

Andrea Bocelli Foundation Workshop 2013: Italy-Usa round trip

With the intention of opening a dialogue and sharing the results of their work, the Andrea Bocelli Foundation and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston have co-organised a 1-day workshop on Friday, December 6, 2013 on the MIT campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts in which international leaders in the fields of scientific and technological research and social impact will take part.

"We are very proud of this project", said Chairperson Laura Biancalani, "especially that its cultural, innovative and development significance has been acknowledged by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs so as to be included in the official program of the celebration of the Year of Italian Culture in America."

This is the second workshop organised by the Andrea Bocelli Foundation; the first was held last year in Pisa to share the results of various activities and to stimulate dialogue as a means for mutual growth.

"We are proud that the Andrea Bocelli Foundation has selected MIT as the site for the 2013 workshop", said Jeffrey Newton, Vice President of MIT. "We share a commitment with the Foundation to explore the use of technology to help individuals overcome various challenges, especially those who are blind or visually impaired, and we are also deeply involved in addressing the barriers to overcoming poverty throughout the world. We salute the Andrea Bocelli Foundation for its commitment to these two important issues."

This year's meeting at MIT will be divided into two parallel workshops devoted to the intervention programs of the Andrea Bocelli Foundation: **Challenges** and **Break the Barriers**; both relate to research activity currently being conducted at MIT.

In the Challenges program, the Andrea Bocelli Foundation funds a multi-disciplinary research group at MIT for the creation of a device that allows blind or visually impaired people to achieve greater autonomy especially outdoors and when socialising.

In the Break the Barriers program, the Foundation identifies interventions in the fight against absolute poverty that can be measured by impact and number of lives saved and is working to collaborate with J-Pal, a social research laboratory at MIT.

For information and registration visit www.abfmit2013.com