESTIONS?
E-mail ticket.help@aspeninstitute.org
See aspenideas.org for speaker biographies.
The signature event of Aspen Ideas Festival is the Afternoon of Conversation, hosting an audience of more than 2,000 in the Benedict Music Tent. This year’s event takes place on June 27, from 2:45 PM to 5 PM.

Conversations to include Lester Holt and Liz Cheney; Jon Meacham, Lyle Lovett, and Walter Isaacson; Almar Latour and Katie Couric; Brian Greene; and Brian Cox and Katie Couric.

More programming to be announced
Watch the Aspen Daily News for advertisements and visit aspenideas.org.