

FUTURE CAREER FESTIVAL 2026

FUTURE SKILLS · GLOBAL MINDS · GROW TOGETHER

Germany's leading career festival to accelerate your career,
expand your network and thrive in the era of
AI, INNOVATION and **GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION**



STEFAN GEISTER

CSO, L'ORÉAL DACH



ANDREA HENDRICKX

COUNTRY HEAD,
INFOSYS GERMANY



MONA NEUBAUM

DEPUTY MINISTER –
PRESIDENT OF NRW



DR. THOMAS OGILVIE

CHRO, DHL GROUP



DR. SEBASTIAN DETTMERS

CEO, THE STEPSTONE
GROUP



15 OCTOBER 2026
09:00–18:00



Seifenfabrik Dr. Thompson's,
Düsseldorf, Germany

SELECTED INCLUSIVE EMPLOYERS:



EMPOWERED BY:



Diversity at WHU



FUTURE OF WORK
CAREER EXPO



LEADERSHIP
CAREER LOUNGE



INNOVATION
CAREER HUB



CAREER COACHING &
MENTORING LOUNGE



GLOBAL TALENT
EMPLOYER AWARD
CEREMONY



GET YOUR EARLY BIRD TICKET!

AVAILABLE UNTIL
15 SEPTEMBER 2026



YOUR ATTENDEE GUIDEBOOK

Welcome to Future Career Fast Forward 2026

Future Skills. Global Minds. Grow Together.

Your handy guidebook to make the most of the festival: gain career insights,
exchange ideas with employers and expand your professional network.

15 OCTOBER 2026

Seifenfabrik Dr. Thompson's &
WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management, MBA Campus

[Open the main festival event](#)

Festival highlights

15 October 2026 • Start and end times shown are Eventbrite listing times



Festival Breakfast & Networking

Start 08:25 | End 09:40

Seifenfabrik Dr. Thompson's
Room/area: not specified in the event listing

[Open official event page](#)



Festival Opening

Start 09:25 | End 09:35

Seifenfabrik Dr. Thompson's
Main Stage

[Open official event page](#)



The Future of Career Trend

Start 09:45 | End 10:00

Seifenfabrik Dr. Thompson's
Main Stage

[Open official event page](#)



Future-Proof Your Career in the AI Era

Start 10:00 | End 10:30

Seifenfabrik Dr. Thompson's
Main Stage

[Open official event page](#)



Leadership Career Lounge

Start 12:30 | End 16:45

WHU MBA Campus
Leadership Career Lounge - first floor, left

[Open official event page](#)



Empower Your Work with AI

Start 13:15 | End 13:30

Seifenfabrik Dr. Thompson's
Main Stage

[Open official event page](#)



AI & Innovation Hackathon

Start 13:30 | End 16:30

WHU MBA Campus
Innovation Career Hub - first floor, right

[Open official event page](#)

Eventbrite listing times: these may differ from session times in the detailed agenda. Main check-in remains 08:30; Talent Coaching Corner remains 16:00-17:00 (entrv closes 15:55). Venue directions: page 4

Festival highlights

15 October 2026 • Start and end times shown are Eventbrite listing times



Global Talent, Local Success: Building Global Careers in Germany

Start 13:30 | End 14:00

Seifenfabrik Dr. Thompson's
Main Stage

[Open official event page](#)



Career Opportunities in Start-ups in Rhein-Kreis Neuss

Start 14:15 | End 14:45

WHU MBA Campus
Innovation Career Hub - first floor, right

[Open official event page](#)



Hidden Champions: Germany's Best-Kept Career Secret

Start 14:45 | End 15:15

WHU MBA Campus
Innovation Career Hub - first floor, right

[Open official event page](#)



Talent Coaching Corner

Start 15:30 | End 16:50

Seifenfabrik Dr. Thompson's
Talent Networking Area

[Open official event page](#)



Global Talent Employer Award & Celebration

Start 17:00 | End 18:45

Seifenfabrik Dr. Thompson's
Main Stage

[Open official event page](#)



Shape the Future of Your Career

Start 17:45 | End 18:00

Seifenfabrik Dr. Thompson's
Main Stage

[Open official event page](#)

