

Introducing Keynote Presenter Howard-Yana Shapiro, Ph.D.



FCIA's Elevate Chocolate – Winter 2018 is proud to announce Dr. Howard-Yana Shapiro as our keynote presenter. He will share thoughts on the impact of the environment on cacao and the changes we should all be prepared for, both big chocolate and small batch artisans alike.

His credentials are impressive: Chief Agricultural Officer, Mars Advanced Research Institute Fellow, Mars, Incorporated; Senior Fellow, Department of Plant Sciences, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, University of California, Davis; Science Advisor, MIT Media Lab; and, Distinguished Fellow, World Agroforestry Centre, Nairobi, Kenya.

Dr. Shapiro has been involved with sustainable agricultural and agroforestry systems, plant breeding, molecular biology and genetics for over 40 years. He has worked with indigenous communities, NGO's, governmental agencies and the private sector around the world. His academic career spanned 15 years, involving graduate student and post-doctoral students exclusively. A former Fulbright Scholar, Ford Foundation Fellow, in 2007 Howard was made a Fellow of the World Agroforestry Centre and authored the IAASTD chapter on Biotechnology and Biodiversity.

He is member of the National Research Council Committee on Citrus and Greening, a founding member of the Keystone Roundtable on Sustainable Agriculture, co-chair of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd World Congress of Agroforestry and is Chairperson of the External Advisory Board of the Agriculture Sustainability Institute at UC Davis. In 2009, he was named recipient of The Award of Distinction from The College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, UC Davis.

He conceived of and led the global effort sequencing, assembling and annotating the *Theobroma cacao* genome.

He has been interviewed and published extensively in print, on the radio and television: BBC, CCTV, New York Times, Financial Times, NPR, Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, The Guardian, Fortune, The Economist, ABC, Scientific American and Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Der Spiegel, Handelsblatt, The World Bank, National Research Council, International Finance Corporation amongst many.

He is the author of 5 books including: *Chocolate, History, Culture and Heritage* and *Great Moments in Chocolate History*.

Dr. Shapiro's interests are varied, like being an Owner at Double Helix Racing, recently becoming a member of the 200 Mile Per Hour Club on an unrestricted 1999 Suzuki Hayabusa at the Bonneville Salt Flats Motorcycle Speed Trials, averaging 201.386 MPH.



Howard Shapiro collects and restores classic American, modern Japanese superbikes and Italian motorcycles.

Learn more about Dr. Shapiro:

[UC Davis](#) [LinkedIn](#) [TedXAmsterdam](#) [Economist Article](#)