H.R. MACMILLAN SPACE CENTRE · VANCOUVER

Program Book

Presented by the BC + AI Ecosystem Association.

THE SHORT VERSION

Fast facts

DATES	October 28-30, 2026. Opening night Wednesday, two program days Thursday and Friday.
WHERE	H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, 1100 Chestnut St, Vancouver, BC V6J 3J9
GETTING HERE	The Route 2 bus stops nearby. Check TransLink for current routes and service. False Creek Ferry serves Vanier Park; bike and rideshare are practical from downtown. Paid parking in Vanier Park Lot 60. Bike parking available.
ACCESS	Accessible entry and washrooms; email kk@bc-ai.ca with specific needs before the festival.
HASHTAG	#FutureproofYVR
QUESTIONS	hello@bc-ai.ca
SAFETY	kk@bc-ai.ca, or any volunteer with a badge.
LIVE PROGRAM	futureproof.website/program · the grid in this book was updated October 31, 2026
EVERYTHING ELSE	futureproof.website/attendee-guide

WHERE WE ARE

Where we are

A welcome to the territory, and why it comes first

Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm) · Squamish (Sḵwx̱wú7mesh) · Tsleil-Waututh (səl̓ilwətaʔɬ)

Futureproof Festival happens on the unceded territories of the Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm), Squamish (Sḵwx̱wú7mesh) and Tsleil-Waututh (səl̓ilwətaʔɬ) Nations. Unceded is a legal word, not a poetic one. These three Nations never gave this land away. Every building in this city, this one included, stands on territory where that question is still open.

The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre sits in Vanier Park, at the old village of Sen̓áḵw. Gabriel George Sr., a knowledge keeper of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and a grandson of Chief Dan George, has opened more of our gatherings than anyone, and he always starts by telling us where we are. False Creek once ran inland almost to Clark Drive. At high tide, Stanley Park was an island. His great-great-grandmother lived in this village until the barges came and moved the families out, and she ended up on the reserve where he is registered today. He sings an eagle song for her here. He also tells of a medicine man on the North Shore who saw longhouses rising into the sky, and of a prophecy that a web would one day cover the earth, with Indigenous people playing an important part in it. Look across the park. The Squamish Nation's towers at Sen̓áḵw are the longhouses. The web is here. The question is who it serves.

Anthony Joseph, a Councillor of the Squamish Nation, looked at those towers from our stage and said: “Our people are finally back. Our people have finally returned to where we’ve always been.” That sentence held more history than the rest of our program combined.

Every Vancouver AI meetup since the first one in January 2024 has opened this way. Gabriel, or Anthony and Jonny Williams, come to the front and sing. A teaching follows. Anthony taught us Chen Qua: supporting one another, holding each other up. He reminded us that the empty seats are never empty: language and ancestors sit with us. Jonny told us he was taught to start every gathering in a good way, and showed us how AI turned him from a document parser into a cultural advisor for his Nation. Manuel Axel Strain, a 2-Spirit artist of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Simpcw and Syilx peoples, asked us to remember our teachings and listen across species, because the trees and the water are relatives too. When the song starts, I know everything that happens next is going to be okay. We are in the right place with the right people.

I did not design that. I invited people I respect and they kept coming back. Carol Anne Hilton of the Indigenomics Institute sits on the BC + AI board, so Indigenous perspectives govern this organization. They do not advise it. That is the difference between an acknowledgement and a relationship, and it is the only version I know how to do.

So the festival opens the way the meetups do. On Wednesday evening, before a single word about the future, Anthony Joseph welcomes us to Squamish territory. On Thursday morning, Gabriel George Sr. of Tsleil-Waututh Nation gives the first welcome. On Friday afternoon, Michael Running Wolf and Peter-Lucas Jones bring language, land and memory back onto the stage. In between, you will hear a lot about what these machines can do. Keep asking who they are for, and whose ground they stand on.

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CURATORIAL STATEMENT

Why humans gather now

I started the Vancouver AI meetups because I wanted this festival and did not yet have the people to hold it with. That was the whole plan. Get everyone quietly freaking out about AI into the same building once a month and see who kept coming back. People kept coming back. This past January, Vancouver AI filled the Space Centre on a weeknight. Futureproof is what that became.

Here's the thing: AI did not arrive politely. It kicked the table over for anyone whose work runs on judgment, trust, language, memory, taste or care. That is most of us. The question is no longer whether it is coming. The question is who gets to shape what it does to us, and too much of that gets decided in rooms most of us never get invited into. Inevitable is a story someone is selling you.

Both things are true. The technology is real, and the story around it is still up for grabs. I am appropriately freaked out and excited, and I built this for people who feel the same way. Curiosity in one hand, care in the other.

A friend asked me what one word I hope you walk out with. Not optimism. We have things to talk about that cut both ways. The word is honest. If you get to Friday night and think, that was an honest account of where we actually are, then this worked.

Thursday is where we are. Friday is what we build. Day one is for making sense of it together: what AI is doing to work, health, care, government and the stories we tell, from people who do those jobs for a living. Day two is for what we build next, and then we have a party.

I spent twenty years as a photographer at other people's gatherings, from SXSW to TED stages to the Olympics, and in the back rooms

where culture actually changes. I learned what makes one worth the trip. It is never the stage. It is who ends up standing next to whom. So I take the curating seriously. This program is not a stack of talks. Every pairing is a choice, and I stand behind each one.

Amber Case opens Wednesday night because the first question should be what AI is supposed to feel like when it is built for people instead of markets. Brewster Kahle follows her, because public memory is the thing most at risk and he has spent his life defending it. Philippe Pasquier closes the stage with AI as an instrument in artists' hands. On Thursday, Jos Duncan-Asé asks who this is being built for, and Brad Necyk follows with AI and Imagination. Brett Gaylor asks who gets to tell the story; Stephanie Dick asks who got to decide what counts as knowledge in the first place. Thursday closes with Anselm, Charles Bicari on creative AI in technological arts, and audience questions before I bring us together for the day's thank-yous.

Friday opens with Naomi Klein in conversation with Catherine Warren. I expect her to take apart some of what Thursday built. Good. That is what honest costs. Ana Serrano and Prem Gill take it to creativity and cultural policy. Sara Blenkhorn and Andrew Zolli take it to the scale of the planet. Michael Running Wolf and Peter-Lucas Jones of Te Hiku Media build these systems for Indigenous languages, on their own terms, and ask who owns the data and the future those tools make. Then Ben Shneiderman closes. He wrote the book on human-centered AI, and the last word of this festival goes to designs that hand people more power instead of replacing them.

Most talks are twenty minutes. Then the speakers come back out for ten minutes of your questions, and I am usually the one holding the mic. The breaks are long on purpose. The conversation in the lounge is the program, not the pause between it. Ask the person beside you what they came here to figure out.

One more honest thing. A lot of this festival was built with AI tools: the schedule, the website, the budget, the first drafts of this book. I use them every day. What they could not do was want this. They did not lose the sleep, or spend a year deciding which two people belong on the same stage at four on a Thursday afternoon. Humans did that, and it was most of the work. Remember that the next time someone tells you judgment is about to be automated.

So here is what I am asking. Bring the question you cannot solve alone. Say it out loud to a stranger before Friday. Write it in the margins of this book. Disagree with what you hear, then do something with it. Leave with better questions, new collaborators and a sharper sense of what is worth building.