Eventbrite listing times: these may differ from session times in the detailed agenda. Main check-in remains 08:30; Talent Coaching Corner remains 16:00-17:00 (entry closes 15:55). Venue directions: page 4

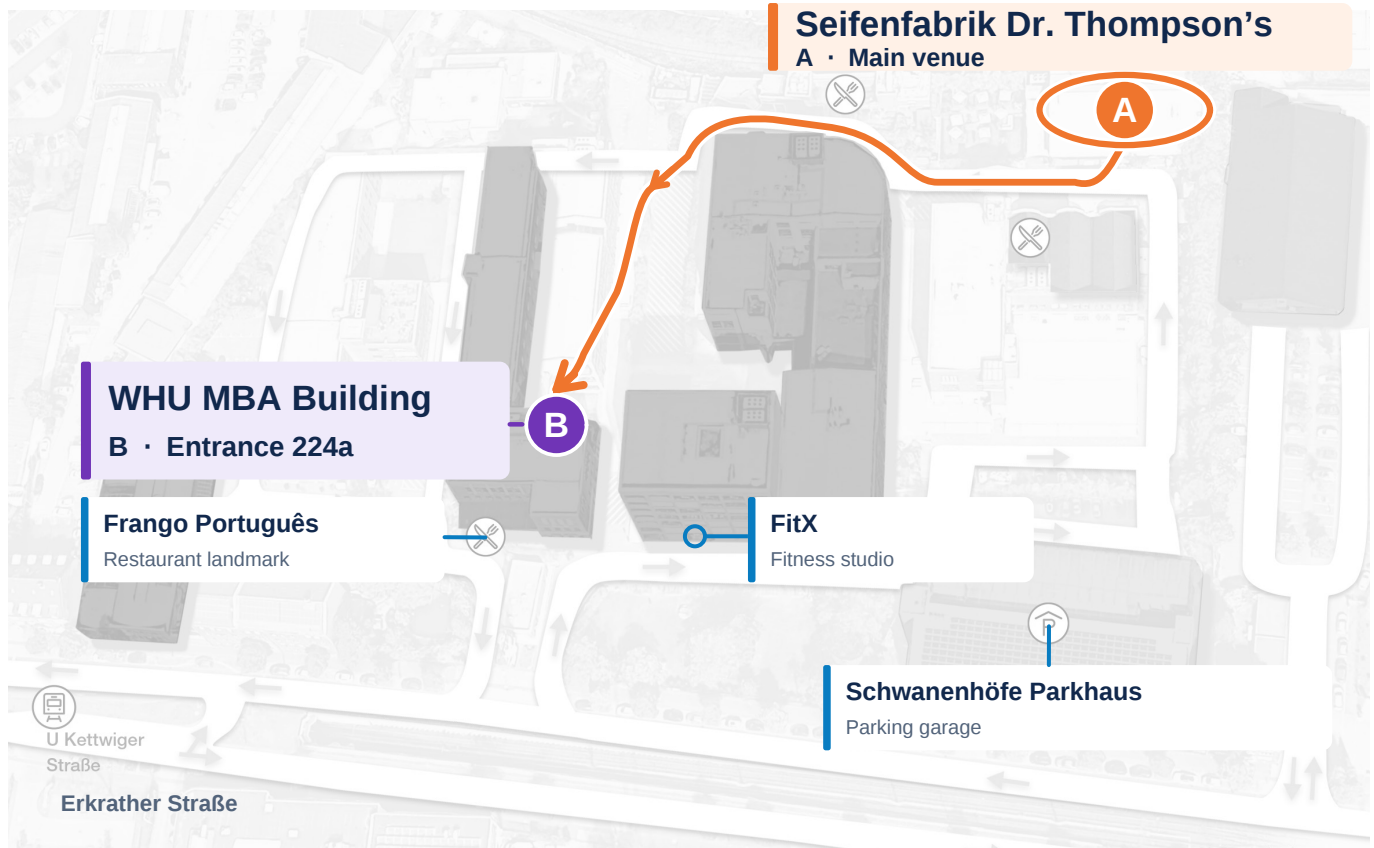
Between the venues

Two-minute walk • WHU MBA Campus entrance 224A

Main venue check-in: 08:30 | WHU attendee check-in: 12:30

Leadership Career Lounge: first floor, left. Innovation Career Hub: first floor, right.

