# PanelPicker is open, and we need your vote!



We've submitted two grand challenge-inspired panels for SXSW 2019, and voting is open until **August 30.** Crowdsourced votes account for 30 percent of the selection process, so every vote helps.

**Why & How Universities Should Take on Moonshots:** #82637
University-led Grand Challenge or "moonshot" initiatives unite faculty from

diverse fields to solve specific societal problems, demonstrating the value of the university to their communities. Such efforts provide a unique opportunity to engage outside stakeholders and offer students real-world experience on issues of personal importance. At this panel, learn how to launch, sustain, and build external partnerships to solve specific Grand Challenges while demonstrating value to the public.

**EDU Speakers:**

- Michelle Popowitz, UCLA
- Sarah Rovito, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
- Jennifer Lyon Gardner, The University of Texas at Austin
- Thomas Kalil, Schmidt Futures

**VOTE NOW**

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**Planning for Rapid Population Growth in Texas:** #86572

Texas' population is expected to double by 2050, with most of that growth concentrated in already-dense cities. Rapid growth will create diverse and evolving development patterns that will force us to rethink urban sustainability and resilience. UT's first research grand challenge initiative, Planet Texas 2050, is developing a comprehensive data and communications platform called the Texas Urban Observatory. It aims to integrate demographic, governmental, environmental, and economic data from across the state to help policy- and decision-makers evaluate how urbanization processes affect water, energy, and other interconnected infrastructure systems. Learn more about the Texas Urban Observatory, its applications, projected milestones, and how it can help us prepare for a changing future.

**Interactive Speakers:**

- Fernanda Leite, Cockrell School of Engineering
- Katherine Lieberknecht, School of Architecture
- R. Patrick Bixler, LBJ School of Public Affairs
- Michael Oden, School of Architecture

**VOTE NOW**