Why do humans still gather when every answer is a prompt away? Because this is where I find my humanity inside the AI movement. Because some kinds of intelligence only show up when people sit together with enough trust to tell the truth. For three days, this is that place.

Understand AI. Shape what comes next.

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HOW TO READ THIS FESTIVAL

The Future Needs Places To Think.

How to read this festival

Futureproof Festival runs as a single track. Everybody hears the same talks at the same time, so the conversation afterwards starts from the same place.

The arc. Wednesday is "Opening night: Amber Case, Brewster Kahle, a live set, and a party". Thursday is "Day one: Making sense of it together": what AI is doing right now to work, health, care, government and the stories we tell, from people who do those jobs for a living. Friday is "Day two: What we build next, then the closing party".

The format. Every talk is its own twenty-minute row. After each group of talks the speakers come back on stage for ten minutes of questions from the audience, with Kris holding the mic. Wednesday's two keynotes run longer: thirty minutes of talk, then ten or fifteen of questions. Friday opens with an hour-long conversation and closes with Ben Shneiderman: twenty-five minutes of talk, then fifteen of questions.

The breaks. Breaks are conversation time, not pauses. The morning breaks are thirty minutes on purpose. Breakfast is on site Thursday and Friday. Thursday's lunch is in the lounge with the demo tables. Friday's dinner is on your own before the closing party.

The word. The word Kris hopes you leave with is honest. Thursday is where we are. Friday is what we build.

Six threads. Every row on the program carries one or more of six threads. Follow one across the three days, or let them cross.

1. **Community.** Compare approaches across professions. Learn how other people are responding to AI in their organizations, institutions and communities.
2. **Creativity.** Examine authorship and craft through generative music, animation and film. See how creative practitioners decide

where AI belongs in their work.

3. **Ethics.** Ask who owns the models and data, who benefits, and who bears the consequences. Connect AI governance to decisions you can actually make.
4. **Resilience.** Explore what AI means for institutions, knowledge and the planet. Consider which systems need to endure as the technology changes.
5. **Education.** Build the understanding to evaluate AI claims, ask better questions and help others make informed choices. Examine the assumptions beneath machine intelligence.
6. **Empowerment.** Understand where human agency belongs in AI systems. Bring that perspective to what you build, buy, commission, teach or govern.

Mark it up. Every program page has a dotted margin, and the four ruled pages at the back each carry one prompt. Write in this book. It is yours to keep.

WEDNESDAY · OCTOBER 28 · 4:00–10:30 PM

Opening night

Amber Case, Brewster Kahle, a live set, and a party

Doors at five. Two talks, a live set, then the party. Meet everybody on night one so the next two days are spent with people you know.

FEATURED

6:30–6:45 PM	Welcome to the territory
6:45–7:25 PM	Calm Technology in the Age of Loud Machines
7:50–8:35 PM	What a Library Owes the People Who Aren't Born Yet
8:40–9:04 PM	Opening-Night Creative AI Live Set

WEDNESDAY · OCTOBER 28 · ALL TIMES VANCOUVER

4:00–5:00 PM

Badge pickup opens

REGISTRATION · 60 MIN

5:00–6:30 PM

Doors open · opening party · bar

Doors and staffed booths open at 5:00 PM. Ninety minutes to arrive, get a drink and find your people before the stage program starts at 6:30 PM. Opening night includes hosted sushi and dessert, plus alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

MUSIC + GATHERING · 90 MIN

6:30–6:45 PM

Welcome to the territory

Anthony Joseph · Squamish Nation

Anthony Joseph of the Squamish Nation opens the festival with a welcome to Squamish territory. The first thing said from this stage, before any of the rest of it.

CEREMONY · 15 MIN

6:45–7:25 PM

Calm Technology in the Age of Loud Machines

Amber Case · Calm Tech Institute

Amber wrote the book on calm technology, and the first talk of the festival is hers: what AI should feel like when it is built for people instead of markets, and what it costs us when it is not. Then ten minutes of questions from the audience.

KEYNOTE + Q&A · 40 MIN

7:25–7:50 PM

AI Builders Fellowship: what they made

Jacob Ortiz · AI Builders Fellowship +

Daniel Shavit · Independent

Two builders from the AI Builders Fellowship, Internet Archive Canada's program with BC + AI, each get ten minutes to show what they built. Jacob Ortiz presents The Archive Argues With Itself: a way to compare Canada's public-health records across decades, open the scanned pages behind an AI answer and see where the archive cannot support one. Daniel Shavit presents What happened on your street? Vancouver through time, from the Archive's records: a film-led journey through Vancouver built from open data, council minutes, archive films and documents. Type an address, explore its history and follow each finding back to the Internet Archive. Then the man who built the Archive takes the stage.

FELLOWSHIP SHOWCASE · 25 MIN

7:50–8:35 PM

What a Library Owes the People Who Aren't Born Yet

Brewster Kahle · Internet Archive

Brewster built the Internet Archive. Public memory, the open web, libraries, and what a civic AI owes the people who have not been born yet. Then fifteen minutes of questions from the audience.

KEYNOTE + Q&A · 45 MIN

8:35–8:40 PM

Between the keynote and the live set

TRANSITION · 5 MIN

8:40–9:04 PM

Opening-Night Creative AI Live Set

Philippe Pasquier · Metacreation Lab,

Simon Fraser University

Artists with AI as their instrument: generative visuals, live-coded sound, and a crowd that gets louder as it goes. 24 minutes, then the set hands the night to the party.

LIVE PERFORMANCE · 24 MIN

9:04–10:30 PM

Open social · bar

The bar, and the conversations that started during the talks. Lights out at half past ten.

MUSIC + GATHERING · 86 MIN

THURSDAY · OCTOBER 29 · 8:00 AM–5:20 PM

Day one

Making sense of it together

What AI is doing right now to work, health, care, government and the stories we tell, from people who do those jobs for a living. Audience questions after each group of talks, with five-minute Q&A windows for the closing talks.

FEATURED

2:35–2:55 PM	Who Owns the Infrastructure Underneath All This
4:35–4:50 PM	Closing talk with Anselm
4:55–5:10 PM	Creative AI in Technological Arts

THURSDAY · OCTOBER 29 · ALL TIMES VANCOUVER

8:00–9:00 AM	*Breakfast · registration* MEAL · 60 MIN
9:00–9:10 AM	Indigenous welcome · Gabriel George Sr., Tsleil-Waututh Nation Gabriel George Sr. of Tsleil-Waututh Nation gives the first welcome on Thursday. CEREMONY · 10 MIN
9:10–9:20 AM	Where we are, and what today is asking Kris Krüg · BC + AI Ecosystem Association Kris sets the day in ten minutes. Where we are, what Thursday is asking, and how the talks talk to each other. WELCOME · 10 MIN
9:20–9:40 AM	Consciousness, Agency, and Building It Anyway Loki Jorgenson · Circle Innovation Loki on what might actually be going on inside these things. TALK · 20 MIN
9:40–10:00 AM	Peeking Behind the Curtain Dr. Angelica Lim · Simon Fraser University · ROSIE Lab Exploring our relationships with AI and how it affects us TALK · 20 MIN
10:00–10:10 AM	Questions with the speakers Loki Jorgenson · Circle Innovation + Dr. Angelica Lim · Simon Fraser University · ROSIE Lab Then both of them on stage, comparing notes. AUDIENCE Q&A · 10 MIN

10:10–10:30 AM

The Art of Asking Questions: Futureproof Edition

Shane Gibson · Academy
Professional Sales

Shane on asking better questions than the machine.