01 Walk from Seifenfabrik to WHU entrance 224a



02 At WHU: walk upstairs to the 1st floor



LEFT • Leadership Career Lounge

Leadership Career Lounge ticket required.

Attendee check-in: 12:30

RIGHT • Innovation Career Hub

Normal Future Career Festival ticket sufficient.

Attendee check-in: 12:30

Inside your attendee guide

Your page-by-page guide • 15 October 2026

06 Your festival essentials

Two venues, check-in, tickets, dress code, cloakroom, arrival and parking.

07 Food, drinks & networking

Catering, networking spaces and the highlighted indoor plan.

08 Coaching, sharing & lotteries

Coaching rules, social media, lotteries and the departure deadline.

09 Festival agenda at a glance

The full programme across both venues.

10 Main Stage programme & speakers

Talks, panels, Career Expo, coaching and closing sessions.

11 Leadership Career Lounge

Welcome speakers and leadership networking sessions.

12 Innovation Career Hub

Start-ups, hidden champions, the AI challenge and pitches.

Your festival essentials

15 October 2026 • Venues, arrival, tickets & what to wear

01 Two venues. One festival.

Seifenfabrik Dr. Thompson's - Main Stage, Career Expo and networking.

Erkrather Straße 232, 40233 Düsseldorf.

WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management, MBA Campus - Leadership Career Lounge and Innovation Career Hub. Erkrather Straße 224A, 40233 Düsseldorf.

The venues are approximately a two-minute walk apart. See **page 4** for directions.

02 Check-in & departure

Seifenfabrik check-in opens at 08:30. Arrive early for a chance to have breakfast with the festival co-initiators. Breakfast is limited and first come, first served. Have your ticket ready.

WHU attendee check-in opens at 12:30.

18:45 is a hard stop: all visitors must leave the venue by this time.

03 Your ticket & where you can go

Standard day ticket: Seifenfabrik Main Stage, Career Expo and networking, plus the Innovation Career Hub at WHU in the afternoon. The Leadership Career Lounge is **not included**.

Leadership Career Lounge ticket: Seifenfabrik, the Leadership Career Lounge and the Innovation Career Hub at WHU.

04 Dress code & cloakroom

There is no dress code. Dress professionally, casually or glamorously - choose whatever makes you feel comfortable.

Cloakroom: A self-service cloakroom is available at Seifenfabrik – simply hang up your coat and belongings yourself. As it is unattended, please keep expensive clothing and valuables with you.

05 Arriving & parking

We recommend public transport. Parking is limited; a garage space cannot be guaranteed.

Public transport: take the U75 from Düsseldorf Hauptbahnhof to Kettwiger Straße or Ronsdorfer Straße. Both stops are approximately 300 metres from Schwanenhöfe.

[Open Google Maps public transport directions](#)

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/?api=1&destination=Erkrather+Strasse+232,+40233+Dusseldorf&travelmode=transit>

Schwanenhöfe parking garage: Erkrather Straße 234, 40233 Düsseldorf.

€6 day rate: purchase at Seifenfabrik at your own expense; ask the bar staff.

50% off the hourly rate - Leadership Career Lounge participants only: collect the reduced parking ticket at WHU MBA Campus reception.

WHU entrance: use 224A, opposite Frango Português, rather than number 218.

Transport information: [Seifenfabrik directions](#). Check your route before travelling.

Food, drinks & networking

Seifenfabrik Dr. Thompson's • Make yourself at home

04 Catering options

Seifenfabrik: simple breakfast and lunch, such as croissants and pizza, plus coffee, tea and water. Breakfast quantities are limited; first come, first served.

Leadership Career Lounge at WHU: attendee check-in starts at **12:30**. Light finger food and drinks are available for Leadership Career Lounge attendees **from 12:30 onwards**.

Frango Português: for a fuller lunch, you can dine at the nearby restaurant, **paid separately by you**. Check the [weekly lunch menu](#) from 12 October. Reserve at **+49 211 695 546 25**. Ordering ahead helps plan serving time; walk-in serving times cannot be guaranteed.

05 Talent Networking Area (whole day)

Meet your peers, expand your professional network and enjoy spontaneous conversations throughout the day. This area also hosts the **Talent Coaching Corner, 16:00-17:00**. See the first-come, first-served rules on page 8.

