

Jessica O. Matthews

Innovator and CEO, Uncharted

“If ever there was an innovator, she’s it.” – Bill Clinton, 42nd President of the United States

Jessica O. Matthews is an award-winning entrepreneur, inventor, and social scientist with more than 10 years of demonstrated thought leadership in the future of smart cities, climate resiliency, and improving equitable access to infrastructure resources. She is the founder and CEO of Uncharted, a sustainable infrastructure company that helps cities reduce the cost of developing smart infrastructure worldwide. Through Uncharted, she has created a central hub that connects cities to innovative, cost-effective solutions essential to transforming their environments to be more intelligent and inclusive, while leveraging data to achieve the highest level of infrastructural operation and optimization. Called “the Elon Musk of kinetic energy” by former U.S. chief technology officer Megan Smith, her groundbreaking research and career center around the intersection of disruptive technology, renewable energy, human behavior, and the psychology of self-actualization.

Represented by [Leading Authorities speakers bureau](#), Jessica takes groups along her entrepreneurial journey as she reveals the evolution of an idea to generate energy from a soccer ball all the way through to the rise of a revolutionary technology company that is reshaping our cities for sustainable futures. Her candid, relatable approach inspires audiences to adapt, innovate, and create solutions to address the needs of people, businesses, and communities worldwide. Jessica’s motto, “Succeed, not despite of who you are, but because of who you are, unapologetically,” encourages individuals and organizations to embrace differences and recognize that personal struggle and challenges can give birth to solutions, if you let them.

Jessica’s career started at the age of 19 with her invention of the SOCKET, an energy-generating soccer ball. At the age of 22, Jessica founded Uncharted as a power solutions company before expanding to smart city infrastructure development that helps the citizens of small cities trust that they do not need to “leave where they are from to get where they are going.”

Jessica’s success in entrepreneurship led to a White House invitation from President Barack Obama to represent small companies for the signing of the America Invents Act in 2012. In 2016, she raised what was at the time the largest Series A round ever raised by a black female founder in history, and was selected to ring the NASDAQ opening ceremony bell, representing all *Forbes* 30 Under 30 alumni. In 2021, Jessica was officially appointed by Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm to the Electricity Advisory Committee. As a member of the Smart Grid subcommittee, she plays a key role in advising the Department of Energy on the ways we can modernize our nation’s electric delivery system, specifically focusing on accelerating the deployment of electric vehicle charging stations throughout the U.S.

A dual citizen of Nigeria and the United States, Jessica has a degree in psychology and economics from Harvard University, an MBA from Harvard Business School, and is listed on over 12 patents and patents pending. Her list of accolades includes *Fortune’s* Most Promising Women Entrepreneurs, *Forbes* 30 Under 30, *Inc. Magazine* 30 Under 30 and Female Founders 100, Harvard University Scientist of the Year, One Young World Entrepreneur of the Year, the Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award, and Black Women Tech Talk’s Tech Trailblazer Award. She has appeared on the cover of *Forbes* and *Forbes Africa*, as well as featured in *Marie Claire*, *Wired*, *Inc.*, *TechCrunch*, *The New York Times*, and *Fast Company*, among others.