TALK · 20 MIN

10:30–10:50 AM

The Skill AI Can't Give You (And Keeps Talking You Out Of)

Kerris Hougardy · Tucows
Ting Internet ·

Kerris on the judgment AI keeps talking you out of, from inside a company rolling it out.

TALK · 20 MIN

10:50–11:00 AM

Questions with the speakers

Shane Gibson · Professional Sales Academy + Kerris
Hougardy · Ting Internet · Tucows

Then Shane and Kerris taking questions.

AUDIENCE Q&A · 10 MIN

11:00–11:20 AM

Morning break · coffee · conversation

BREAK · 20 MIN

11:20–11:40 AM

Who Gets to Tell the Story

Jos Duncan-Asé · Love Now Media

Jos on empathy as a media practice and communities that own their own stories.

TALK · 20 MIN

11:40 AM–12:00 PM

AI and Imagination

Dr. Brad Necyk · School Shawnigan Lake

Brad Necyk on AI and imagination.

TALK · 20 MIN

12:00–12:10 PM

Questions with the speakers

Jos Duncan-Asé · Love Now Media + Dr. Brad Necyk · Shawnigan Lake School

Jos and Brad return to the stage for questions.

AUDIENCE Q&A · 10 MIN

12:10–12:30 PM

The Model is the Medium: The Future of Collaborative Intelligence

Toshi Anders Hoo · Former Senior Research Director, Institute for the Future

The Future of Collaborative Intelligence. What collaborative intelligence between people and AI looks like when it works, from a decade of futures research.

TALK · 20 MIN

12:30–1:30 PM

Lunch · demo tables in the lounge

MEAL · 60 MIN

1:30–1:45 PM

The afternoon reset: Suzy Easton's solo electronic debut

Suzy Easton · Independent

Suzy Easton makes her solo electronic debut. A Vancouver musician and technologist brings years of playing in bands, recording and building instruments into fifteen minutes of new electronic music after lunch.

LIVE PERFORMANCE · 15 MIN

1:45–2:05 PM

Where the Hype Runs Out in Drug Discovery

Simon Haworth · Intellomx

Simon on what AI is actually doing in drug discovery, and where the hype runs out.

TALK · 20 MIN

2:05–2:25 PM

Where care happens

Dean Shev · VHT.ai

Dean builds health AI that has to answer to real patients, HIPAA and PHIPA at the same time.

TALK · 20 MIN

2:25–2:35 PM

Questions with the speakers

Simon Haworth · Intellomx + Dean Shev · VHT.ai

The lab and the clinic, back to back, then both of them taking questions.

AUDIENCE Q&A · 10 MIN

2:35–2:55 PM

Who Owns the Infrastructure Underneath All This

Sev Geraskin · PolarGrid · Economy of Wisdom Foundation

Sev is building a real-time AI inference network: what actually survives the trip from demo to production, and what it costs.

TALK · 20 MIN

2:55–3:15 PM

Safety Questions. Science Answers.

Kristen Delphos · UL Research Institutes

Kristen on how safety science gets translated for the public without being flattened.

TALK · 20 MIN

3:15–3:25 PM

Questions with the speakers

Sev Geraskin · PolarGrid · Economy of Wisdom Foundation + Kristen Delphos · UL Research Institutes

Sev and Kristen on the systems we build, how we assess their risks and what makes them deserve public trust.

AUDIENCE Q&A · 10 MIN

3:25–3:45 PM

Afternoon break

BREAK · 20 MIN

3:45–4:05 PM

BrainRot Revolution

Brett Gaylor · Hololabs

Brett Gaylor brings BrainRot Revolution, his doctoral research on documentary games and critical data literacy. How can playful, participatory work help people question AI and imagine a different internet?

TALK · 20 MIN

4:05–4:25 PM

Where Our Ideas About Machine Intelligence Came From

Stephanie Dick · School of Communication, Simon Fraser University

Stephanie on the long history of where our ideas about machine intelligence came from, and who got to decide what counts as knowledge.

TALK · 20 MIN

4:25–4:35 PM

Questions with the speakers

Brett Gaylor · Hololabs + Stephanie Dick · School of Communication, Simon Fraser University

A filmmaker and a historian, then both on stage for questions.

AUDIENCE Q&A · 10 MIN

4:35–4:50 PM

Closing talk with Anselm

Anselm joins us for Thursday's closing talks, followed by audience questions.

TALK · 15 MIN

4:50–4:55 PM

Q&A with Anselm

Five minutes of audience questions with Anselm.

AUDIENCE Q&A · 5 MIN

4:55–5:10 PM

Creative AI in Technological Arts

Charles Bicari · Société des arts technologiques (SAT), Montréal

Charles Bicari shares creative AI work at the Society for Arts and Technology, lessons from software and hardware projects, and a preview of Friday's work.

TALK · 15 MIN

5:10–5:15 PM

Q&A with Charles Bicari

Charles Bicari · Société des arts technologiques (SAT), Montréal

Five minutes of audience questions with Charles Bicari.

AUDIENCE Q&A · 5 MIN

5:15–5:20 PM

Thursday wrap and thank-yous

Kris Krüg · BC + AI Ecosystem Association

Kris closes Thursday with thanks and a look ahead to Friday.

CEREMONY · 5 MIN

FRIDAY · OCTOBER 30 · 8:30 AM–10:00 PM

Day two

What we build next, then the closing party

Breakfast from 8:30 and the opening welcome at 9:20, then Naomi Klein at 9:30 with Catherine Warren. The daily practice, the craft, the community and the long view. Ben Shneiderman closes the talks. The daytime program ends at 5:30; dinner is on your own, and the closing party starts at 8.

FEATURED

9:30–10:30 AM	A FanTrust Conversation with Naomi Klein
4:35–5:15 PM	There is No "I" in AI
5:15–5:30 PM	Closing ceremony
8:00–10:00 PM	Closing Party

FRIDAY · OCTOBER 30 · ALL TIMES VANCOUVER

8:30–9:20 AM

Breakfast

MEAL · 50 MIN

9:20–9:30 AM

Opening welcome

Manuel Axel Strain · xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Simpcw, and Syilx

Manuel Axel Strain welcomes everyone to Friday morning at Futureproof Festival.

WELCOME · 10 MIN

9:30–10:30 AM

A FanTrust Conversation with Naomi Klein

Naomi Klein · UBC Centre for Climate Justice

Catherine Warren · FanTrust

Join us for an intimate conversation with international bestselling author and climate justice advocate Naomi Klein. FanTrust President Catherine Warren sits down with Naomi to discuss her worldview and new book, End Times Fascism: And the Fight for the Living World, co-written with Astra Taylor. Oligarchs, tech bros, and populist politicians may look like strange bedfellows, but they share an AI ethos and a common toolkit. Together, we'll unbox it. From harrowing to hopeful, hear how Naomi's work traces systems of power, who profits from them, and where the rest of us can still push back.

