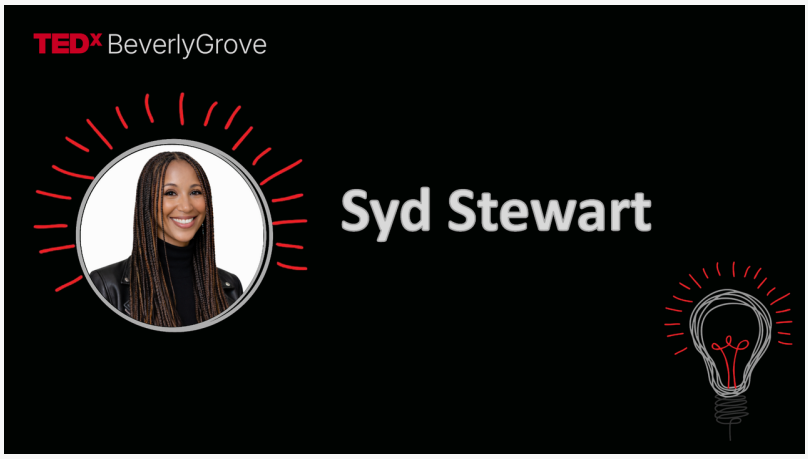
TEDx Talks Releases Syd Stewart's 'Shift Happens' TEDxBeverlyGrove Talk on Foster Youth, Systems, and Possibility

Better Youth founder and CEO's spoken word talk challenges how society labels foster and system-impacted youth, now available in full.



Syd Stewart, Founder and CEO of Better Youth

WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA, UNITED STATES, September 14, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- TEDx Talks has released Syd Stewart's talk from the TEDxBeverlyGrove 2026 speaker series, "Shift Happens," now available on the TEDx Talks YouTube channel.

Stewart, Founder and CEO of Better Youth, delivered the talk on March 14, 2026, at the Marilyn Monroe Theatre in West Hollywood under the theme "Reimagining the Possible."

Drawing on years of mentoring foster and system-impacted young people, Stewart's talk argues that the label of being "broken" has long been placed on the wrong party.

> "They are not broken. The system is."
>
> *Stewart told the TEDxBeverlyGrove audience.*

"They are not broken," Stewart told the TEDxBeverlyGrove audience. "The system is."

The line became one of the most requested moments from the 2026 speaker series, with attendees and supporters reaching out in the weeks after the event asking whether it would be made available beyond the stage. In August, TEDxBeverlyGrove launched a speaker-series apparel release built around the phrase, extending one of the event's clearest ideas beyond the stage.

The apparel carries the line on the front, with the talk's closing declaration on the back:

"Shift Happens. A foster youth becomes a better youth."

With the full talk now public, Stewart's complete argument is available on the TEDx Talks YouTube channel. She challenges the way society speaks about foster and system-impacted youth, arguing that the systems surrounding young people, not the young people inside them, are where responsibility for failure often belongs.

Her message is not only that labels matter. It is that labels can transfer responsibility away from systems and onto the people those systems were supposed to serve.

Syd Stewart is the Founder and CEO of Better Youth, Inc., a Los Angeles-based nonprofit equipping foster and system-impacted youth ages 16 to 24 with creative confidence and career-connected skills through mentoring and media arts training. A writer, filmmaker, and published poet, she has written for "Johnson" on Hulu and "G.R.I.T.S." on ALLBLK and AMC, is a Sundance Collab Directing Elements alum, and has been featured in The New York Times, Variety, and The Hollywood Reporter.

Syd Stewart's talk is now available on the TEDx Talks YouTube channel as part of the TEDxBeverlyGrove 2026 speaker series.

About TEDxBeverlyGrove
TEDxBeverlyGrove is an independently organized TED event devoted to ideas that transform culture, leadership, and human potential. The 2026 theme, "Reimagining the Possible," invited leaders across disciplines to rethink how we navigate uncertainty, rebuild from loss, and discover what becomes possible when endurance replaces inspiration.

About Syd
Syd Stewart is the founder and CEO of Better Youth, a social impact nonprofit based in Los Angeles with a mission to build creative confidence, bridge resource gaps, and prepare foster and system-impacted youth for sustained success in the creative economy. Since its founding in 2008, Better Youth has served more than 12,000 young people through media arts programming, mentoring, and professional development. Stewart is a former educator for GirlUp, a teen girls empowerment initiative through the United Nations Foundation, a former Director for Usher's New Look Foundation, and a television writer and filmmaker.

About Marvin V. Acuna
Marvin V. Acuna is a TEDx Organizer and Producer. In that role, he curates speakers, ideas, and the architecture of a high-trust live stage. Separate from his work as a TEDx producer, Acuna advises leaders, founders, attorneys, and public figures as a speaking coach and talk architect. He helps clients uncover the idea inside their story, sharpen their message, and deliver it with clarity, authority, and impact. He also serves as Head of Business Strategy for The Lawyers Roundtable and is the founder of MoBal Systems.

About TED

TED is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to discovering, debating and spreading ideas that spark conversation, deepen understanding and drive meaningful change. Our organization is devoted to curiosity, reason, wonder and the pursuit of knowledge, without an agenda. We welcome people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world and connection with others, and we invite everyone to engage with ideas and activate them in your community.

TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, but today it spans a multitude of worldwide communities and initiatives exploring everything from science and business to education, arts and global issues. In addition to the TED Talks curated from our annual conferences and published on TED.com, we produce original podcasts, short video series, animated educational lessons (TED-Ed) and TV programs that are translated into more than 100 languages. Through The Audacious Project, TED has helped catalyze $6.6 billion in funding for projects that support bold solutions to the world's most urgent challenges. Follow TED on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok, and X.

About TEDx, x = independently organized event
In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TED Talks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED event. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events are self-organized.

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