

### A Video Podcast About Heroes Using Space for the People of Earth

Join us on an adventure through the telescope to the stars and back. We'll visit people around the world who are having a big impact on the lives of people who share their place on Earth. Whatever our cultural differences, we share the same sky. We are all fellow passengers traveling through the galaxy on Spaceship Earth.



## Big Impact Astronomy: Through the Telescope

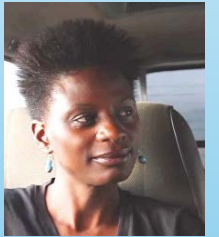
Susan Murabana and Chu Owen  
Kenya

Susan and Chu founded the Traveling Telescope that brings science to communities and public spaces across Kenya. They also built the country's first permanent planetarium from a native resource – bamboo.

### Astronomy: A Universally Accessible Resource

Astronomy is the most accessible and the most universal of all the sciences. We all share the same sky, and reverence for that sky has been a part of every culture throughout human history. Astronomy is also the only science with enthusiasts in every country sharing their passion with others.

But there's much more to astronomy outreach than sidewalk astronomy. In schools and universities, refugee camps, children's hospitals, and more, astronomy is used to improve lives, communities, and society.



## Big Impact Astronomy: Through the Telescope

### Passionate Astronomers Making a Difference

*Big Impact Astronomy: Through the Telescope* brings to light the work of thousands of enthusiasts worldwide leveraging the accessibility and inspiration of astronomy – and its connection to all sciences and cultures – for social progress. These science evangelists introduce STEM in developing countries, encourage girls to consider STEM careers, provide relief, inspiration, and hope for young people in countries in crisis, and much more.

*Big Impact Astronomy* shines a light on these dedicated volunteers and their efforts. Working in anonymity and usually without support, they rely on their passion for the cosmos and determination to have an impact on their communities.

**Mirjana Povic**

**Ethiopia and Other Countries in Africa**

Mirjana is a professional astronomer born and raised in Serbia during the Balkan Wars. Now in Africa, she works on many projects, inspiring students, especially women and girls, across the continent, and with a special focusing on countries in crisis.



## Big Impact Astronomy: Through the Telescope

### Bringing the Stars Down to Earth

Where there are no labs in schools, there is the astronomy lab overhead. Where there is no culture of science, traditional lore connects people with the stars. For people who are blind, tactile models bring understanding of their place in the Universe. Every trip to a rural village is an adventure. Every “wow moment” from someone seeing the rings of Saturn is their payment. Every child’s smile is a prize.

**Manisha Dwa**  
**Nepal**

Manisha represents several international astronomy education organizations in Nepal and is a leader in the Nepal Astronomical Society and other national programs. She is also the founder of Women in Science Nepal. All while studying for her PhD.



## Big Impact Astronomy: Through the Telescope

### Encouragement and Inspiration

From space agencies in the US to Ethiopia, countries in crisis from Ukraine to Libya, girls in Nigeria to camps for refugees from Boko Haram, and rural communities from Nepal to the US, these science evangelists bring the extraordinary down to Earth for inspiration, education, development, mental health, and peacebuilding.

**Olayinka Fagbemi**  
Nigeria

Olayinka founded an astronomy outreach and education group in Abuja that organizes programs for children in a STEM center at a refugee camp where families have fled Boko Haram. They also hold STEM workshops for girls who otherwise wouldn't know they can choose to study science.



## Big Impact Astronomy: Through the Telescope

**Yumna Majeed**  
**Pakistan**

Yumna is devoted to astronomy education in Pakistan. She inspires girls in cities and isolated rural regions to reach for the stars. Lacking support, she volunteers her time and covers her own expenses to follow her passion.

### One World Under the Stars

Several destinations will also be selected for small in-person people-to-people tours. Led by Big Impact host Mike Simmons, visitors will meet these extraordinary people and those who are impacted by them, with cameras following along to share the experiences and insights with viewers. This online program will include interviews with participants sharing their feelings and impressions on-site in real time.



## Big Impact Astronomy: Through the Telescope

### Connecting the World through the Stars

Mike Simmons, host of Big Impact Astronomy: Through the Telescope, has a 50-year history of leading astronomy organizations and projects, the last 25 years internationally. Astronomy has taken him around the world where he's connected with the subjects of Big Impact Astronomy, seen their impact, and heard their stories. These are personal journeys for both the host and the guests.



Mike  
Simmons  
at Alqueva  
Dark Sky  
Reserve,  
Portugal

### Jean Pierre Grootaerd Belgium and the World

Jean-Pierre founded Stars Shine for Everyone that builds mounts for donated telescopes for education in developing countries. Partnering with the International Astronomical Union, Jean-Pierre's group has gifted telescopes that inspire students around the world.



## Big Impact Astronomy: Through the Telescope

Taiisia Karasova  
Ukraine

Big Impact Astronomy is brought to you by Astronomy for Equity, an initiative of the Blue Marble Space Institute of Science dedicated to providing opportunities for the unserved worldwide through the most accessible of sciences, astronomy.

### Become a partner

Show your support for Big Impact Astronomy with your logo on our website.

Join us in sharing the stories of these passionate astronomers around the world striving to improve lives, communities, and society in their countries.

### Connect with Mike Simmons

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Taiisia founded and leads AstroSandbox for Ukrainian astronomy students, keeping them looking skyward with hope during the war. AstroSandbox creates courses, organizes national programs, and prepares students for international competitions.

