



## Call for Peer to Peer Proposals

Be a P2P Presenter at Arts BC's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference and help shape our sector #next40

### Themes: New Voices. Fresh Thinking

Join colleagues from around the province and contribute to a new dialogue in the arts in B.C. as we respectfully gather on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Syilx/Okanagan People in Kelowna.

Arts BC welcomes Peer to Peer presentation proposals that capture New Voices and Fresh Thinking to help shift systemic barriers to change in BC's arts and culture landscape (see Background Information).

**Theme 1: New Voices** can come from within our sector or out (think tech, tourism or entrepreneurship, or...); from those who are new to the field of practice, or colleagues who may feel they are not being sufficiently heard or recognized in professional development learning environments including: Communities of colour; Newcomers to Canada; Indigenous Peoples, and LGBTQ+ colleagues. Our goal is to create a safe space for your peers in arts and culture to listen and learn from you.

**Theme 2: Fresh Thinking** shows how new approaches and innovative practices are solving old issues and challenges in your organization or community. Getting to the root cause of a problem by considering other angles, showing openness to ideas, engaging with community and taking a wider view are keys to success in designing creative solutions.

### Why be a Presenter?

Arts BC's annual conference brings together professional and volunteer colleagues in arts and culture from around the province. Our membership network is made up of diverse representatives from community-based to professional arts and culture administrators, festival and event organizers, tourism and local arts agents and councils; venue operators, artists and creative entrepreneurs, and colleagues from various arts disciplines— everyone is welcome here.

Knowledge-sharing through Peer to Peer learning is key to developing a healthy arts and culture ecosystem in B.C. as it provides a space for showcasing successes and lessons learned in a supportive environment.

Peer to Peer presenters have a unique opportunity to showcase their community; gain peer recognition; expand their network and exchange ideas with over a hundred registrants from across BC. Peer to Peer presenters also receive a discounted conference registration rate if registered by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Session Content

Arts BC welcomes New Voices and Fresh Thinking in Peer to Peer content that is relevant to the following learning streams:

- **Arts and cultural non-profit management and governance** for volunteers; new or experienced arts administrators; municipal cultural managers; and funders;
- **Social justice, equity, diversity and inclusion** in arts organizations or artistic practices;
- Arts and culture-led **community engagement and development**;
- **Skills development for artists and creative entrepreneurs**;
- **Community and regional arts** in rural settings; and
- **Animating and activating public spaces through the arts.**

Arts BC encourages proposal formats that reflect our themes of New Voices and Fresh Thinking, address systemic barriers to change, and support our delegates with practical tips, tools and resources; useful skills; strategic thinking and problem-solving for the challenges they face. It is important to consider that many delegates operate arts and culture organizations with limited capacity and modest budgets.

To support a full creative life for all, Arts BC commits to championing practices of cultural equity that empower just, inclusive, and equitable communities and learning environments for sector development.

## To Apply

Proposed sessions should be grounded in practice, allow for Q&A time with the audience, and can take the form of a:

- **Workshop (75 mins)** – Active learning with dedicated time for hands-on participation.
- **Presentation (75 mins)** – Individual or panel presentations (maximum three panelists)
- **One on One Troubleshooting (80 mins total)** – You are a subject matter expert and will offer individual one on one support to four participants in 20 minute segments by listening to the delegate, confirming the key problem statement, and identifying tools, resources, supports or solutions to the identified issue.
- **Ask the Expert Roundtables (80 mins total – participants rotate through 4-6 tables during this time)** – You will host drop-in style roundtable discussions, demonstrations and mini-workshops in an area where you have specific expertise to share. Ask the Expert presenters do not have access to a projector or computer.

Proposals, in the form of a working title and an abstract of 200-250 words in Word, including the identified theme and intended format of the P2P session, along with each presenters' full name,

e-mail address, affiliation, and position should be submitted by **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019** to **communications@artsbc.org**.

### Further Details

Submissions will be reviewed by the 2019 Programming Committee on meeting the eligibility criteria, and relevance to the conference theme. Consideration will be given to ensure diversity in content, geography, and community size.

Selected submissions may have to vary their session time depending on conference programming.

Selected presenters will be profiled on the Arts BC website, social media, and in the conference program.

A \$100 discount on conference registration will be provided to accepted Peer to Peer presenters if registration is completed and paid for prior to the registration deadline of August 1st, 2019. Peer to Peer presenters are responsible for their own transportation and accommodation. Peer to Peer presenter fees and/or honorariums are not provided.

Arts BC encourages all Peer to Peer presenters to register for and attend the full conference. We do recognize that there are times when this is not possible due to time or financial constraints. Please get in touch with our office during the proposal process to discuss alternatives and arrangements.

Questions? We invite you to connect with us by emailing [outreach@artsbc.org](mailto:outreach@artsbc.org).

### Dates to Note

**June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019** deadline for proposal submission.

**August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019** deadline for presenter discount for conference registration.

**October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019** deadline for receipt of final presentation in power point format.

### AV and Technology Guidelines:

Presentation and workshop sessions will be supplied with a laptop computer with sound for video; LCD projector and screen; and microphone. Presentations are only accepted in PowerPoint format and must be provided by the October 9<sup>th</sup> deadline. Presenters are responsible for providing any materials or handouts associated with their session.

## Background Information Addressing Systemic Barriers to Change

Arts BC hears from arts and cultural workers and volunteers around the province on a daily basis through our Arts 911 Hotline and Community Cultural Forums. We see four systemic barriers to change which surround:

- 1. Have vs. Have Not Thinking:** This is the impoverished and scarcity-based thinking of many arts organizations who have difficulty cycling out of their current capacity due to, in some cases, an organization culture that may not value skills and professional development or openness to new ideas and practices, and cites lack of resources as their main issue (while many other organizations have cycled out of their limited capacity towards abundance).
- 2. Lack of experience/capacity in engaging with Indigenous and Culturally Diverse communities:** “We don’t know how to engage/work with Indigenous artists, organizations, and/or Newcomers” or “It’s hard to engage with Indigenous artists”. Underlying barriers include uncertainty, working from an inherited colonial bias, low threshold for risk, discomfort, etc...
- 3. Burn out in the arts:** There is fundamentally a lack of work/life balance for many arts workers of sacrificing their health/personal life/financial position for the work they do for their organizations and communities. The systemic issue being not fundamentally valuing the time and capacity of arts workers and volunteers, and the need for professionalizing arts administration in B.C.
- 4. Need for local cultural leadership:** This is a barrier often within local and regional governments that the arts are a ‘nice to have’ or ‘frill’ and that arts and artistic activity are not central to the health and success of community life in cities and towns in B.C. The barrier being lack of awareness of the social and economic impact of the arts and artistic activity.