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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THRIVAL 2018 RELEASES FIRST ROUND OF HUMANS X TECH SPEAKERS —  
FEATURING LEADERS AND INNOVATORS FROM AROUND U.S.**

**PITTSBURGH, PA** — Thrival Festival organizers just released their first round of speakers and featured participants for its Humans X Tech symposium, summit, and interactive experience held this September 19-20 in various locations throughout Pittsburgh.

Leveraging Pittsburgh's fast growing reputation in artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, robotics, and life sciences, Thrival Festival will host a variety of programs, events, and experiences that explore the oft-cited "Fourth Industrial Revolution." Topics will include tech ethics, human augmentation, AI and smart cities, disruptive economics, robot avatars, tech "immortality," and much more.

John Battelle, founding editor of *WIRED* and CEO of San Francisco-based media and event company NewCo, will once again serve as host of Thrival's featured LIFE.CODE Interactive Experience at Carnegie Museum of Art, joined by Gotham Gal Ventures owner and CEO, Joanne Wilson, as well as co-founder and CEO of Duolingo, Luis von Ahn.

Innovation leaders from Miami, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York City, and even Eastern Kentucky will visit Pittsburgh to lead panel discussions, workshops, and learning sessions during Thrival's Future of Work Symposium at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater and LIFE.CODE Summit at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.

"We're very excited to welcome such a diverse array of individuals who lead at the intersection of humans and technology," says Thrival producer and Ascender Innovation Director, Kenny Chen. "Thrival continues to broaden both its geographic and industry reach, while leading a necessary conversation on technology, culture, business, and beyond. Pittsburgh is a place where this discourse can and will happen."

A number of major corporations will partner with Thrival in 2018 — led by presenting sponsors Peoples and UPMC Enterprises. Dell Technologies and XPrize will both lead workshops at Thrival, while leaders from FedEx, PNC, Boston Consulting Group, MAYA Design, Google, KnowledgeWorks, Remake Learning, and more will speak and participate.

Additional Humans X Tech speakers and participants will be announced in the coming weeks. The Humans X Tech event schedule and program information [are now public](#).

[Ascender](#), a Pittsburgh-based economic development nonprofit, produces and presents Thrival each year. The first Thrival Festival was launched in Bakery Square in 2013.

For more information on Humans X Tech and Thrival Festival, visit [thrivalfestival.com](http://thrivalfestival.com), and follow Thrival on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and Snapchat. Thrival Humans X Tech tickets are available at [thrival2018.eventbrite.com](http://thrival2018.eventbrite.com).