PEAK Grantmaking

PEAK2020 Annual Conference
Seattle | March 9-11, 2020
Call for Session Proposals

PEAK Grantmaking's Annual Conference is the only conference focused solely on the *how* of grantmaking. Now in its 15th year, this event attracts more than 800 professionals working within philanthropy, around the U.S. and the world. Through presentations, workshops, short talks, roundtable discussions, and plenty of networking opportunities, we're designing PEAK2020 to help grants management professionals and their teams achieve their peak performance.

Session Proposal Deadline: 11:59 PM EST, August 11, 2019

Click here to submit a Session Proposal

CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility to Present
We seek conference presentation proposals from anyone eligible for PEAK Grantmaking membership. Review eligibility requirements here.

We value the expertise our grantmaking software and service providers and offer the opportunity to sponsor a conference session that connects the conference theme and learning tracks to your specific products and services. If you are interested in sponsoring a session, please contact Clare Larson at clare@peakgrantmaking.org for further instructions and information about sponsorship opportunities.

Audience
The PEAK Grantmaking audience are individuals directly responsible for and engaged with grants management and the grantmaking practice for funding organizations. Multidisciplinary in background experience, they steward the grantmaking process through common grantmaking practices.

Content Focus
The theme of PEAK2020 will be **Courage in Practice**, centered around the five Principles for Peak Grantmaking introduced by PEAK Grantmaking in 2019.

- Tie Practices to Values
- Narrow the Power Gap
- Drive Equity
- Learn, Share, Evolve
- Steward Responsively

We are seeking proposals that align with these five Principles, along with PEAK Grantmaking's Grants Management Professional Competency Model. Proposals should focus on practical application, inspirational case studies, and competency development of the five Principles—inspiring action, advancing knowledge, and creating allies in practice change.

Tie Practices to Values

Link grantmaking practices with grantmaker values, integrating them throughout every aspect of grantmaking to walk the talk and propel mission.

Examples of topics and proposal topics:
- Assessing Values Alignment for Grantmaking Practice
  - *Living your Values: Assessing Practice Alignment*
  - *Organizational Values: Understanding Explicit, Implicit, and Aspirational Values*
- Setting Strategic Goals Related to Improving Grantmaking Practice
  - *HOW you make grants is as important as WHY*
  - *A Strategic Planning Primer for Grants Managers*
- Courageous Conversations as a Tool for Organization Change
  - *Fearless: Showing up Authentically at Work; Courage to Change*
  - *A Framework for Approaching Organizational Change Management*
- Self-Care/Self-Improvement
  - *Putting your Oxygen Mask on First*
  - *Practicing Self-Care to Improve your Work-Life Balance*
  - *Task Management When There Are Too Many Tasks*
- Emotional Intelligence
  - *Developing a High EQ: Emotional Intelligence at Work*
  - *Professional is NOT the Opposite of Emotional*

Narrow the Power Gap

Value equally the resources grantmakers and grantseekers bring to their partnerships and use practices and policies to help narrow the power gap.

Examples of topic areas and proposal topics:
- Building Trust with Grantseekers and Grantees
  - *Trust Goes Two Ways: Do Your Grantseekers Trust You?*
  - *Who Has Access to Build Trust? Examining Your Openness*
- Reducing the Burden on Nonprofit Grantseekers and Grantees
  - *Maintaining a High Net Grant: Do the Math*
  - *You Want Me to Do What? Building Empathy for Grantseekers*
  - *Managing the Risk of Less Restrictive Grants*
- Using Your Power
  - *Ways to Build Power and Influence for Your Grantees*
  - *Systems Change through Advocacy and Lobbying*

- Building Grantee Capacity
    - *Investing in Programs that Increase Grantee's Capacity*
    - *Supporting Collaborative Efforts Among Grantseekers*

- Collecting and Using Feedback to Improve Your Practice
    - *Accepting Hard Feedback from Your Grantees*
    - *Using a Feedback Loop to Improve Your Practice*

Drive Equity

Build grantmaking practices and policies that minimize bias and support decisions that promote justice, inclusion, and equity.

