



## TFN 2022 Annual Conference SESSION PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

**The Funders Network's 2022 Annual Conference: Seize the Moment** will be held March 14 -16 in San Diego, California.

TFN invites you to submit a session proposal for our 2022 Annual Conference, which brings together funders from across North America to deepen learning, foster collaboration and catalyze action.

Our theme for our 2022 Annual Conference — **Seize the Moment** — is an opportunity to come together after more than a year of disruption to share how we can deepen our ties to the people and places we serve, deploy resources where they are most needed, and push for powerful and creative strategies to address inequities and move toward justice.

We look forward to coming together in San Diego to delve into and lift up the work that is making an impact in these challenging and unprecedented times. Please read on for more information on how to submit a session proposal for **TFN's 2022 Annual Conference: Seize the Moment**.

**\*Please note our extended deadline: The new deadline to submit a conference proposal is July 12, 2021.\***

### REVIEW AND SELECTION

We value the diverse voices of our members and partners, and welcome the opportunity to amplify work making an impact across a variety of topics. Session proposals will be reviewed by TFN staff and the 2022 Conference Planning Committee. In keeping with TFN policy, we will offer an honoraria for non-profit speakers and performing artists featured on the conference agenda. Session designers will be invited to contribute to honoraria and travel costs for non-funder speakers/performers associated with the final sessions. Please note that this is an optional and not an obligatory invitation. We do not intend for this practice to be a barrier to participating in session design opportunities, calls for ideas, etc. Instead, it is part of TFN's commitment to be more mindful, deliberate and equitable in our planning for events.

We're looking for proposals that:

- Have an interdisciplinary approach that addresses more than one issue
- Focus on place, including urban and rural regions and communities

- Lift up policy as well as programmatic responses to issues
- Include diversity of speakers (by sector, types and sizes of foundations, perspectives, populations, generations, and experiences)
- Are a collaborative effort by multiple funders
- Encourage interaction and discussion in creative ways

## CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

We will again offer Critical Conversations, an opportunity to have frank, open, peer-facilitated exchanges of ideas and experiences, and perhaps learn a little bit about each other in the process. Each session will be led by a facilitator with a deep personal or professional connection to the topic. (Here are some examples of Critical Conversations from our [#TFN2021 Virtual Conference](#).)

## BREAKOUT SESSION FORMATS

Special consideration will be given to breakout sessions with non-traditional formats. Some suggested formats:

- **Arts Integration:** Integrate the arts or artists into your session. How are art or artists being used to tell the stories of the work?
- **Fishbowl:** Four to five chairs are arranged in an inner circle for the speakers. Participants sit in concentric circles outside the “fishbowl” to listen. One chair is left empty so that individuals from the audience can join the discussion.
- **Multi-sensory:** Create a memorable experience and provide an opportunity for participants to have a fully immersive experience by incorporating sight, sound, smell, taste and touch.
- **Role Playing:** Short skits that illustrate a point. Role play can help participants understand different viewpoints and practice strategies in conversation and conflict management.
- **Point/Counterpoint:** Feature opposing points of view, with protagonists and antagonists taking opposite sides of a specific issue and a moderator facilitating a lively debate.
- **Town Hall:** Guided by moderator and may have appointed speakers who can help lead discussions. It is recommended that formal presentations be avoided in favor of organic discussion.
- **TEDx-Style:** Each session should have no more than 3-4 presenters and each TED-style talk should last between 10-15 minutes. Speakers should focus on the message they want to convey and deliver that message in a compelling manner.
- **Workshop:** Teach or introduce practical skills, techniques, or ideas which participants can then use in their work.

- **Alternative session format:** We invite you to propose your own creative and dynamic format for your session. When submitting your proposal, be sure to describe the session format.

## GUIDELINES

We're looking for dynamic, strategic, and informative proposals for sessions and speakers, particularly those that advance TFN's interdisciplinary approach to environment, equity, and economy. As in previous years, we'll give special consideration to proposals that address priorities and voices of low-income communities and communities of color.

We're encouraging proposals that are interdisciplinary in their approach and highlight innovative work at the intersection of multiple issues. For example, if the primary theme of a proposal is environmental sustainability, we want to understand the relationship of that work to equity and the economy. After selecting your primary session theme (*Environmental Sustainability, Justice & Equity, or Inclusive Community and Economic Development*) on the proposal form, additional and more specific areas of focus will be available for you to choose from. Select up to three additional areas of focus. This is meant to help encourage cross-cutting thinking and session design.

Session proposals should also include background on the issue(s) addressed, how the work is being carried out, and the impact the work has had — including lessons learned and opportunities for improvement. Where possible sessions should also articulate:

- Philanthropic practice and funder roles
- The range of grant or investment strategies being implemented
- How the work provides new models, tools, or innovation

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about this call for proposals, please reach out to Lesmarie Nicholson at [lesmarie@fundersnetwork.org](mailto:lesmarie@fundersnetwork.org).