CONVERSATION · 60 MIN

10:30–10:50 AM

AI, creativity and cultural policy

Ana Serrano · OCAD University + Prem Gill · Cultural Policy Hub, OCAD University

Ana Serrano and Prem Gill in a fireside conversation about AI and creativity, Public AI Lab, and the Canadian Creative Industries AI Working Group, co-chaired by TIFF and OCAD University and administered by OCAD's Cultural Policy Hub.

CONVERSATION · 20 MIN

10:50–11:00 AM

Questions with the speakers

Ana Serrano · OCAD University + Prem Gill · Cultural Policy Hub, OCAD University

Ana and Prem on stage, taking questions from the audience.

AUDIENCE Q&A · 10 MIN

11:00–11:30 AM

Morning break · coffee · conversation

BREAK · 30 MIN

11:30–11:50 AM

Life-Centred AI and Who Owns What We Build

Sara Blenkhorn · Buckminster Fuller Institute

Sara on life-centred design and who gets to own what we build.

TALK · 20 MIN

11:50 AM–12:10 PM

Resilience at the scale of the whole planet

Andrew Zolli · Planet

Andrew on resilience at the scale of the whole planet, and how communities get through uncertainty.

TALK · 20 MIN

12:10–12:20 PM	**Questions with the speakers** Sara Blenkhorn · Institute + Andrew Buckminster Fuller · Zolli · Planet Life-centred design and planetary resilience, then both on stage taking questions. AUDIENCE Q&A · 10 MIN
12:20–1:20 PM	*Lunch* MEAL · 60 MIN
1:20–1:40 PM	**AI for Quirky Humans** Alexandra Samuel · Independent Alexandra on what neuroscience says about how differently we are wired, and how AI makes room to work with those differences instead of hiding them. TALK · 20 MIN
1:40–1:50 PM	**Questions with the speakers** Alexandra Samuel · Independent Alexandra on stage, taking questions from the audience. AUDIENCE Q&A · 10 MIN
1:50–2:10 PM	**Green Light Yourself** Kevin Friel · BC + AI Film Club Kevin co-founded the BC + AI Film Club. What happens when filmmakers stop waiting for permission, make the thing and screen it. TALK · 20 MIN
2:10–2:30 PM	**Blood & Glitter** Mayumi Rollings · Tiny Ghost Studios Mayumi runs an animation studio that uses AI everywhere and refuses to lose the artists. TALK · 20 MIN

2:30–2:50 PM

Creative AI: polarization and alternatives

Philippe Pasquier · Metacreation Lab, Simon Fraser University

Philippe Pasquier, director of SFU's Metacreation Lab, on creative AI, polarization and alternatives.

TALK · 20 MIN

2:50–3:05 PM

Questions with the speakers

Kevin Friel · BC + AI Film Club + Mayumi Rollings · Tiny Ghost Studios + Philippe Pasquier · Metacreation Lab, Simon Fraser University

Kevin, Mayumi and Philippe take questions on artists, authorship and human-led creative work.

AUDIENCE Q&A · 15 MIN

3:05–3:35 PM

Afternoon break · community photo

BREAK · 30 MIN

3:35–3:55 PM

Language Reclamation and Who Owns the Future

Michael Running Wolf · IndigiGenius

Michael builds machine learning for Indigenous language reclamation, and asks who owns the data, the systems and the future those tools make.

TALK · 20 MIN

3:55–4:15 PM

Peter-Lucas Jones

Te Hiku Media

Peter-Lucas Jones of Te Hiku Media joins the Friday program.

TALK · 20 MIN

4:15–4:25 PM

Questions with the speakers

Michael Running Wolf · IndigiGenius + Peter-Lucas Jones · Te Hiku Media

Michael and Peter-Lucas on stage, taking questions from the audience.

AUDIENCE Q&A · 10 MIN

4:25–4:35 PM

Before the closing keynote

BREAK · 10 MIN

4:35–5:15 PM

There is No "I" in AI

Ben Shneiderman · University of Maryland

The last talk of Futureproof Festival is Ben Shneiderman's. He wrote the book on human-centered AI, and he closes on designs that hand people more power instead of replacing them. Twenty-five minutes, then fifteen minutes of facilitated questions.

KEYNOTE · 40 MIN

5:15–5:30 PM

Closing ceremony

Fifteen minutes to say what we heard, what is still unresolved, and where Futureproof Festival goes from here.

CEREMONY · 15 MIN

5:30–8:00 PM

Dinner on your own

BREAK · 150 MIN

8:00–10:00 PM

Closing Party

Kris Krüg · BC + AI Ecosystem Association + Charles Bicari ·

Société des arts technologiques (SAT), Montréal

Music, art, and the conversations that are not ready to end. Friday, 8 to 10 PM at FriendsQuarters, Unit 200, 116 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1G8. Buzz 200. The Friday closing party includes hosted food and alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. It's included with your ticket. Lights out at ten.

More artists to announce.

MUSIC + GATHERING · 120 MIN

Vancouver AI Meetup, February 2026 Photo: Michelle Diamond

BC + AI Meetup, January 2026 Photo: Michelle Diamond

THE PEOPLE ON STAGE

Speakers

38 published profiles, alphabetical by surname. Every profile, with links, is at futureproof.website/speakers.

Charles Bicari

SYSTEMS DESIGNER AND INTEGRATOR, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION LAB · SOCIÉTÉ DES ARTS TECHNOLOGIQUES (SAT), MONTRÉAL

Charles Bicari is a systems designer and integrator at the Research and Innovation Lab of the Société des arts technologiques in Montréal, building the systems that installations and instruments need underneath them to exist.

Start here: Realtime latent-space synthesis · Technocompost · Computer vision + OSC workshop

futureproof.website/speakers/charles-bicari/

Sara Blenkhorn

DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION · BUCKMINSTER FULLER INSTITUTE

Life-Centred AI and Who Owns What We Build

Sara Blenkhorn is Director of Innovation at the Buckminster Fuller Institute, where she's redesigning how founders and institutions govern, own, and structure themselves for the AI era.

Start here: Textile Lab for Circularity · Social Venture Network

futureproof.website/speakers/sara-blenkhorn/

Lynda Brown-Ganzert

CEO · RXPX INC

The Human Side of Health

Lynda Brown-Ganzert is a healthcare executive, entrepreneur, and digital health innovator with more than 30 years of experience building technology companies, and the founder and CEO of RxPx.

Start here: RxPx · Centre for Digital Media

futureproof.website/speakers/lynda-brown-ganzert/

Amber Case

FOUNDER · CALM TECH INSTITUTE

Calm Technology in the Age of Loud Machines

Amber Case is the founder of the Calm Tech Institute and author of Calm Technology, whose work gives builders and institutions practical language for designing technology that respects attention, agency, and everyday life.

Start here: Calm Technology · We Are All Cyborgs Now · Calm Tech Certified

futureproof.website/speakers/amber-case/

Kristen Delphos

VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS · UL RESEARCH INSTITUTES

Safety Questions. Science Answers.

Kristen Delphos is vice president of communications and public affairs at UL Research Institutes, an independent safety science organization.

Start here: Here's Why · Humanizing Science Through Storytelling · Why ChatGPT Will Never Replace Human Creative Writing

futureproof.website/speakers/kristen-delphos/

Stephanie Dick

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR · SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Where Our Ideas About Machine Intelligence Came From

Stephanie Dick is a historian of science and technology and an assistant professor in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University. She traces the history of mathematics, computing, AI, and automation, and how technologies encode ideas about intelligence, expertise, and human value.

