



# ALLIANCE OF ARTISTS COMMUNITIES

## 2018 Conference | Oct 15-18 | Philadelphia, PA

### Call for Proposals

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The 28th Annual Alliance of Artists Communities Conference will take place in Philadelphia, PA, October 15-18, 2018. **We are currently accepting conference session proposals.** The Alliance of Artists Communities' Annual Conference is the largest summit for the artist residency field, bringing together over 350 arts leaders, community organizers, funders, policymakers, educators and cross-sector partners from around the world.

Our 2018 theme, *Generosity in Practice: Navigating 21st Century Challenges*, explores how artist residencies and artist-centered spaces are navigating rapid technological advancement, greater demands on staff and artists due to shrinking resources and heightened responsibility to respond to social and political issues. How do we translate espoused values into action in a rapidly changing world? How have your organizational priorities shifted? What does radical change look like in our field?

Conference programming includes a mix of practical trainings, big picture discussions and debates, artist keynotes and networking meetups. Two afternoons will be devoted to tours and workshops across Philadelphia's artist spaces and neighborhoods. Special tracks and preconferences will address specific areas of inquiry, including ecology, performing arts, technology, accessibility and leadership. More information at [artistcommunities.org/events/conference](http://artistcommunities.org/events/conference).

All are invited to propose content for this year's meeting. Help us build an incredible event! **The submission deadline is Friday, March 30 at midnight.** Notifications will be sent by April 20. Please direct questions to [conference@artistcommunities.org](mailto:conference@artistcommunities.org).

## Session Priorities

The Alliance of Artists Communities is committed to fostering a non-hierarchical, peer-to-peer learning environment that honors diverse voices. We seek a breadth of topics around advancing today's artists and proposals representing the broad range of models or contexts in which artist-centered programs operate. The proposal review committee will prioritize sessions that generate discussion, debate and challenge conventional thinking. We encourage presenters who are artists, cross-sector partners and represent diverse perspectives and populations. Questions to consider:

- What are emerging trends or new approaches to artist support?
- How are residencies collaborating: with artists, nonprofits, across sectors, etc.?
- What tools, strategies or models have you employed in the last year to meet a specific challenge?

Topics might include:

- Alternative, small-scale, and new models of artists residencies
- Support structures for underserved disciplines and artists
- Curation, criteria, and artist selection
- Equity, accessibility and inclusion
- Fundraising and earned revenue strategies for sustaining artist-centered organizations
- Leadership pipelines and staff support
- Civic engagement and artist-centered community development (rural or urban contexts)

## Session Formats

The conference offers a mix of nuts-and-bolts trainings, presentations on clear and replicable best practices/strategies, deep-dive conversations and experimental formats that encourage non-hierarchical modes of knowledge sharing. Sessions are 45, 60 or 90 minutes. 45 or 60-minute sessions may have up to two presenters. 90-minute sessions may have up to four presenters, including the moderator. Please consider the following formats, or propose your own.

- Traditional session formats include: **Trainings/workshops, panels, single speaker presentations or roundtable discussions.**
- **Long Table:** Created by artist Lois Weaver, "Long Table" combines a relaxed dinner table atmosphere with a conventional public forum to encourage informal conversation on serious topics. Group sits at a long table surrounded by audience; discussion participants change as people join and leave the table.
- **Snowball:** Panelists give short presentations to set context for discussion; audience continues discussion in pairs, then in groups of 4, groups of 8, and so on.
- **Point of View:** Two presenters offer distinct case studies or models for how they addressed a specific challenge.
- **Offsite Activities:** Two afternoons are dedicated to offsite tours, workshops and activities organized by artists and arts leaders based in Philadelphia. To propose an offsite activity, read more here: [artistcommunities.org/call-proposals#offsite](http://artistcommunities.org/call-proposals#offsite)

## Session Costs and Comps

The Alliance of Artists Communities **is not able to provide travel funds or complimentary registration for session presenters.** A small honorarium is available for practicing artists (not represented by an institution) who are presenting. **All speakers may register at the discounted early-bird, member rate.**

## Submission Timeline

Proposal submission deadline	March 30, 2018
Proposal notifications	Mid-April
Registration launches	Mid-June
Deadline for final session descriptions and confirmed speakers	June 27
Full Conference program announced	Mid-July
2018 Emerging Program Institute   Philadelphia, PA	October 13-15, 2018
<b>2018 Annual Conference   Philadelphia, PA</b>	<b>October 15-18, 2018</b>

## How to Propose a Session

1. Consider the **conference session priorities and formats.**
2. Submit a brief description of your proposed session using the **Session Proposal Webform** by midnight on **Friday, March 30:** [artistcommunities.org/2018-conference-session-proposal-form](http://artistcommunities.org/2018-conference-session-proposal-form)
3. Proposals are reviewed by a committee made up of AAC member organizations and Alliance board and staff. 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 may contribute content to sessions, serve as presenters or respondents or lead site visits and workshops
4. Please direct questions to [conference@artistcommunities.org](mailto:conference@artistcommunities.org).

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 at [artistcommunities.org](http://artistcommunities.org).