Wi-Fi: the network name and password will be displayed at Seifenfabrik.

Indoor plan | Networking & coaching area highlighted



Coaching, sharing & lotteries

Your festival experience • 15 October 2026

08 Talent Coaching Corner | First come, first served

16:00-17:00 • Talent Networking Area, Seifenfabrik

Eight table captains with eight different topics are currently planned. Each table is planned for **5-7 attendees, with a maximum of seven**.

If your chosen table is full, our team will direct you to another table. Once all tables are full, admission and the queue will close.

Entry to the entire coaching area closes at 15:55, five minutes before the session starts. Arrive early: places are first come, first served.

See page 10 for the programme's topic list; final table availability is subject to confirmation.

We have prepared a **photo booth** at the Future Career Festival. Take your own photos there and capture a memory of the day. Feel free to share your highlights and tag **Global Spotlight, Diversity at WHU and Global Impact Club** in your event posts.

09 Social media sharing

Global Spotlight

LinkedIn: [Global Spotlight GmbH](#)

Instagram: [@global_spotlight_de](#)

TikTok: [@global_spotlight](#)

Diversity at WHU

LinkedIn: [Diversity at WHU](#)

Instagram: [@diversity_whu](#)

Global Impact Club

LinkedIn: [Global Impact e.V. \(Global Impact Club\)](#)



10 Ticket lottery

Post your festival highlights and tag our accounts to take part. We will select our favourite posts and repost them. If your post is reposted by us, we will contact you on social media to arrange a **free ticket to Future Career Festival 2027**.

Another lottery on site

Another lottery is planned on site at the festival. The lottery announcement will take place at **18:00**.

11 All visitors must leave by 18:45 - hard stop

Overstays incur a charge of **€10 per person per hour**. Only working recruiter / exhibitor staff may remain for booth dismantling.

Festival agenda - two venues

15 October 2026 • Düsseldorf • Attendee programme

MAIN STAGE | MORNING & MIDDAY

09:00-09:15	Registration & Welcome
09:15-09:25	Welcome by Festival Co-Initiators
09:25-09:35	Festival Opening
09:45-10:00	Industry Leader Keynote
10:00-10:30	Panel Talk - Future-Proof Your Career in the AI Era
10:30-12:30	Career Expo & Networking
12:00-13:00	Break & Free Networking
13:00-13:15	Parallel Programme Introduction & Participant Guidance

MAIN STAGE | AFTERNOON & EVENING

13:15-13:30	Keynote: Empower your work with AI
13:30-14:00	Panel Talk - Global Talent, Local Success: Building Global Careers in Germany
14:00-16:00	Career Expo & Networking
16:00-17:00	Talent Coaching Corner
17:00-17:45	Global Talent Employer Award Ceremony
17:45-18:00	Closing Keynote
18:00-18:10	Thank You & Festival Closing Remarks

WHU | LEADERSHIP CAREER LOUNGE

13:00-13:15	Opening & Welcome
13:15-13:30	Leadership Career Lounge Welcoming
13:30-14:30	Leadership Networking - Session 1
14:30-15:30	Leadership Networking - Session 2
15:30-16:30	Leadership Networking - Session 3
16:30-16:45	Transition to Seifenfabrik

WHU | INNOVATION CAREER HUB

13:15-13:30	Innovation Career Hub Opening
13:30-14:00	Hackathon & AI Challenge Opening + Challenge Briefing
14:15-14:45	Panel Talk #3 - Career Opportunities in Start-ups in Rhein-Kreis Neuss
14:45-15:15	Panel Talk #4 - Hidden Champions: Germany's Best-Kept Career Secret
15:15-15:30	Startup Employer Spotlight
15:30-16:30	Hackathon Pitch Session & Jury Evaluation
16:30-16:45	Transfer to Seifenfabrik

Seifenfabrik Dr. Thompson's: Main Stage • WHU: Leadership Career Lounge and Innovation Career Hub. Leadership Lounge ticket required. All times local; programme subject to change.



Latest event arrangements

Scan for current session times and speakers.
[Open the live Eventbrite agenda](#)

Please check the live agenda for the latest arrangements.

Main Stage | Your programme

15 October 2026 • Seifenfabrik Dr. Thompson's

MORNING & MIDDAY

09:00-09:15 | Registration & Welcome

Klaudia Wilde - Festival Moderator; Director Development & Relationship Management, WHU.