Start here: How AI Sets Limits for Human Aspiration · Abstractions and Embodiments · Recognition

futureproof.website/speakers/stephanie-dick/

Sarah Downey

FOUNDER · SARAH DOWNEY CONSULTING

Sarah Downey is the founder of Sarah Downey Consulting, a Victoria practice that helps Canadian nonprofit leaders adopt AI to support the people, values, and missions that matter most. She led three charities as executive director over 20 years in the sector, then almost walked away.

Start here: Nonprofits Could Lead on AI Governance. Here's Why They Should. · Intro to AI for Nonprofits · When Builders Show Up for Nonprofits

futureproof.website/speakers/sarah-downey/

Jos Duncan-Asé

FOUNDER · LOVE NOW MEDIA

Who Gets to Tell the Story

Jos Duncan-Asé is the founder, executive producer, and publisher of Love Now Media, an empathy-centered media company in Philadelphia that builds its stories with the communities who live them. It runs a digital newsroom, the print Love Now Magazine, podcasts, and live storytelling nights.

Start here: Love x Tech: Real or Cake? · Every Voice Every Vote · Making Love & Designing the Future

futureproof.website/speakers/jos-duncan-ase/

Suzy Easton

MUSICIAN AND TECHNOLOGIST · INDEPENDENT

Suzy Easton is a born and raised Vancouver musician and technologist. She holds certificates in Digital/Analog Recording Arts from Columbia Academy and Music Technology from Douglas College.

Start here: A Little Louder · Lousy Outages · What Would Steve Albini Do?

futureproof.website/speakers/suzy-easton/

Kevin Friel

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR · BC + AI FILM CLUB

Green Light Yourself

Kevin Friel is a Vancouver filmmaker, video producer, and VFX artist with more than 25 years in production, and these days he makes short films with generative video tools.

Start here: That Escalated Quickly · The Visitor · Shepherds

futureproof.website/speakers/kevin-friel/

Brett Gaylor

VP CREATIVE · HOLOLABS

Brett Gaylor is an interactive media producer and researcher.

Start here: BrainRot Revolution · RiP! A Remix Manifesto · Discriminator

futureproof.website/speakers/brett-gaylor/

Sev Geraskin

CO-FOUNDER & VP OF ENGINEERING · POLARGRID · ECONOMY OF WISDOM FOUNDATION

Who Owns the Infrastructure Underneath All This

Sev Geraskin is co-founder and VP of Engineering at PolarGrid, which runs AI inference on GPU nodes at the network edge, close to users, so voice agents answer without the lag of a distant cloud.

Start here: Whose Values Train AI? · Synthetic Voices Erase Human Texture · Transmutarianism

futureproof.website/speakers/sev-geraskin/

Shane Gibson

FOUNDER & KEYNOTE SPEAKER · PROFESSIONAL SALES ACADEMY

The Art of Asking Questions: Futureproof Edition

Shane Gibson is a Vancouver sales trainer and author who co-founded Professional Sales Academy, a B2B sales training and AI sales enablement company. He first gave his keynote on AI and the future of sales in 2018, when that was still a novel idea, and it is now his most popular talk.

Start here: Full AI Keynote · Why Your AI Tool Isn't Broken But Your AI Mindset Might Be · Real Results in a Virtual Economy

futureproof.website/speakers/shane-gibson/

Prem Gill

SENIOR POLICY FELLOW · CULTURAL POLICY HUB, OCAD UNIVERSITY

Prem Gill is Senior Policy Fellow at OCAD University's Cultural Policy Hub. Her work spans more than twenty years across film, television, digital media, technology and cultural policy.

futureproof.website/speakers/prem-gill/

Simon Haworth

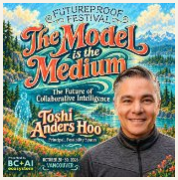
CEO · INTELLOMX

Where the Hype Runs Out in Drug Discovery

Simon Haworth is CEO of Intellomx, a UK drug discovery company that uses its own neural network models to find the drivers of disease in raw gene and protein data. The company starts from what the biology measures and says flatly that it is not an LLM literature-mining engine.

Start here: AI: Vive la Revolution! · Second collaboration with Johnson & Johnson · Revealing Causal Biology to Transform Drug Discovery

futureproof.website/speakers/simon-haworth/



Toshi Anders Hoo

PRINCIPAL, POSSIBILITY SPACES · FORMER SENIOR RESEARCH DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE

The Model is the Medium: The Future of Collaborative Intelligence

Toshi Anders Hoo is a futurist, technologist, researcher, and the founder of Possibility Spaces, a design strategy studio that helps organizations work through transformational change.

Start here: The Model is the Medium · Three Horizons of AI-Enabled Work and Workers

futureproof.website/speakers/toshi-anders-hoo/

Kerris Hougardy

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PEOPLE · TING INTERNET · TUCOWS

The Skill AI Can't Give You (And Keeps Talking You Out Of)

Kerris Hougardy is senior vice president of people at Ting Internet, an HR and people strategy leader who partners with executives to build resilient organizations through change at scale. She has more than 20 years in HR and an MBA from Simon Fraser University.

Start here: AI Skill-Displacement Risk & Reskilling Navigator

futureproof.website/speakers/kerris-hougardy/

Peter-Lucas Jones

CEO · TE HIKU MEDIA

Peter-Lucas Jones is CEO of Te Hiku Media, an iwi broadcasting organisation and technology hub in Kaitaia, Aotearoa New Zealand. He leads work on te reo Māori speech recognition, speech synthesis and pronunciation tools, connecting language revitalisation with Indigenous data sovereignty.

Start here: Kaituhi · Papa Reo: Enabling a Sovereign Digital Future for Indigenous Languages

futureproof.website/speakers/peter-lucas-jones/

Loki Jorgenson

CTO & DIRECTOR, INNOVATION · CIRCLE INNOVATION

Consciousness, Agency, and Building It Anyway

Loki Jorgenson is CTO and Director of Innovation at Circle Innovation, where he runs funded programs that help small companies get past their barriers to innovation.

Start here: What Is Consciousness When AI Is Everywhere? · A Conversation on Dual-use and Defence Innovation

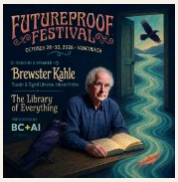
futureproof.website/speakers/loki-jorgenson/

Anthony Joseph

COUNCILLOR · SQUAMISH NATION

Anthony Joseph is a Councillor of the Squamish Nation.

futureproof.website/speakers/anthony-joseph/



Brewster Kahle

FOUNDER & DIGITAL LIBRARIAN · INTERNET ARCHIVE

What a Library Owes the People Who Aren't Born Yet

Brewster Kahle is the founder and digital librarian of the Internet Archive, the nonprofit library he started in 1996 to offer universal access to all knowledge. Its Wayback Machine passed 1 trillion archived web pages in October 2025.

Start here: The Wayback Machine · Generative AI is a New Drug · Ethics of Digital Librarianship

futureproof.website/speakers/brewster-kahle/

Naomi Klein

AUTHOR & JOURNALIST · UBC CENTRE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Naomi Klein is an award-winning journalist, columnist, and the international bestselling author of ten books published in over 35 languages including No Logo, The Shock Doctrine, This Changes Everything, No Is Not Enough, On Fire, and Doppelganger: A Trip into the Mirror World which won the inaugural Women's Prize for Non-Fiction in 2024.

