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Political Entrepreneur & Engagement Specialist

<https://www.kmprod.com/speakers/speaker-dave-meslin>

Bio

Using non-traditional methods and creative tactics, speaker Dave Meslin spent twenty years as a social and political entrepreneur leaving a trail of non-profit start-ups, campaign victories, viral videos, new magazines, and public space interventions in his path. An urbanist, community organiser, author and trainer, Meslin inspires us to invert the traditional pyramid of hierarchy by creating meaningful opportunities to engage our employees, our members, our students. His thesis is simple: We're stronger and smarter when we're all involved. Transforming top-down leadership into bottom-up collaboration is the true challenge of the 21st century.

Multi-partisan and fiercely optimistic, Meslin's presentations focuses on how we can overcome cynicism and create a culture of participation. His unassuming presence, creativity and sense of humour keep audiences enthralled. Meslin encourages those present to find what was important to them and become engaged in the process of promoting change by creative participation.

The Toronto Star has described him as "mad scientist", "a start-up genius" and "a peripatetic public convener". *The Globe and Mail* simply calls him a "persuasive rabble rouser". Dancing between the worlds of mainstream politics and grassroots activism, Meslin has found positive ways to bring them both together and turn energy into action.

He's author of *Teardown: Rebuilding Democracy from the Ground Up*. His TED talk "The Antidote to Apathy" has been viewed over 1.7 million times and translated into 37 languages. A *CBC* appearance in 2015, involving towers of colourful LEGO, has been watched 2.5 million times on Facebook.

In 2021, he launched the inaugural Ontario Municipal Democracy Index on voter turnout, gender balance, BIPOC representation and UX Design.

Meslin's resume of non-profit start-ups also includes the Toronto Public Space Committee, the Ranked Ballot Initiative of Toronto, City Idol, Spacing Magazine, Unlock Democracy Canada, the Downtown De-Fence Project, Dazzling Notice Awards, and DandyHorse Magazine. While he feels most comfortable working with small grassroots non-profits, Meslin has also donned a suit and tie and worked as an Executive Assistant at both City Hall and Queen's Park.

Topics

Reframing Leadership: The End of Heroes [\[morelink\]](#)

Teardown: Reinventing Your Structure [\[morelink\]](#)

Inclusion: The Mechanics of Exclusion & Levelling the Field [\[morelink\]](#)

Building a Culture of Engagement [\[morelink\]](#)

For more information, fees, Dave Meslin's speaking schedule & [booking Dave Meslin, contact us](#).