Examples of topic areas and proposal topics:
- Using Demographic Data for Good
    - *Considerations for Collecting Demographic Data*
    - *Demographic Data to Support Your Story of Impact*
- How Unconscious Bias Shows Up in Decision-making
    - *Unconscious Bias: Has it Infected Your Process?*
    - *Coding Racism into our Systems: How to Assess Your Process to Eliminate Bias*
- Participatory Grantmaking
    - *Bring a Diverse Set of Voices to Decision-Making*
    - *Participatory Grantmaking: How to Make it Work In Your Community*
- Supporting Leaders of Color
    - *Investing in Leaders of Color*
    - *Making Way for Diverse Ways of Leading*

Learn, Share, Evolve

Contribute to building sector-wide knowledge and seek wisdom from others pursuing change and impact.

Examples of topic areas and proposal topics:
- Using Grant Reports for Learning
    - *Designing Grant Reports as a Learning Tool*
    - *Building Your Grantees Capacity to Collect Data*
- Evaluating Outcomes
    - *Equitable Evaluation*
    - *Can $5,000 have an "Impact"?*
- Metrics, Dashboards, and Measuring Impact
    - *Developing Meaningful Dashboards for Your Board*
    - *Developing Good Indicators and Metrics for Change*
- Sharing Learning with the Field (proposal examples may include
    - *Is Your Impact a Secret? Telling Your Story*
    - *Grantmaker Collaboratives: Cutting Edge Examples for Shared Learning*
    - Understanding Open Data
- Using Data to Adjust Grantmaking Practice
    - *What Data is Locked in Your GMS?*
    - *Using Your Data to Map and Improve Your Grantmaking Process*

Steward Responsively

Manage all entrusted resources—human, financial, reputation, time —with care to balance stewardship with an agile approach to risk and an appreciation for different and changing circumstances.

Examples of topic areas and proposal topics:

- Risk Management
  - *Managing the Risk of Less Restrictive Grants*
  - *Elective vs. Required: Examining Your Grantmaking Practice*
  - *Creating a Risk Profile*
- Transparency
  - *Living Your Value of Transparency*
  - *Process and Decision-Making Transparency*
- Privacy and Data Security
  - *Protecting Your Data from Hackers*
  - *Developing a Strong Data Governance Policy*
- Choosing the Right Grants Management System
  - *Gathering Requirements: Ask Before You Buy*
  - *Tips for the Accidental Techie*
- Technology Integration
  - *Software and Tools to Support Grantmaking That Are NOT Your GMS*
  - *Solving the Integration Puzzle*
- Third-Party Data Sources
  - *Using Third-Party Data to Supplement Grantee Applications*
  - *An Overview of Data Aggregators: What's Possible?*
- Optimizing Business Processes
  - *Streamlining Your Internal Processes*
  - *Supporting Cross-Functional Teams at Work*

PROPOSAL TYPES

Short Talk

20-minute presentations that present a specific idea, recommendation, or case study. These talks are repeated 3 times within one time-block, with attendees changing rooms to hear new information. *Attendance typically 20-50.*

Roundtable Topic Discussion

90-minute facilitated conversation with your professional peers to discuss a grants management topic; share ideas and best practices. *Attendance typically 12-50.*

Podium Session

75-minute sessions delivered by one or two presenters provide grants managers with practical tools and approaches in grantmaking. *Attendance typically 50-100.*

Panel Presentation

Moderated 75-minute sessions of up to four panelists plus the moderator. The moderator should have a predefined set of questions based on an overall program design for the panel discussion and incorporate audience questions and feedback into the discussion. As with other sessions, please show how the content will be immediately applicable to the participant's job. *Attendance typically 50-100.*

NOTE: All session rooms are set to accommodate the most attendees possible for the space. Set-ups are typically [theatre style](#), except for roundtables which are conducted at round tables set for 8. Please consider room set-up when preparing your session vision and design.