Start here: End Times Fascism and the Fight for the Living World · Doppelganger

futureproof.website/speakers/naomi-klein/

Kris Krüg

FOUNDER & FESTIVAL DIRECTOR · BC + AI ECOSYSTEM ASSOCIATION

Why Humans Gather Now

Kris Krüg is a photographer, creative technologist, and community builder. He has spent two decades documenting technology, art, activism, and the back rooms where culture actually changes, on a public trail that runs through National Geographic, CBC, SXSW, TEDxOilSpill, and the Olympics.

futureproof.website/speakers/kris-krug/

Dr. Angelica Lim

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF COMPUTING SCIENCE · SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY · ROSIE LAB

Peeking Behind the Curtain

Angelica Lim is an associate professor of computing science at Simon Fraser University and director of its ROSIE Lab, short for Robots with Social Intelligence and Empathy.

Start here: Ma Vie Avec Un Robot · On Designing User-Friendly Robots · Python Practice Lab

futureproof.website/speakers/angelica-lim/

Dr. Brad Necyk

ARTIST, RESEARCHER & COMPUTER SCIENCE AND AI TEACHER · SHAWNIGAN LAKE SCHOOL

AI and Imagination

Brad Necyk, PhD, MFA, is an artist, researcher, and computer science and AI teacher at Shawnigan Lake School. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at York University through the Vision: Science to Applications (VISTA) program, specializing in creative applications of artificial intelligence.

Start here: Cyberdelic Studio

futureproof.website/speakers/brad-necyk/

Jacob Ortiz

AI BUILDERS FELLOW · AI BUILDERS FELLOWSHIP

The Archive Argues With Itself

Jacob Ortiz built The Archive Argues With Itself during the AI Builders Fellowship, Internet Archive Canada's program with BC + AI. His open-source project explores Canada's public-health record through scanned government publications held by the Internet Archive.

Start here: The Archive Argues With Itself

futureproof.website/speakers/jacob-ortiz/

Philippe Pasquier

PROFESSOR & DIRECTOR · METACREATION LAB, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Creative AI: polarization and alternatives

Philippe Pasquier is a French-Canadian artist, researcher, and professor at Simon Fraser University, where he directs the Metacreation Lab for Creative AI. His work brings together artificial intelligence, computational creativity, and the arts, with a particular focus on human-AI co-creation.

Start here: Autolume · Generative Art and Computational Creativity · Monobor

futureproof.website/speakers/philippe-pasquier/

Mayumi Rollings

CEO & CO-FOUNDER · TINY GHOST STUDIOS

Blood & Glitter

Mayumi Rollings is co-founder and CEO of Tiny Ghost Studios, where she builds original animated worlds with AI-assisted, human-directed pipelines and a small team with an enormous soul.

Start here: Is AI Film Still Art? · Not Your Monster · TGS Winter Reel 2025

futureproof.website/speakers/mayumi-rollings/

Alexandra Samuel

TECHNOLOGY JOURNALIST & AUTHOR · INDEPENDENT

AI for Quirky Humans

Alexandra Samuel is a journalist and technologist whose AI stories appear frequently in The Wall Street Journal and Harvard Business Review.

Start here: Me + Viv · We Got Social Media Wrong. Can We Get AI Right? · Working Neurosmart

futureproof.website/speakers/alexandra-samuel/

Ana Serrano

PRESIDENT & VICE-CHANCELLOR · OCAD UNIVERSITY

Ana Serrano is President and Vice-Chancellor of OCAD University, co-founder of DemocracyXChange, and an award-winning leader in digital media and cultural innovation.

Start here: Body/Mind/Change · Prison Dancer: The Interactive Webmusical · DemocracyXChange

futureproof.website/speakers/ana-serrano/

Daniel Shavit

AI BUILDERS FELLOW · INDEPENDENT

What happened on your street? Vancouver through time, from the Archive's records

Daniel Shavit builds independent tools that make public records legible: city budgets, contracts and council decisions turned into accessible information. For the AI Builders Fellowship, he is building Tale of a City, a way to explore Vancouver through its own public records.

Start here: Tale of a City

futureproof.website/speakers/daniel-shavit/

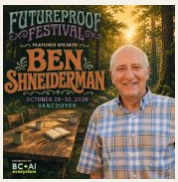
Dean Shev

CTO AND CO-FOUNDER · VHT.AI

Dean Shev is CTO and co-founder of Virtual Healthcare Technologies, a Vancouver company building ethical healthcare AI for patients.

Start here: ECHNA · How AI Transformed Survey Data Into Human Connection · VHT.ai fireside chat

futureproof.website/speakers/dean-shev/



Ben Shneiderman

EMERITUS DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE · UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

There is No "I" in AI

Ben Shneiderman is an Emeritus Distinguished University Professor of Computer Science at the University of Maryland, where he founded the Human-Computer Interaction Lab and directed it from 1983 to 2000.

Start here: Human-Centered AI · Designing the User Interface · Treemap Art Project

futureproof.website/speakers/ben-shneiderman/

Ashley Smith

AI VISIBILITY STRATEGIST · SHOW YOUR PROOF

The Invisible Expert: AI Search Office Hours

Ashley Smith is an AI visibility strategist and founder of Show Your Proof. She helps professionals identify and close their Proof Gap, the disconnect between their real-world expertise and the evidence available online for AI tools to find, understand, and trust.

Start here: The Proof Gap · Proof Memo #1: Can a Voice Memo Help You Show Up in AI Search? · Canada Now

futureproof.website/speakers/ashley-smith/

Manuel Axel Strain

2-SPIRIT ARTIST · XʷMƏƟKʷƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM), SIMPCW, AND SYILX

Manuel Axel Strain is a 2-Spirit artist from the lands and waters of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Simpcw, and Syilx peoples. Their practice braids family memory, land-based ceremony, and anti-colonial aesthetics to re-imagine how we relate across beings and systems.R. MacMillan Space Centre.

Start here: Artificial Intelligence for Interspecies Communication

futureproof.website/speakers/manuel-axel-strain/

Catherine Warren

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT · FANTRUST

Catherine Warren is an international media-tech executive and creative economy strategist, with 25 years at the intersection of innovation, culture, and trust. She is the founder and president of FanTrust, a pioneer in fan-building, digital dealmaking, and urban placemaking.

Start here: Turning Archives into Assets

futureproof.website/speakers/catherine-warren/

Michael Running Wolf

CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS · INDIGIGENIUS

Language Reclamation and Who Owns the Future

Michael Running Wolf is a computer scientist who builds AI for Indigenous language reclamation, and chairs the IndigiGenius board of directors.

Start here: Why First Languages AI Can Be a Reality · First Languages AI Reality · Lakota AI Code Camp

futureproof.website/speakers/michael-running-wolf/

Andrew Zolli

CHIEF IMPACT OFFICER · PLANET

Andrew Zolli is Chief Impact Officer at Planet, which has deployed the largest constellation of Earth-observing satellites in history. Together, these satellites image the entire surface of the Earth, every day, in high resolution.

