



FUNDING FORWARD 2021 SESSION PROPOSAL

Funding Forward is an annual gathering of grantmakers committed to LGBTQ issues. Each year the convening provides an opportunity for funders to connect, learn, coordinate efforts, and maximize impact. Funders for LGBTQ Issues will host Funding Forward 2021 as a fully virtual conference from May 5th – May 7th, 2021. Conference registrants will be invited to participate in live events in our virtual conference platform.

The events of the past year - from the pandemic to historic uprisings in the name of racial justice - have both challenged our work and pushed philanthropy to embrace new practices. It is our hope that Funding Forward 2021 will provide our community an opportunity to learn and strategize together about how we all can respond to this political moment and strengthen LGBTQ movement work.

We are currently accepting session ideas from funders and philanthropic organizations who are [members](#) of Funders for LGBTQ Issues. Proposals will be reviewed and selected by a conference planning committee. Member foundations and affinity groups are strongly encouraged to partner with one another to pool creativity and expertise and share financial responsibilities of session sponsorship.

Please note: only active members of Funders for LGBTQ Issues are eligible to submit proposals. Please contact [Rebecca Wisotsky](#) to learn more about becoming a member.

SESSION CRITERIA

Proposals are your opportunity to suggest a topic, format, and presenters for an engaging session. Priority will be given to ideas that:

- Mobilize philanthropy to improve the lived experience of the broad diversity of LGBTQ people.
- Catalyze increased resources for local and regional advancement of a range of LGBTQ issues.
- Advance racial, economic, and gender justice for all LGBTQ people through an intersectional approach.
- Provide practical recommendations for funders interested in expanding or shifting their grantmaking.

TOPICS OF INTEREST

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBTQ community response to COVID-19, pandemic response including access to vaccines, health care, and economic impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing investment in BIPOC LGBTQ communities, especially in Black LGBTQ communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender justice, feminism, and the leadership of women of color in LGBTQ and intersecting movements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic issues affecting LGBTQ people, including employment and economic opportunity as well as housing and homelessness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration and LGBTQ communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voter suppression and other civic engagement issues affecting LGBTQ communities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging in queer and trans communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing resources for trans and nonbinary people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting and supporting healing, mental health, sustainability and resiliency in the LGBTQ community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV and AIDS in LGBTQ communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intersectional climate justice and responses to climate disasters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and security of LGBTQ people, especially responding to violence against transgender women of color
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to current political attacks and new opportunities, including Title VII challenges, local-level religious exemptions, working with the Biden-Harris administration, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intersectional advocacy and movement building, including efforts related environmental, economic, reproductive, migrant and racial justice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBTQ youth organizing and activism, and in education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing underfunding of bisexual, intersex, and asexual communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to support and sustain mutual aid in pandemic response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grantmaking that supports sexual liberation as a critical aspect of LGBTQ movement work

SESSION FORMATS

Funding Forward aims to offer relevant and engaging content through an interactive virtual conference platform. We know we cannot recreate the joy of in-person engagement. That said, we invite session organizers to think creatively about ways to deliver content and engage audiences using live video meetings, real time chat, virtual whiteboards and collaboration tools, or prerecorded content. All sessions must include a funder speaker. Below are sample session structures. The conference planning committee will review proposals for the following three session types:

	PLENARY SESSION	WORKSHOP SPACES	SOCIAL TIME OR RESILIENCY SKILL SHARE
GOAL	To inform your colleagues, showcase different approaches to resourcing issues or communities, and generate creative thinking among participants.	To share best practices and generate creative thinking related to grantmaking that strengthens LGBTQ communities.	To provide participants with opportunities to connect informally as we might during an in-person conference. Creative ways to do this virtually are welcome!
STRUCTURE	These 1 hour sessions typically consist of no more than three dynamic speakers framing issues, sharing stories of their work, showing multimedia clips and/or dialoguing with each other. We strongly encourage creative structures and ways to generate audience participation. All plenaries must be moderated by a funder.	These 1.5 to 2 hour sessions create space for facilitated discussion on issues, strategies, or challenges identified by participants. We suggest that 2-3 presenters frame the topic very briefly and pose generative questions to the group. At least one speaker must be a funder.	These 1 hour informal sessions are built to allow opportunities for informal connection and learning! They can be structured as networking space, coffee chats, skill shares, or other formats that will forge connection and learning among participants.

