



# Jean Oelwang

CEO | AUTHOR | SPEAKER | LEADING THINKER  
COLLABORATIONS ARCHITECT



## About Jean Oelwang:

As Founding CEO of Virgin Unite and board member of several organizations, Jean is a highly sought-after speaker and 'Collaboration Architect.' Over the last 20 years, she has worked with partners to lead the incubation and growth of several impact organizations to promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainability, and purpose-driven business models, including: The Elders, The B Team, The Planetary Guardians, The Carbon War Room (successfully merged with RMI), The Africa Partner Collective, Ocean Unite (now ORRAA), The Caribbean Climate Smart Accelerator, 100% Human at Work, Generations Unite and many others.

As part of her work over the last three decades, Jean has helped corporations put the wellbeing of people and the planet at their core, including working with over 25 Virgin businesses across 15 industries to help embed purpose in all they do. Jean also served as a Partner in the Virgin Group leading their people strategy, and she is currently a B Team Leader.

Prior to establishing the Virgin Group's impact arm, Virgin Unite, Jean was joint CEO of Virgin Mobile Australia and spent seventeen years helping lead mobile phone companies in South Africa, Colombia, Bulgaria, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, and the US. In 2015, Jean co-founded the not-for-profit organization Plus Wonder to leverage her decades worth of experience to spark more meaningful Deep Connections and collaborations in the world. These lessons are distilled in Jean's book, *Partnering: Forge the Deep Connections that Make Great Things Happen*, published by Simon Sinek's imprint Optimism Press / Penguin Random House (2022).

## Speaker Topics:

Jean's keynotes and workshops help people build the Deep Connections that make great things happen, whether that's for themselves, for their businesses or large scale collaborations. She can inspire your team to build partnerships for collective success, and dive into the six degrees of connection, from learning to celebrate friction to putting trust and respect at the center of all your relationships.

1. **Building Deep Connections** for a better life, better teams, and a better world.
2. **Becoming Unstoppable:** Purpose, partnering, and urgency.
3. **Explore the Six Degrees of Connection™** to deepen your connections.
4. **Building Collaborations** to make great things happen.
5. **Dive deep** into tools to build a resilient, powerful team.

## Media:

Jean is regularly featured in mainstream media providing insights on purpose-driven business and global impact initiatives, such as Forbes, Financial Times, Foundr, CEO Magazine, TED Ideas, and HuffPost. She is also often interviewed for podcasts, including A Bit of Optimism with Simon Sinek, Passion Struck, Systems Catalysts, Mission Matters, To Dine For, The PlayFull Podcast, and many others.

## ▶ Watch Jean's Speaking Reel

### Speaking Engagements:

Jean is an active speaker at conferences and international forums, including:

- Pro-Human Assembly (2026)
- ▶ **TEDxBoston Planet Action Summit (2025)**
- Penn State Smeal Commencement address (2024)
- **SXSW SHE Media Co-Lab (2024)**
- World Business Forum: Colombia, Spain, Italy (2023)
- **Harvard's Institute of Coaching in Leadership & Healthcare Conference [with Graça Machel] (2023)**
- Jean also speaks at internal corporate events with clients like Virgin Group, YPO, CEO, UBS and other businesses.

### Awards:

- **Financial Times Readers' Woman of 2024**
- Bernie Glassman Trailblazer Award
- **FilmAid Philanthropic Leadership Award**
- Helen Eakin Eisenhower Award
- **Gerald I. Susman Sustainability Award**
- 2021 Beta Gamma Sigma International Honoree Award
- **ACCR Capital Community Engagement Award**
- Penn State Fellows Award
- **Business Excellence Institute Excellence Hall of Fame Inductee**

### Follow:

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**For speaking engagements,  
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