Start here: Resilience: Why Things Bounce Back · The Verbs of Resilience · Using Space to Help Life on Earth: A Progress Report

futureproof.website/speakers/andrew-zolli/

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

The AI Builders Fellowship

AI Builders Fellowship: what they made

Two builders from the AI Builders Fellowship, Internet Archive Canada's program with BC + AI, each get ten minutes to show what they built. Jacob Ortiz presents The Archive Argues With Itself: a way to compare Canada's public-health records across decades, open the scanned pages behind an AI answer and see where the archive cannot support one. Daniel Shavit presents What happened on your street? Vancouver through time, from the Archive's records: a film-led journey through Vancouver built from open data, council minutes, archive films and documents. Type an address, explore its history and follow each finding back to the Internet Archive. Then the man who built the Archive takes the stage.

FOUNDING SPONSOR

Internet Archive Canada

Backs the AI Builders Fellowship alongside BC + AI.

https://internetarchivecanada.org/

HOW WE USE AI

Do Not Outsource Your Imagination.

Our AI policy

Futureproof Festival would be a ridiculous place to pretend the machines are not here. We use them to research, draft, design, code, test, and answer festival questions. We do not hand them the steering wheel, the guest list, or the final word.

Where we use it

01 WORDS AND RESEARCH

A sparring partner, not a ghostwriter with the keys.

We use AI to organize research, test arguments, find gaps, tighten drafts, and get unstuck. The brief, point of view, sources, and final responsibility stay with a person. We do not feed someone else's work into a model and call the rearranged version ours.

02 CODE AND OPERATIONS

Fast hands still need tests.

AI agents help us write code, inspect systems, reconcile records, and automate repetitive work. Their changes go through the same tests, review, and privacy rules as anything a person writes. Fast is useful. Untraceable is not.

03 ART AND GRAPHICS

Generated can be expressive. It cannot pretend to be evidence.

We use generative image tools as part of Futureproof's campaign-art practice. We do not pass synthetic scenes off as documentary photographs, fabricate attendance or participation, or invent a person's face, quote, endorsement, or presence. Permissioned likenesses and final public assets get human review.

04 FESTIVALCHAT

A useful guide, not an oracle or an account desk.

When enabled, FestivalChat uses Anthropic's API to answer questions from a bounded set of public festival facts. It cannot see registrations, payments, private attendee data, unannounced speakers, or your account. It can still be wrong. Sensitive questions go to a person.

Hard lines

01 ### No confident bullshit.

Names, dates, prices, quotes, credits, partnerships, availability, and claims get checked against a real source. Fluency is not evidence. When we get something wrong, we correct it.

02 ### No imaginary humans.

We do not clone a voice, fabricate a likeness, manufacture a testimonial, or place someone at the festival without permission. Stylized speaker art begins with permissioned source material and stays private until a human clears the exact asset.

03 ### No private life in a public prompt.

We minimize what a tool receives and do not paste sensitive personal, payment, health, accessibility, credential, contract, or protected roster information into public consumer AI tools. Anything public-facing only sees what we have already published.

04 ### No robot gets a vote.

AI does not make the final call on speakers, press accreditation, sponsorship, prices, refunds, accessibility, consent, safety reports, conduct enforcement, publication, or external messages. People own decisions that affect people.

05 ### No invisible chatbot.

If you are interacting with an AI system on a Futureproof surface, we say so. We explain its lane, keep a human contact available, and test the boundaries instead of relying on a cheerful disclaimer.

Sources we read: Lara Kroeker Interactive, Government of Canada, Associated Press, The Guardian, NIST AI Risk Management Framework. Last updated August 22, 2026. Read the full policy and its sources at futureproof.website/ai-policy

TAKE CARE

Carry Fire

Take care

Treat everyone with respect. Assume good faith. When someone tells you they're uncomfortable, believe them and adjust. If you wouldn't say it to your manager, don't say it here.

CONSENT AND PHOTOS

Ask first. Respect no.

Futureproof Festival is built for real conversation, so consent matters. Ask before photographing, filming, recording, tagging, or posting another attendee in a recognizable way.

- Do not record private conversations without clear permission from everyone involved.
- Respect people who step out of a shot or ask not to be tagged.
- Watch for posted signs and staff directions on no-photo areas once you are in the building.

ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY

Plan around the access facts we have.

The Space Centre lists accessible entry and washrooms. For festival-specific questions about seating, room routing, elevators, or rest areas, email kk@bc-ai.ca before you arrive. FriendsQuarters: On the second floor, reached by stairs. Email kk@bc-ai.ca before travelling if you need step-free access; arrangements have not yet been confirmed.

- Email the team early if stairs, distance, seating, sensory load, arrival timing, or mobility support affect your day.
- We will reply. Count on a specific support only once we have confirmed it in writing.
- At the venue, ask a festival or venue staff member for help finding your way.

FOOD AND DRINK

Opening night includes hosted sushi and dessert, plus alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Thursday and Friday include hosted breakfast sandwiches, fruit bowls and coffee, plus lunch on both days. Thursday and Friday dinners are on your own before any evening activities. The Friday closing party includes hosted food and alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

For menu, allergy, or dietary questions, email hello@bc-ai.ca before the festival.

REPORTING PATH

If something feels wrong, tell us.

Use the Code of Conduct and kk@bc-ai.ca. If you need immediate help at the festival, ask a badged volunteer, the registration desk, or a venue staff member. For conduct concerns, ask a volunteer or the desk to reach Kris Krüg.

For venue access planning before the festival, email kk@bc-ai.ca.

futureproof.website/code-of-conduct

AI Meetup, June 2025 Photo: Michelle Diamond

BC + AI Meetup, November 2025 Photo: Michelle Diamond

THANK YOU

FOUNDING SPONSOR

Internet Archive Canada

Brewster Kahle built the Internet Archive so the public record would still be there after the companies that made it had moved on. Internet Archive Canada is the Founding Sponsor of this festival, and they backed the AI Builders Fellowship with BC + AI: six weeks, two builders, a hundred thousand Canadian government publications, and the demos you see on Wednesday night before Brewster takes the stage. That is the partner I wanted first. Thank you for believing in year one.

Backs the AI Builders Fellowship alongside BC + AI.

https://internetarchivecanada.org/

THANK YOU

SUPPORTING SPONSORSHIP

Hootsuite

Hootsuite was built in Vancouver. When they came in as a Supporting sponsorship, they put a hometown company behind independent AI education and let the program stay the program. Thank you for showing up for your own city.

Social media publishing, analytics and listening tools, supporting independent AI education at Futureproof Festival.

https://www.hootsuite.com/

BUILT WITH

Community partners

Nobody planned this festival from the top down. It grew out of the monthly meetups, the Film Club nights, the data people and the design people and the artists who kept turning up for each other. The groups on these pages held the thing up before it had a name. Go find them after the festival. That is where the next one starts.

Data for Good Vancouver

Vancouver's volunteer data science community. Co-curators of Data Nerds Day programming at Futureproof Festival.

dataforgood.ca

DAMA-Vancouver

Data management and governance professionals. Brings the data stewardship lens to AI conversations.

dama-vancouver.org

SFU Metacreation Lab

Simon Fraser University's research group on machine creativity and generative AI in art. Contributes to the festival's creative AI performance programming.

metacreation.net

BC + AI Film Club

Screens and discusses AI-themed films year-round. Curates the festival's film programming arc.

