

Common Ground: A City That Works for All

The 2nd Annual Community Connections Conference

Saturday March 22, 2014
Minneapolis Convention Center
Minneapolis, MN

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

We invite you to share your ideas, experiences and knowledge as a workshop presenter at the 2nd Annual **Community Connections Conference!** The conference is free to all participants and will focus on building successful neighborhood and community organizations, effectively involving an increasingly diverse spectrum of residents in our work, and developing a deeper understanding of how to work with and influence our city government. Don't miss this opportunity to network with other neighborhood and community-minded activists throughout our City. The conference will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center – a fully accessible facility.

Conference Theme

This year's conference theme – **Common Ground: A City That Works for All** – aims to explore ways we can hone our organizational and communication skills, better understand how we can work with and influence city government, and build broad-based efforts that involve all segments of our neighborhoods and community-at-large.

The Conference aims to enable participants to:

- Gain practical skills and tools to improve our efforts
- Explore common challenges that most of our small organizations face
- Share ideas and approaches used to address these challenges
- Meet others, build new relationships and “broaden the table” around our common goals and interests
- Gain a better understanding of City government, its departments and the people who work there

Workshop Themes

Below are the four themes under which the 2014 workshop tracks will be organized:

- ~ **Making the City Work for Me:** Helping Residents Better Understand and Influence City Government
- ~ **Thinking Bigger:** Collaborations Will Get You There
- ~ **Finding Common Ground:** Gathering Diverse Communities Around the Table to Share Common Goals
- ~ **Running an Effective Organization:** Managing Your Work, Finances and Communications

These themes reflect the central purpose of the Conference – to connect residents, their organizations and City departments and explore the common ground we all share.

Workshop Proposals

Your proposed workshop should: (1) address one or more of the workshop themes, (2) provide an opportunity for attendees to share their ideas and experiences, (2) help participants develop the skills and tools needed to improve their organization’s effectiveness, and (3) challenge participants to find “common ground,” by broadening the diversity of their organizations and building more effective relationships with other organizations and City government.

Preference will be given to workshops that promote interaction and the exchange of ideas among participants.

The day-long conference will offer three 90-minute blocks of workshops – one block in the morning and two in the afternoon. With a target attendance of 550 participants, we hope to offer up to twelve workshops during each block. We anticipate that some of the most popular workshop offerings will be repeated later in the day, so that the maximum number of participants have an opportunity to attend.

Your proposal should accomplish one or more of the following learning objectives:

- Provide participants an opportunity to hone their organizational, communication and networking skills and learn new tools they can apply to their work
- Explore ways to get an increasingly diverse spectrum of residents involved in the work of improving our neighborhoods and the City as a whole
- Explore the notion of “Finding Common Ground” and what it means for the interwoven work of neighborhood groups, culture-based organizations, other non-profit and for-profit organizations, and local government

Who Can Submit A Workshop Proposal?

We are seeking workshop proposals from individuals, neighborhood and other community organizations, consulting firms that serve nonprofits*, City Departments, and other stakeholders that represent the variety of voices, interests and experiences of the people of Minneapolis. We encourage you to submit a proposal.

**** If you are a consultant or employee for a for-profit company, we encourage you to include one or more nonprofit representatives in your session. This way, session participants will have a direct connection to the topic or issue through a peer presenter. Sessions with nonprofit co-presenters have a much higher rate of acceptance. In some cases, sessions will be accepted on the condition that a nonprofit co-presenter will be added to the line-up.***

Proposal Format:

The proposed workshop description must include the following:

1. Workshop title
2. Brief description - should be 50-60 words maximum. This will be used to prepare the conference registration and program booklets.

3. Narrative description - 300 word maximum, which addresses the learning objectives identified above.
4. Your primary and secondary choice of workshop block: (1) morning – 10:15-11:45 am, (2) early afternoon – 1:15-2:45 pm, (3) late afternoon – 3:00-4:30 pm
5. Workshop format – presentation, panel, clinic, moderated discussion, small breakout groups, etc.
6. AV equipment used in your workshop (*you will need a cord adapter for Mac laptops*)**
7. An indication of the optimal and maximum number of workshop participants

**** We will provide an LCD projector, screen, flipcharts, markers, speakers and microphone for each workshop**

Presenters information – Please provide the following for yourself and each person who will join you in providing the workshop:

1. Name, title
2. Company / organization
3. Address, city, state and zip
4. Phone: daytime, cell, etc.
5. Email address
6. Describe experience in presenting this workshop topic.
7. Describe overall presentation experience.

Submissions are preferred electronically via the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2014mplsconf>

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Proposals must be submitted by Friday, January 24, 2014

Questions can be directed to:

Jack Whitehurst, Neighborhood Specialist at 612-673-5143

jack.whitehurst@minneapolismn.gov

or

Cheyenne Brodeen, Community Relations Specialist at 612-673-2052

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Neighborhood & Community Relations

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The City of Minneapolis invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event within our city. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or should you require this document in an alternative format, please let us know by contacting 612-673-2919.

