



ALLIANCE OF ARTISTS COMMUNITIES

2017 Conference | Oct 2-5, 2017 | Denver, Colorado

Call for Proposals

Join your colleagues on at the Alliance of Artists Communities' 27th Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado on October 2-5, 2017. The Annual Conference brings together 350+ artist residency and other arts leaders, funders, policy makers, community organizers and educators from across the world to explore artist-centered approaches to engaging communities and developing healthy organizations. More information at: <http://artistcommunities.org/conference>.

The 2017 theme *Creating a Culture of Generosity* offers new pathways to acknowledging and understanding how residency programs can support artists in changing the world with intentional actions. *How are we telling our story and demonstrating the value of artist-centered organizations? What can we learn from successes and failures? How can we advance strategies for fund development and earned revenue without compromising our missions? How can we address current imbalances in the field regarding cultural equity, access and inclusion? And how do we hold space for critical dialogue and community exchange?*

Conference programming includes nut-and-bolts trainings, discussions and debates, artist keynotes, networking meet-ups – as well as tours, hikes and workshops showcasing Denver's spectacular natural and cultural resources. Plenary conversations will provide all attendees with the chance to deeply engage key areas of inquiry including: equity + inclusion, arts + ecology, accessibility and leadership. Help us build an incredible event – all are invited to propose content for this year's meeting!

Propose a session you would like to lead or suggest topics and/or speakers you think would be most impactful. **Submit your ideas by March 30, 2017.**

How to Propose a Session

1. Read the **conference session guidelines** that follow.
2. Submit a brief description of your proposed session using the **Session Proposal webform** by end of day **Thursday, March 30th**: <http://artistcommunities.org/2017-conference-session-proposal-form>
3. Our conference planning committee curates session content. If your proposal is accepted, we will contact you for more details and to confirm presenters. The committee will work with you as a content organizer, as appropriate, to identify local artists and other individuals who can contribute content to sessions, serve as presenters or respondents or design site visits and workshops.

Session Content + Formats

Content areas may be on any topic related to advancing today's artists and/or artist residencies. We hope that all topics will touch on one or more of the following:

- Advancing equity, accessibility and inclusion in the arts
- Innovative partnerships, cross-sector collaborations
- Fundraising, earned revenue and sustaining artist-centered organizations
- Developing leadership and self-care of current leaders
- Engaging and activating community

- Resiliency
- Advocacy
- Curatorial process and aesthetic value

The conference aims for a mix of **training/case-study presentations** that present innovative best practices, strategies and ideas so that they can be translated into diverse contexts as well as **deep-divide conversations/round tables** that make room for discussion and group interaction. Sessions may not have more than four presenters (including the moderator).

Please consider the following formats, or propose your own:

- **Panel** – Up to four participants share diverse viewpoints around a key topic in the field.
- **Idea Share** – A presentation showcasing best practices or innovative strategies through a compelling case study. This can be presented by a single presenter or by collaborating organizations.
- **Workshop** – An interactive training focused on a specific topic.
- **Roundtable or Meet-Up** – An informal small group gathering taking place during a meal or in the general session blocks. These gatherings will be promoted in advance so that participants can make plans to attend.
- **Long Table** – The group sits at a long table surrounded by the audience; the discussion participants change as people join (and leave) the table. Created by artist Lois Weaver, the Long Table is a format for public discussion that combines a relaxed dinner table atmosphere with a conventional public forum in order to encourage informal conversation on serious topics.
- **Snowball** – Panelists give short presentations to set the context for discussion; the audience continues the discussion in pairs, then in groups of 4, groups of 8 and so on.

Session Costs and Comps

The Alliance of Artists Communities **is not able to provide travel funds or full registration for session presenters.** A small honorarium is available for all practicing artists who are presenting. **Speakers are provided with a complimentary conference registration for the day they are presenting; presenters who wish to attend the full conference may register at the member/team rate.** Organizers are encouraged to take advantage of the tremendous wealth of knowledge of Alliance members and other conference participants.

Submission Timeline

Proposal Submission Deadline	March 30, 2017
Notifications	Mid-April
Registration Launches	June
Conference Program Announced	July
2017 Conference Denver, CO	October 2-5, 2017

2017 Conference Values and Priorities

The Conference Committee will prioritize sessions that:

- Address topics related to the conference theme *Creating a Culture of Generosity*
- Include presenters who are new leaders, non-arts leaders, artists and experts who represent diverse perspectives
- Showcase current or emerging trends, innovative or experimental approaches to supporting artists and/or creative responses to problems or opportunities facing artist-centered organizations
- Highlight unique collaborations including cross-sector partnerships
- Stimulate discussion and debate, challenge conventional thinking and/or offer different points of view.

The Committee discourages:

- Panels that leave little or no opportunity for audience interaction
- Sessions that are a pitch for a single program or service rather than a sharing of ideas

Questions may be directed to conference@artistcommunities.org or call at 401-351-4320.

The Alliance of Artists Communities is an international association of artists residencies based in Providence, Rhode Island. Believing that the cultivation of new art and ideas is essential to human progress, the Alliance's mission is to advocate for and support artists' communities around the world, to advance the endeavors of all artists. Read more: artistcommunities.org.