09:15-09:25 | Welcome by Festival Co-Initiators

Mandy Yuman Sun - Festival Initiator; CEO & Founder, Global Spotlight.

Michel Rudin - Co-Initiator; Co-Founder & Supervisory Board, Global Spotlight.

Christina Sontheim-Leven - Co-Initiator; CEO, former CHRO (SDAX) & AI Top Voice.

Prof. Dr. Andreas Meyer-Falcke - Co-Initiator; former CIO, State of NRW.

09:25-09:35 | Festival Opening

Mona Neubaur - Deputy Minister-President & Minister for Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate Action and Energy, State of NRW.

09:45-10:00 | Industry Leader Keynote

Sebastian Dettmers - Former CEO, The Stepstone Group; author of "Die große Arbeitslosigkeit".

10:00-10:30 | Panel Talk - Future-Proof Your Career in the AI Era

Arooj Humayun - CIO DACH, L'Oréal; Andrea Hendrickx - Country Head Germany & Executive Board Member, Infosys; Christina Sontheim-Leven - CEO, former CHRO (SDAX) & AI Top Voice; Dieter Plassmann - CTO, net digital AG.

10:30-12:30 | Career Expo & Networking

Meet festival employers and explore career opportunities.

12:00-13:00 | Break & Free Networking

Take a break and connect with fellow festival participants.

13:00-13:15 | Parallel Programme Introduction & Participant Guidance

Klaudia Wilde - Director Development & Relationship Management, WHU.

13:15-13:30 | Keynote: Empower your work with AI

Dr. Melanie Epe - Compliance Counsel; Chair, Women in AI Germany; Chair of the Board, djB NRW.

AFTERNOON & EVENING

13:30-14:00 | Panel Talk - Global Talent, Local Success: Building Global Careers in Germany

Stefan Geister - Executive Board Member DACH, L'Oréal; Christina Sontheim-Leven - CEO, former CHRO (SDAX) & AI Top Voice; Manish Sansare - Global Head of Market & Customer Activation, Henkel; Marco Benedetti - Global DE&I Senior Specialist, BASF.

Christiane Kosmas - SVP HR Business Partnering, HR Strategy & Talent Management, Uniper.

14:00-16:00 | Career Expo & Networking

Meet festival employers and explore career opportunities.

16:00-17:00 | Talent Coaching Corner

Table topics / Table Captains (one table TBD):

Process Automation Career - Rodson Varela, Automation Finance Executive (RPA), BASF

Successful Career in Germany - Dr. I. Faith Obioma, Regional DEI Manager, Henkel

AI & Future Skills Career - Moritz von Schaumann Werder, Global Head of Talent Acquisition & Executive Recruitment, METRO AG

Mom Career - Julia Ludwig, Co-Founder, Mom.Career Start-up Career - Lasse Jannis Kohl, Founders Associate Operations, relix

Beauty Tech Career - Jeyc Thakol, Head of IT Digital & Data DACH, L'Oréal

CV Review & Advice - Paula Mesfin, HR Project Manager, CGM

Tech Career in Bundeswehr (TBD) - Diana Skoruppa, Bundeswehr

Corporate Transformation Career - Torsten Marondel, Uniper

17:00-17:45 | Global Talent Employer Award Ceremony

Prof. Dr. Pisitta Vongswasdi - Chair of Diversity & Inclusion, WHU; Christian Zaum - Representative of the Lord Mayor, City of Düsseldorf; Prof. Dr. Andreas Meyer-Falcke - Co-Initiator; former NRW CIO.

17:45-18:00 | Closing Keynote

Dr. Thomas Ogilvie - Chief Human Resources Officer & Labour Director, DHL Group.

18:00-18:10 | Thank You & Festival Closing Remarks

Mandy Yuman Sun - Festival Initiator; CEO & Founder, Global Spotlight.



ATTENTION

Earliest check-in: 08:30

Accepted tickets: Future Career Festival ticket or Leadership Career Lounge ticket

Latest event arrangements - scan the QR code or open the live Eventbrite agenda.