Multimodal Media Lab

Vancouver AI-and-cinema media lab building multimodal storytelling tools. Hosts the BC + AI Film Club meetups and collaborates on the festival's film programming.

themml.ca

CreativeMornings Vancouver

Monthly breakfast talks bringing ideas and creative community together across Vancouver.

creativemornings.com/cities/van

H.R. MacMillan Space Centre

Home base for monthly Vancouver AI Meetups and the publicly announced venue home for Futureproof Festival 2026.

spacecentre.ca

Ethos Lab

Vancouver youth STEAM + AI lab led by Anthonia Ogundele. Education and youth program collaborators for Futureproof Festival.

ethoslab.ca

Friends Quarters

Vancouver coworking, media and event space for entrepreneurs, freelancers and creative professionals.

friendsquarters.com/

Sons of Vancouver

Independent distillery based in North Vancouver.

sonsofvancouver.ca/

Rival Technologies

Conversational market research technology for research and insights teams.

rivaltech.com/

DevITJobs

A job board built by engineers for engineers, with salary details in every job posting. Community and media partner for Futureproof Festival.

devitjobs.com/jobs/Machine-Learning/all/all

Tradeswomen Exhibit

Created by Vancouver Red Seal electrician Carly Steiman, the Tradeswomen Calendar & Exhibit celebrates women in skilled trades through portrait photography and brings their stories into classrooms across Canada. Futureproof purchased calendars for speaker bags, with buttons and calendar cards also part of the festival's gift-bag collaboration.

tradeswomenexhibit.com/

ISACA Vancouver Chapter

Formed in 1978, the ISACA Vancouver Chapter has over 800 members and supports and connects local digital trust professionals who want to network and advance their careers.

engage.isaca.org/vancouverchapter/home

Calm Tech Institute

The Calm Tech Institute certifies products and service-based companies that design technologies that work with attention, instead of against it.

calmtech.institute/

Te Hiku Media

Based in Kaitāia, New Zealand, Te Hiku Media is a Māori community broadcaster and indigenous language technology organisation known internationally for Māori language AI tool development, cultural revitalisation and Indigenous data sovereignty.

tehiku.nz/

Circle Innovation

Circle Innovation brings Canadian technology companies, researchers and industry specialists together to develop and test new products. Its CTO, Loki Jorgenson, spoke at Futureproof about consciousness and agency in AI.

circleinnovation.ca/

LOBBY AND LOUNGE

On the floor

Registration opens Wednesday at noon, and the lounge fills before anything starts: the exhibitor tables and the demo tables at Thursday's lunch.

The AI Builders Fellowship showcase. Internet Archive Canada's program with BC + AI has a table beside the Archive's own, where the two builders show what they made after six weeks inside a hundred thousand Canadian government publications.

Startup exhibitors. The tables run all day Thursday and Friday until early afternoon. Come and ask what they are building.

CREW

The people who made it

Kris Krüg

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Runs Futureproof and the BC + AI Ecosystem behind it. Started the meetups because he wanted this festival and had no community yet, then the meetups took on a mind of their own.

Kevin Friel

STAGE MANAGER

Runs the stage and the show clock across the three days, and is Kris's second on everything else. He also directs the BC + AI Film Club's own festival, which is the title his speaker profile carries, and he speaks at this one.

Allan Baedak

HOUSE AV LEAD

Leads house audio and video for Futureproof with WPM Media.

Alex Salvador

PRODUCTION LEAD

Over the last three years, Alexandra has worn many hats around the BC + AI Ecosystem Association, always with a focus on taking care of the people who show up. When the community gathers at the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre this October, she is the welcoming force behind the scenes, making sure everyone feels supported, at home, and ready to dive into the honest conversations shaping the future of AI.

Fiann O'Hagan

CTO

A founding member of BC + AI, Fiann serves as Futureproof's CTO, bringing a technical perspective to the team behind the festival.

Gabriela Arana

EVENT COORDINATOR

Over the past year and a half, Gabriela has been involved in the BC + AI Ecosystem Association community, and she brings that community experience together with her background in live events. Her focus is on turning the team's vision into a thoughtful, well-organized experience for everyone attending.

Kelly Krug

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Kelly supports hospitality and supplies at Futureproof, keeping water and essentials stocked and helping the welcome area stay ready for the next arrivals.

Debbie Krug

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Debbie helps welcome people to Futureproof, preparing badges and supporting the welcome desk so attendees can get settled and into the festival.

Sean Cranbury

FIXER

Sean is a writer and organizational-development practitioner with more than twenty years of experience in nonprofits and the arts. At Futureproof, he is the fixer, working directly with Kris on whatever the day needs.

Volodya Trokhymenko

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM LEAD

Leads the volunteer crew: who gets vetted, who gets briefed, who is on.

Andrii Kavetskyi

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Andrii brings a background in applied mathematics and machine learning to the Vancouver AI community. A returning monthly volunteer, he is joining the crew at Futureproof Festival.

Michelle Diamond

FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Builds the visual memory of this community, returning month after month to document people as relationships grow. The photographs of real rooms across this site and in the press kit are hers.

Viktor Serbin

VIDEO

Viktor is a Vancouver cinematographer and photographer who documents the Vancouver AI community. At Futureproof, he helps capture the people, ideas and conversations that make up the festival.

April Smith

SOCIAL MEDIA

April handles Futureproof's social media, sharing the people, ideas and moments that make up the festival.

Martin Montero

PROJECT MANAGER, AI BUILDERS FELLOWSHIP

Runs the AI Builders Fellowship, the Internet Archive backed program whose recipients bring their projects to the festival.

Maksym Tor

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Maksym is a web developer with an interest in AI and creative technology. A returning Vancouver AI volunteer, he is joining the Futureproof crew to help bring the festival together.

Farnaz Kimya

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Farnaz is an architect, researcher and educator based in Vancouver. A returning Vancouver AI volunteer with experience supporting speakers, registration and guest experience, she is joining the volunteer team at Futureproof Festival.

Jeremy McMullin

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Jeremy is a Vancouver product manager whose work spans e-commerce, payments, fintech and AI. A returning Vancouver AI volunteer, he is bringing his community involvement to the Futureproof crew.

And the volunteers who held the doors.

AFTER THE FESTIVAL

Join BC + AI

Individual BC + AI membership is CA$340 a year, so your ticket plus a year of Office Hours, coworking and working groups comes to CA$1,052.50.

Members get 25% off the festival ticket.

https://bc-ai.ca/membership/

STAY IN IT

The Vancouver AI Meetup meets monthly at the Space Centre.

BC + AI Film Club. Screens and discusses AI-themed films year-round. Curates the festival's film programming arc.

Tag what you post #FutureproofYVR.

NOTES

The question you brought.

Bring The Question You Cannot Solve Alone.

NOTES

A person to text in March.

Make Room For What The Model Cannot Predict.

NOTES

What you want to build next.

Before We Scale It, Should We?

NOTES

What you heard that you did not expect.

Do Not Confuse Speed With Direction.

COLOPHON

Colophon

Futureproof Festival of AI 2026 Program Book. Produced by the BC + AI Ecosystem Association in Vancouver.

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Generated from the public program and speaker roster as updated October 31, 2026. digital edition.

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FESTIVAL

Understand AI. Shape what comes next.

Curiosity in one hand, care in the other.

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October 28 - 30, 2026 · H.R. MacMillan Space Centre · Vancouver · #FutureproofYVR