



TFN 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SESSION PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

The Funders Network's 2023 Annual Conference will be held March 20 -22 in New Orleans, LA.

TFN invites you to submit a session proposal for our 2023 Annual Conference, which brings together funders from across North America to deepen learning, foster collaboration and catalyze action.

Our 2023 Annual Conference is an opportunity to come together 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 New Orleans 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 2023 Annual Conference.

The deadline to submit a conference proposal is August 1, 2022.

SKILL BUILDING WORKSHOPS & PEER LEARNING SESSIONS

This year TFN will offer skill building workshops and peer learning sessions as part of our conference program. These workshops and learning sessions will provide attendees with in-depth information, practical experience to enhance their skills, as well as an opportunity to share their learning in a particular area of interest in the field of philanthropy. Workshops and peer sessions should include presentations, as well as group activities and discussion to help participants apply learning to their work. Skill building workshops are two-and-a-half hours, and peer learning sessions are one hour and forty-five minutes. **TFN strongly encourages proposals that center issues of racial equity and building power for community-led solutions.**

Each proposal will be reviewed by our planning committee to ensure the richest experience for conference attendees. On the submission form, you will be asked to indicate if you are interested in serving as a session designer if the proposal is selected, or if you are just suggesting a topic for consideration (either approach is welcome!).

Skill Building Workshops – We are planning to include up to four two-and-a-half hour workshops during the conference that provide attendees with skills and best practices. Workshops should not be talking head presentations but should include active learning, and attention to outcomes. Activities and discussions should be woven into the workshop plan to help attendees apply the information to their

work. Examples of skill building workshops include: BIPOC Leadership & Solidarity, Allyship, Equitable Evaluations, Communications, Advocacy, etc.

Peer Learning Sessions – For the peer learning sessions, 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. This is meant to help encourage cross-cutting thinking and session design.

These are sessions focused on learning from funder peers and community partners, with speakers presenting information on a relevant topic, issue, strategy, or challenge. The session format should include an introduction, context setting, and presenting background information on the topic or issue. Speakers will give opening presentations, followed by an exchange of ideas and discussion between the speakers and attendees. This session is for one hour and forty-five minutes and will focus on problem-solving or collaborative strategy and new practices. Examples of peer learning sessions include Collaborative Governance, Clean Energy Economy, Equitable Leadership Pathways. etc.

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. In keeping with TFN policy, we will offer an honoraria for non-profit speakers and performing artists featured on the conference agenda. Funder 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 proposals, 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 dynamic, strategic, and informative proposals for workshops and peer learning sessions, particularly those that advance TFN's interdisciplinary approach to environment, equity, and economy. Proposals for skill building workshops and peer learning sessions should:

- Be timely and relevant
- 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)
- Be a collaborative effort by multiple funders
- Encourage interaction and discussion in creative ways

Proposals should also include background on the issue(s) addressed or skills to be strengthened, how the session will be designed, and desired outcomes of the sessions. Where possible sessions should also articulate:

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

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about this call for proposals, please reach out to Lesmarie Nicholson at lesmarie@fundersnetwork.org.