Leadership Career Lounge

15 October 2026 • WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management

Opening & welcome

13:00-13:15 | Opening & Welcome

Michel Rudin - Festival Co-Initiator; Co-Founder & Supervisory Board, Global Spotlight.

Miriam Kraneis - Director Career Center Düsseldorf, WHU.

13:15-13:30 | Leadership Career Lounge Welcoming

Josef Hinkel - Deputy Mayor of the City of Düsseldorf.

Leadership Lounge ticket required. Partial attendance times are shown beside names.

13:30-14:30 | Session 1

Moritz von Schaumann Werder - METRO AG

Laurids Lanzendörfer - Uniper

Jeyc Thakol - L'Oréal

Stefan Geister - L'Oréal (14:00-14:30)

Arooj Humayun - L'Oréal (14:00-14:30)

Saskia Podzun - CompuGroup Medical (CGM)

Dr. Willis C. Muganda - BASF

Hanan Hallal - Henkel

Julia Moik - Knauf

14:30-15:30 | Session 2

Moritz von Schaumann Werder - METRO AG

Laurids Lanzendörfer - Uniper

Jeyc Thakol - L'Oréal

Stefan Geister - L'Oréal (14:30-15:00)

Arooj Humayun - L'Oréal

Christiane Kosmas - Uniper

Evren Apaydin - net digital

Manish Sansare - Henkel

Katja Bürger - net digital

Andrea Hendrickx - Infosys

Gopakumar - Infosys

15:30-16:30 | Session 3

Saskia Podzun - CompuGroup Medical (CGM)

Christiane Kosmas - Uniper

Evren Apaydin - net digital

Dr. Willis C. Muganda - BASF

Hanan Hallal - Henkel

Manish Sansare - Henkel

Katja Bürger - net digital

Julia Moik - Knauf

Andrea Hendrickx - Infosys

Gopakumar - Infosys

16:30-16:45 | Return to Seifenfabrik

Return to Main Stage ahead of the 17:00 award ceremony.



ACCESS & LATEST ARRANGEMENTS

Attendee check-in from 12:30.

Light finger food and drinks from 12:30 onwards.

Leadership Career Lounge ticket required.

[Open the live Eventbrite agenda](#)

Innovation Career Hub

15 October 2026 • WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management

Explore new career paths through talks, panels and the AI challenge

13:15-13:30 | Innovation Career Hub Opening

Sinem Kolb - Senior Manager, Technology Strategy & Operations, KPMG Germany.

13:30-14:00 | Hackathon & AI Challenge Opening + Challenge Briefing

Berkant Bostan - Head of Building, WHU Entrepreneurship Center; Arooj Humayun - CIO DACH, L'Oréal.

14:15-14:45 | Panel Talk #3 - Career Opportunities in Start-ups in Rhein-Kreis Neuss

Jan Crienlen - Co-Founder & CEO, Reguly; Elisabeth Schloten - CEO, KuroVia; Alisha Felkle - Co-Founder & Business Coach, Mom.Career; Florian Kriependorf - Founder, ScrapBees.

Moderator: Anuschka Clasen - Event Moderator & Founder, STRONGEST.

14:45-15:15 | Panel Talk #4 - Hidden Champions: Germany's Best-Kept Career Secret

Julia Moik - Head of Talent Acquisition, Employer Branding & Young Talents, Knauf; Gregor Berghausen - Chief Executive (Hauptgeschäftsführer), IHK Düsseldorf; Saskia Podzun - Head of Global Talent Acquisition, CGM; Daniel Bohnenkamp - Head of HR, DERIX Group.

Moderator: Klaudia Wilde - Director Development & Relationship Management, WHU.

15:15-15:30 | Startup Employer Spotlight

Léon Alex Bamesreiter - Co-Founder, reltix.

15:30-16:30 | Hackathon Pitch Session & Jury Evaluation

Jury: Fayssal Loussaief (Infosys); Arooj Humayun (L'Oréal);

Markus Eberle (Software Developer AI); Maxim Otscheretni (AI Specialist).

16:30-16:45 | Transfer to Seifenfabrik

Return to Main Stage ahead of the 17:00 award ceremony.



ATTENTION

Job-seeker check-in: 12:30

Accepted tickets: Future Career Festival ticket or Leadership Career Lounge ticket

Latest event arrangements - scan the QR code
or [open the live Eventbrite agenda](#).