

PNW24

Request for Session Proposals

PNW24 Conference

October 21-23, 2024

Missoula, Montana



About Philanthropy Northwest

Philanthropy Northwest is a dynamic regional network comprised of philanthropic partners across Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming and beyond. For nearly five decades, Philanthropy Northwest has been more than an organization; we've been a community, a trusted partner and a peer collective that is committed to transforming ourselves and our sector. We envision a future of equity and racial justice for all, grounded in the power of collective possibility.

As we approach our 50-year anniversary, our mission is clear: to grow philanthropy's capacity to move resources and power towards communities historically overlooked by the sector. We are passionate about coming together to learn, spur action, and support one another in our personal, professional and organizational growth.

Welcome to PNW24!

After a year-long pause with a listening tour and time for intentional and strategic thinking about how we can most meaningfully gather as a network, our conference is back! **PNW24 is returning in person on October 21 - 23, 2024 in Missoula, Montana.**

PNW24 is the largest gathering of philanthropy practitioners in the region. Philanthropy Northwest is a regional organization proud of our communities. We are forgoing a conference theme and instead aligning conference sessions to our new strategic priorities as informed by all of you, as well as highlighting the host city of Missoula. This change is yet another way Philanthropy Northwest celebrates our connection to place which is a core value of our organization.

What We're Looking For

We are seeking proposals for breakout sessions at the PNW24 conference.

During our conference pause and listening tour in 2023, we heard that our network values opportunities to connect and learn from each other. To support this at PNW24, we are seeking breakout session proposals from you, our members and partners, that align with Philanthropy Northwest priorities and values, and a chance to further celebrate our connection to place.

Session Topics

We ask that all proposals align with one of these three priority topics:

1. **Equity-centered philanthropic practices.** We are looking for proposals that build a community of learners focused on advancing equity in philanthropy. This includes but is not limited to rural grantmaking, trust-based philanthropy, participatory grantmaking, equity centered strategy development, and trust-based and participatory evaluation approaches.
2. **Moving resources.** We are looking for proposals that advance moving resources to communities that haven't received equitable investment from philanthropy or benefited from access to resources. This could include topics such as racial equity, social justice (such as disability, climate, etc.), reparations or reparative action, LANDBACK and advancing a healthy democracy.
3. **Organizational culture and operations.** We are looking for proposals that consider what it means to create a healthy philanthropic organization in this time. This could include topics related to foundation and grant operations, human resources and professional development, deepening connection to Northwest communities, fundraising, leveraging the use of technology to create greater access to resources and/or simplify processes, and sunset/spending down a foundation.

We learn our best lessons from our mistakes. Philanthropy Northwest also encourages proposals that reflect honestly about a failure, challenge or a work in progress. Let's celebrate failing forward!

Session Formats

We are also asking that all session proposals contribute to an inclusive and engaging learning environment. Please consider the session format that best suits your proposed topic. We will prioritize sessions that are interactive and/or use a creative format. The available session formats are:

- **Presentation:** This is a traditional style session with a speaker presentation (slides or other) followed by audience questions and/or conversation. You are still

encouraged to use interactive elements such as a breakout conversation, poll questions, etc.

- **Panel:** This is a session with a moderated panel discussion followed by audience questions and/or conversation. You are still encouraged to use interactive elements such as a breakout conversation, poll questions, etc.
- **World Cafe:** This is a session built around a central topic with small table group conversations. Participants rotate around the room and explore the topic through the prompt questions at each table.
- **Other:** This is a session free space! If none of the above are what you had in mind, please tell us about your vision and desired format in the application.

Session Logistics

All breakout sessions are 75 minutes. Please note due to the full nature of the conference agenda there is no flexibility regarding session length. However, we will consider two proposals that build on each other, offering a part one and part two on a given topic.

We expect that applicants presenting at PNW24 will own the planning and execution of this breakout session. Philanthropy Northwest staff are available for light consultation and logistical support, but you should expect that this is your session to own.

How to Apply

Please submit your application via Formstack here:

https://philanthropynw.formstack.com/forms/pnw24_rfp

The application deadline is March 29, 2024.

The next steps in the PNW24 RFP process include:

- **March 29** Deadline for all proposals. After the application window closes, the Philanthropy Northwest team will begin our review.
- **April 26** Philanthropy Northwest will inform all RFP applicants of acceptance decisions for PNW24.
- **May 3** Deadline for accepted session applicants to return MOU and confirm your participation at PNW24.

- **May 13** Deadline for confirmed sessions to return final session titles, descriptions, speaker photos and bios, accessibility needs and equipment/setup requests.

Additional Details

Speakers from philanthropy, foundations or nonprofit associations are eligible for a special speaker rate of \$850.

Community speakers (i.e. community leaders and folks from nonprofit organizations) whose proposals are accepted for PNW24 will receive a complimentary registration for the conference.

If you are a funder who plans to invite grantees or partners to participate in your proposed session, you will be responsible for their registration fee and are encouraged to offer honoraria for their participation.

All speakers are required to pay for their own travel and lodging. A limited number of scholarships will be available upon request.

Please contact JulieAnne Behar at jbehar@philanthropynw.org with any questions.
Thank you and we hope to see you at PNW24!