

Inspirefest 2018: An event not to be missed

Inspirefest is one of Europe's premier events in science and technology and the event was launched this week in Dublin's Grand Canal Square.

This week saw the official launch of Europe's premier science and technology event with diversity and inclusion at its heart, Inspirefest 2018, in Grand Canal Square and its one not to be missed.

Inspirefest, which takes place June 21st and 22nd, will welcome over 50 speakers from 20 countries, with keynote speakers including Surbhi Sarna, the 32-Year whose start-up nVision Medical has just sold to Boston Scientific for US \$275m, Claire Lee, Head of Early-Stage Banking at Silicon Valley Bank, Liza Donnelly, Cartoonist and Writer for The New Yorker and leading Me Too advocate. Other speakers include Tim Leberecht, Co-Founder of The Business Romantic Society, Dr Anne Marie Imafidon MBE, founder of Stemettes, and Easkey Britain, champion surfer and scientist.

The themes for this year's event vary from environmental and marine science, space exploration, tackling the biases in artificial intelligence, the talent dividend for companies embracing those with difference, autism, blindness and beyond.

Again this year, the collision of technology and the arts will also be tackled with renowned beatboxer Reeps One teaming up with Nokia Bell Labs' Experiments in Arts and Technology (EAT) group to perform a world-first duet between him and his digital beatboxing artificial intelligence (AI) twin.

Over 3,000 people are expected to attend over the two days, and headline sponsors this year are Bank of Ireland, with other partner organisations including Nokia Bell Labs, AON, Deutsche Bank, Enterprise Ireland, Dublin Airport Authority, NDRC, Science Foundation Ireland and Dublin City University.

Speaking at the official launch, Áine McCleary, Bank of Ireland's Director of Distribution and the first woman to become president of the Institute of Banking in Ireland said; "It's fantastic to be part of Inspirefest again this year. Inspirefest's focus on thought-provoking talks, its mixture of brilliant minds and its dedication to diversity and inclusion make it one the best events of its kind in Europe. I can't wait to hear some of this year's guest speakers on the main stage."

Inspirefest founder, Ann O'Dea said; "We're so happy to see how much Inspirefest has grown and feel this year might be our best yet. Since the very first Inspirefest, we've learnt so much about what our attendees want and the type of speakers they enjoy seeing so we think we've managed to round up some of the most brilliant minds from around the world to talk about the key

themes.

Inspirefest 2018 will take place in the vibrant surroundings of Dublin's digital docklands. As Europe's premier science and technology event, Inspirefest aims to celebrate and challenge our perspectives and norms relating to STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) and the arts.

Inspirefest will be topped off each day with the usual range of cultural fringe activities, culminating in the after party at CHQ on the Friday evening with music from Hvummingbird, and entertainment from Bright Club (Stand Up for Geeks) amongst other. You can get your tickets [here](#).