In addition to the three categories named above we invite creative proposals that meet the stated criteria and promote connection in virtual contexts. Funders for LGBTQ Issues staff and conference consultants will be available to help you make the most of our virtual conference platform.

QUALITIES OF A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

- ✓ Engaging and interactive, limiting formal presentations, and making the most of virtual tools.
- ✓ Includes multi-disciplinary perspectives from a mix of presenters who are grantmakers, people working in the field, activists, researchers, and others.
- ✓ Amplifies the voices of people of color, and trans, intersex, bisexual people, and/or sex workers.
- ✓ Provides practical tools for grantmakers navigating the inherent challenges of philanthropy to better serve our diverse LGBTQ communities and responding to the demands of this moment.

Organizers are encouraged to resubmit sessions that were accepted for presentation at Funding Forward 2020 but canceled due to the pandemic. Sessions in this category will receive priority review.

PLANNER'S LOGISTICAL AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

All members of Funders for LGBTQ Issues are eligible to submit proposals.

Session sponsors are responsible for covering the financial costs of the session and for collaborating with Funders for LGBTQ Issues to plan the session. Because Funding Forward is virtual this year, non-profit speakers will not have the benefit of attending the conference in person to build relationships with funders. In lieu of paying for speaker travel and accommodations this year we will require that session sponsors pay stipends to nonprofit speakers participating in their sessions. Session sponsors will pay any nonprofit speakers an honorarium no less than \$1,000.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE

- Compensation for non-profit speakers with an honorarium of \$1,000 (minimum) per speaker.
- Covering and coordinating all session related expenses (e.g., translation/interpretation services and any printed materials).

- Inviting and prepping speakers (includes holding at least one conference call with your panel and Funders for LGBTQ Issues staff).
- Ensuring all speakers are registered. Note that Funders for LGBTQ Issues will cover the registration costs of 3 non-funder speakers per plenary and 2 non-funder speakers per workshop. The session sponsor will cover the registration cost of any additional approved non-funder speakers. Speakers who are funders are expected to pay their own registration fees unless a different arrangement is made with the session sponsor.
- Informing speakers of Funding Forward non-solicitation policies.

Funders for LGBTQ Issues staff are available to discuss proposal ideas. We encourage you to contact Shaena Johnson at Shaena@lgbtfunders.org to talk through your session proposal prior to submission. Once a proposal is accepted, staff and planning committee members will work with you to approve speakers and ensure the session fits well with the entire program.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

Please submit a Word document answering the questions below to FundingForward@lgbtfunders.org by **March 18th**.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

We are compiling a national planning committee working across issue areas to evaluate proposals and inform session selection. Once assembled, the planning committee will be posted on the conference website.

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We recognize the short turnaround time for 2021 session proposals. Don't hesitate to submit a great session idea even if it may need more development.

1. Session Organizer & Contact Information:

This person must be a funder and will be the main point of contact for the session.

2. Sponsoring Foundation or Affinity Group:

Please review the financial responsibilities of session sponsors on the previous page. Note that this year session sponsors will be required to pay any nonprofit speakers an honorarium in lieu of travel and lodging expenses.

3. Session Title:

This can be a work in progress.

4. Session Type:

See previous page for format descriptions and select one. We ask for more detail below.

- Plenary Session
- Workshop Spaces
- Social time/coffee chats
- Resiliency skill share
- Other Virtual Format – please provide details

5. Audience:

Is your session most relevant to grantmakers new to LGBTQ funding, those who have significant experience in the field, or both?

6. Please give a short description of your proposed session:

Include the key issues the session will explore, describe why the topic is timely and relevant to LGBTQ funders, and share any background or context you feel is relevant. Please also share the practical things grantmakers will take away from your session.

7. Please list the main objectives of your session:

8. Presenters:

Please give the name and affiliation of your proposed presenters and a brief description of what perspective they bring to the topic. Please limit non-funder speakers to two per plenary or breakout session. While you do not need to have your speakers confirmed, any information you are able to provide will assist the planning committee in their assessment. Funders for LGBTQ Issues will work with you on final approval of your speakers.

9. Alternative Formats:

Share how you will structure your session to be engaging and interactive in a virtual format.

10. Was this proposal accepted previously?

Was this session planned to take place for Funding Forward 2020 and canceled due to the pandemic?