PROPOSAL SELECTION CRITERIA

PEAK2020 Conference Committee and Co-Chairs
The Conference Committee is composed of individuals from the field with significant experience in the specific track areas. Committee members are assigned to each track and review all proposals submitted in that track. Co-chairs assist with coordinating the activities of the committee.

Review Process
The selection process follows a rigorous online review of every proposal submitted. The committee also meets by conference call to make recommendations for selections and assist in planning other conference educational activities. Many more proposals are submitted than can be selected. Proposals are selected based on information submitted. Submitters are expected to follow the instructions carefully and supply all requested information. Missing or incorrect information could make the proposal ineligible for consideration.

Selection Criteria
The proposed session must clearly apply to the target audience, fit into one of the tracks and be delivered by a speaker with substantial topic knowledge and experience facilitating learning experiences and/or speaking to large groups.

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- **Action-oriented**: Is the proposal likely to engage participants in a way that inspires a real-world outcome?
- **Compelling**: To what extent does this proposal advance our thinking on a critical and timely issue in philanthropy?
- **Diverse Perspective**: To what extent does the proposal present traditionally underrepresented or marginalized perspectives? Does the proposal feature speakers from a diverse range of backgrounds and communities and have an intersectional approach?
- **Original**: Does the proposal introduce new voices, new concepts, new format, or offer a fresh take on an issue?
- **Relevant**: How well does the proposal connect to the conference theme or educational track?

NOTE: If the Conference Committee recommends your proposal, PEAK Grantmaking staff and committee members may work with you to develop the session, identifying interactive and dynamic formats. While

we will try to honor your desired session type and format, we will determine which modality will best showcase your ideas within the conference agenda and available space. Unfortunately, due to focus and limited time slots, we will not be able to accept every submission.

CONFERENCE POLICIES

Your Commitment to Speak

It is an honor and a privilege to be invited to speak at a PEAK conference. By sharing your expertise, you make a valuable contribution to the profession's field of knowledge and to the individual learning of our participants. If you are selected, please view this opportunity as a commitment like any other and ensure that you can deliver the session by securing the support of your organization and managing your workload to keep this time open while also meeting the deadlines surrounding presenter registration, submitting session materials, etc. We understand that unanticipated issues do arise and appreciate your advance notice in the event of extreme circumstances that prevent your attendance.

Registration and Travel Expenses

PEAK Grantmaking is a nonprofit educational association with a responsibility to its members to carefully manage its resources. Delivering a session and facilitating discussion at PEAK2020 is done on a voluntary, unpaid basis. We invite you to attend the conference in its entirety at the lowest registration rate available. All individual travel and living expenses are at your own expense.

Speaker Policies

PEAK2020 conference education programs are learning experiences first and foremost and, as such, must be noncommercial in content and delivery.

Speakers must:
- Eliminate any form of direct promotion of a product, service, or monetary self-interest.
- Refrain from overt statements, harsh language, or pointed humor that disparages the rightful dignity and social equity of any individual or group.
- Attend the speaker orientation session where we will cover responsibilities, accountabilities, and more information about our Principles for Peak Grantmaking and our values as an organization.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION, SESSION DELIVERY & SPEAKER LIMITS

Proposal Submission

PEAK Grantmaking continues to seek and provide a balanced slate of speakers with a diversity of backgrounds, viewpoints, and organizational affiliations.

Each organization may submit a maximum of two proposals. Please submit your very best proposals and coordinate with your colleagues when submitting from large organizations. If a proposal is applicable in more than one track, please make a note in your description rather than submitting it multiple times.

Speaker Limits

The number of speakers is limited based on the session type:

- Podium sessions are limited to two presenters.
- Panel sessions are limited to four panelists plus one moderator for a total of five speakers.