2026 Presentation Summit

Schedule of Seminars and Events

Sun, Sep 13

8:00am **Farewell to Death by PowerPoint**
Everything you need to know to start creating winning presentations
This two-hour crash course is the perfect jumpstart to the conference, guaranteed to help you craft, design, and strategize through the process of creating first-rate presentations. *Led by Rick Altman*

10:30am **Template Creation Workshop**
Building a PowerPoint template that works
Is it finally time for you to understand and take control of your templates? Yes it is! This workshop is your cue to open a new chapter of understanding with this otherwise mystifying topic. *Led by Echo Swinford*

1:00pm **Design Doctor**
Quick Fixes and Deep Dives for Stunning Slides
Transform your presentations from boring to brilliant in this dynamic workshop designed for busy professionals. *Led by Mike Parkinson*

Mon, Sep 14

8:00am **The Noble Pursuit of Imperfection**
Being imperfect in an AI world
A bold, permission-giving keynote that makes the case for bringing your whole, imperfect, gloriously human self into the room. *Led by Sally Zimney*

9:00am **No More Frankendecks!**
Stop wrestling with broken formatting
It's time to learn exactly how PowerPoint templates and masters control your slides and how to move slides between decks without blowing up your formatting. *Led by Nolan Haims*

9:00am **Copilot Highs and Lows**
An honest look inside Microsoft 365
A no-spin look at Microsoft Copilot: where it delivers, where it struggles, and how to use it wisely with or without a paid license. *Led by Chantal Bossé*

9:00am **Office Hours**
You are welcome to spend this hour learning from, getting to know, or just hanging out with

10:00am **Impromptu Confidence**
Building your comfort zone with spontaneity
Do you feel more comfortable delivering a prepared message than speaking on the fly? You are not alone, but what happens when an impromptu situation arises? *Led by Ilene Bergelson*

2026 Presentation Summit

Schedule of Seminars and Events

10:00am **Put Your Deck on a Diet**
Shrink your files for better performances
Transform massive and slow PowerPoint files into fast and manageable presentations by identifying hidden bloat, using the right tools, and building performance-first habits. *Led by Lori Chollar*

11:00am **Rapid Redesign**
Without reinventing any wheels
Watch a real client deck get transformed in real time using real design principles *Led by Mike Parkinson*

11:00am **Learning to Love Google Slides**
A whole lot of content creators have
Google Slides has real limitations, and it might still be the right tool for you. *Led by Monica Longoria*

12:00pm **Beneath the Surface: A Different Kind of Connection**
What sharks can teach us about trust, understanding, and the relationships we never expected to form
What happens when you stop seeing a shark as a mystery and start seeing it as an individual you can know? *Led by Cristina Zenato*

1:00pm **Power Prompts**
Elevating AI from chatbot to collaborator
Transform AI into a sophisticated partner from idea generation to delivery. *Led by John Polk*

1:00pm **Why Does PowerPoint Do That??**
The hidden rules behind slide behavior
A fast-paced look at the hidden rules behind everyday PowerPoint features so you can predict, control, and fix slide behavior with confidence. *Led by Echo Swinford*

2:00pm **Hack Responsibly**
Building cool animated charts that actually work for everyone
Walk through the construction of a clever animated data visualization in PowerPoint, and then makes sure it holds up for every audience. *Led by Stephy Hogan*

2:00pm **AI + Traditional tools = Paradise**
Marry AI with legacy features to find your groove
Supercharge the classic PowerPoint image extension techniques with Copilot's newest image editing tools to get to the image you want. *Led by Taylor Croonquist*

2:45pm **The PowerPoint Trivia Contest**
The intersection of fun, knowledge-testing, and idiocy
You haven't lived until you have watched, or played in, our PowerPoint Trivia Contest. *Led by Rick Altman, John Chen*

2026 Presentation Summit

Schedule of Seminars and Events

Tue, Sep 15

8:00am **Making It Your Own: From Song to Story**
Inside the creative process of a master guitarist
How does a guitarist take a song everyone knows and make you feel as though you're hearing it for the first time? *Led by Emil Ernebro*

9:00am **Crush Your Next Virtual Presentation**
*Because this sh*t is here to stay*
If you want to be regarded as a skilled communicator, you need to up your virtual game. *Led by Rick Altman*

