



## SXSW EDU® ANNOUNCES KEYNOTE SPEAKERS FOR 2022 HYBRID EVENT

Facilitator, Strategic Advisor, and Author Priya Parker and Writer, Activist, and Comedian Baratunde Thurston Discuss Gathering, Community, and Education

**December 15, 2021, AUSTIN, Texas** - The South by Southwest EDU® Conference & Festival announced today that it will welcome acclaimed author of *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters* **Priya Parker** and Emmy-nominated writer, activist and comedian **Baratunde Thurston** as Keynote speakers for its 2022 hybrid conference taking place from March 7-10, 2022 in Austin, Texas.

In addition to Parker's book, she is executive producer and host of the [New York Times podcast, \*Together Apart\*](#). Trained in the field of conflict resolution, Parker has spent 20 years guiding leaders and groups through complicated conversations about community, identity, and vision at moments of transition.

She will be joined in conversation by [Baratunde Thurston](#). From producing for *The Daily Show* and hosting the award-winning podcast *How To Citizen with Baratunde* to serving as an advisor in the Obama White House and writing the *New York Times* bestseller *How To Be Black*, Thurston has brought his blend of humor and wisdom to explore the intersection of race, technology, and democracy across a number of outlets and stages.

With communities, schools, and institutions at the forefront of student learning and connection throughout the COVID-19 crisis, and now working to rebuild and recover in this school year, Parker and Thurston will discuss the importance of gathering, the power of togetherness, and how it impacts the learning community. Their Keynote conversation will provide a fresh perspective on an issue that has become more top of mind than ever before both inside and outside the classroom.

"At its core, SXSW EDU is about community. We aim each year to find new ways to celebrate and expand the community that makes education's future and present what it is. We are so excited to be joined by Priya Parker and Baratunde Thurston for this special Keynote session. Not only are they both masterful communicators but they each bring expertise and perspective on our interactions as a society that will undoubtedly contribute to furthering our understanding as an ecosystem of educators and learners," said Greg Rosenbaum, Head of SXSW EDU.

The newly announced Keynote speakers join a lineup of more than 800+ speakers who will take part in more than 350+ sessions at this year's event, with more to come.

For more information on our conference and lineup, please visit [sxswedu.com/program](https://sxswedu.com/program).

**Press Credentials:**

To register, please go to [sxswedu.com/press](https://sxswedu.com/press).

**About SXSW EDU:**

The SXSW EDU® Conference & Festival is a reflection of the world's most critical social issues as seen through the lens of education. This year's event will bring together the learner, the practitioner, the entrepreneur, and the visionary to share their groundbreaking stories, tackle complex issues, and build reimagined paths forward. As a community of diverse people who are united around a like minded vision for the future, SXSW EDU serves a place for attendees to renew their purpose in practice from both a personal and professional perspective. It is a place to reinforce the core principles of teaching and learning as well as an opportunity to express your creativity and passion for education. SXSW EDU is a component of the South by Southwest® family of conferences and festivals that has grown from 800 to over 8,000 registrants in the last decade. Join the passionate and innovative community at SXSW EDU, March 7-10, 2022.

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