



Annual Conference | 2018 Pittsburgh | Call for Content

Join your colleagues at the National Performance Network & Visual Artists Network Annual Conference in Pittsburgh on December 13-16, 2018!

The Annual Conference brings together 350+ artists, arts leaders, funders, policy makers, community organizers, and educators to explore building a more just and equitable world through the arts. All are welcome at the conference, and newbies and veterans alike are encouraged to submit session proposals! **Deadline for submissions is June 8, 2018.**

GUIDELINES

In alignment with NPN/VAN's commitment to creating an arts sector rooted in justice, we are committed to ensuring a space that is free of racism, transphobia, homophobia, ableism, misogyny, classism, or other bias. We also encourage freedom of expression and we aim to create a brave, generative space. Our expectation is that all conference sessions and participants honor these ethics.

I. Content

NPN/VAN is committed to fostering a peer-to-peer learning environment that challenges conventional practices and encourages discussion and exchange. The conference offers a mix of nuts-and-bolts sessions, conversations that examine our work through a lens of equity and justice, and opportunities for artists, presenters, funders, and others to be in community together as thought partners. (See [2017 Conference Schedule](#) for examples from our most recent conference.)

The Content Committee encourages sessions that:

- Include participants who represent historically marginalized people and communities
- Include artists (we are happy to provide recommendations of artists who will be attending)
- Include participants from the local community (we are happy to provide recommendations of Pittsburgh participants)
- Stimulate discussion and debate, challenge conventional thinking, and offer different points of view
- Showcase current or emerging trends and creative responses to challenges or opportunities facing artists and artist-centered organizations

IDEA FORUMS

Idea Forum 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. Except in rare circumstances, we will not include the same speaker in more than one session per year; please consider this when proposing speakers. Reach out to NPN/VAN staff if you would like speaker recommendations.

In addition to traditional panel formats, please consider the following options or propose your own.

- Roundtable: All attendees participate in a group discussion.
- Long Table: Designated participants start by sitting at a long table surrounded by audience; discussion participants change as people join and leave the table.
- Snowball: Session presenters 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.

PEER-TO-PEER WORKSHOPS

Peer-to-Peer workshops are organized by artists for artists -- from career hacks, to professional development, to work-life balance, to hands-on creative activities. Workshops are up to 2 hours long and can include one or more artist organizers.

II. Financial Policy

A small honorarium is available for practicing artists (not represented by an institution) who are presenting. We are not able to provide additional travel support or honoraria for those organizing or participating in conference sessions. For session participants who are not planning to attend the conference otherwise, we provide a one-day complimentary registration the day of the participants' session.

III. How to Propose a Session

1. Read the guidelines. Please email conference@npnweb.org no later than Monday, **June 4** if you'd like to discuss your proposal in advance or have questions about submitting a proposal.
2. Submit a completed proposal webform no later than end of day **Friday, June 8**
3. A Content Committee consisting of NPN/VAN Board Members, Partners, Artists, and Staff will review proposals, and may provide additional suggestions.
4. Organizers of selected sessions will be notified by the end of June.
5. Final session descriptions and confirmed speakers are due from organizers in mid-July.

Click [here](#) to propose an Idea Forum session

Click [here](#) to propose a Peer-to-Peer session