9:00am **From Canva Curious to Canva Serious**
An honest assessment
A serious and hands-on look at what Canva does well, where it frustrates, and whether it earns a place in a professional workflow. *Led by Camille Holden*

10:00am **Wordy to Wow**
Six ways to turn text into compelling visuals
Learn six practical ways to turn overloaded, text-heavy slides into clear, compelling visual stories that are easier to understand and more engaging to present. *Led by Mike Parkinson*

10:00am **Design Faster!**
Tools, shortcuts, and workflows that save time
Combining a Stream Deck, PowerPoint add-ins, and targeted QAT tricks can streamline everyday presentation design workflows. *Led by Troy Chollar*

11:00am **Practicing Wrong...On Purpose**
It's not the what, it's the how
Practicing public speaking techniques the wrong way makes the correct techniques stick! *Led by Jackie Gartner-Schmidt*

11:00am **AI, What have You Done for Me Lately??**
Sanity for an age moving too fast
How can AI support the presentation process today, while keeping the human voice, judgment, and storytelling at the center? *Led by Rick Altman*

12:00pm **Ready when it Mattered: The Fast Track to Gold**
Meet Josie Baff: 2026 Olympic gold medalist
How does a 23-year-old from a small town in Australia become the best snowboard cross racer in the world? Josie Baff says the answer begins long before the starting gate. *Led by Josie Baff*

2026 Presentation Summit

Schedule of Seminars and Events

1:00pm **Typography in the Wild**
Chasing great typography into PowerPoint
Watch us hunt down beautiful, boundary-pushing typography from the real world and then see how close PowerPoint can get. *Led by Stephy Hogan*

1:00pm **Legacy Tools Rule, AI Drools**
PowerPoint tricks that AI still can't match
Before you waste more time with Copilot, try these five built-in PowerPoint tricks that have been quietly solving your biggest frustrations for years. *Led by Taylor Croonquist*

2:00pm **The Future of Presentations**
Spot trends early to stay on the leading edge
A live tour of the trends, tools, and techniques pushing presentations forward, from AI-powered personalization and interactive visuals to advanced digital twins and cinematic storytelling. *Led by Yulia Barnakova*

2:00pm **PowerPoint Animation for Grown-Ups**
Advanced Animation techniques that actually improve communication
Discover through real-world slide building how system-based animation improves clarity. *Led by Troy Chollar*

2:45pm **Tuesday Happy Hour**
Because it's 5:00 somewhere. *Led by John Chen*

Wed, Sep 16

8:00am **Owning the Moment**
What live television can teach us about becoming a more confident presenter
Discover how the preparation, poise, adaptability, and presence required of a live television anchor can help you become a more effective presenter. *Led by Kaitlan Collins*

9:00am **Designing Relief**
Presentation prep shouldn't leave us hunched and scrunched
Designing incredible, indelible presentations takes time...and sometimes a toll. How do we get creative about our own resilience, as part of the design process? *Led by Ilene Bergelson*

9:00am **Favorite Tips that are Not My Own**
Because stealing is the highest form of flattery
Many presenters act like every good idea has to be original. We call BS on that! *Led by Rick Altman*

10:00am **The Machine Behind the Woman**
AI can create slides. Can it run a business?
A behind-the-scenes look at how a working professional uses AI to run her two-person business—not to generate slides, but to handle the work around them. *Led by Camille Holden*

2026 Presentation Summit

Schedule of Seminars and Events

10:00am **Code is the New Slide**
How AI is reinventing presentations
Learn how presenters are using coding platforms to build fully interactive presentation experiences by simply describing what they want. *Led by Yulia Barnakova*

11:00am **Find Your MAGIC**
A blueprint for clearly articulating your value
Introducing MAGIC, a practical framework for developing a value proposition that wins. *Led by Robin Davis*

11:00am **Animating Out of the Box**
Next-level advanced animation techniques
Most presenters use motion to fill gaps; masters use it to bridge ideas. *Led by Jole Simmons*

12:00pm **The Wednesday Wind Down**
Join Rick and John for lunch on the set. Each day, they will be joined by special people with special stories to tell. *Led by John Chen*

12:30pm **Five Minutes or Fewer**
Tips to match your attention span
Here is a friendly procession of short tips, pieces of advice, and anecdotes, as told by both conference team members and patrons.

1:30pm **Closing Happy Hour**
One last chance to hang with your conference buds... *Led by John Chen*