



Unlocking the Power of Place
October 24th–26th | spresummit.org
Wayne State University | Detroit

Call for Speakers - Guidelines

Submission Deadline: May 15, 2023 11:59 PM ET

This October, the Social Purpose Real Estate Summit will bring together community real estate professionals and practitioners interested, active, and expert in all aspects of commercial community spaces in Detroit, Michigan.

This interdisciplinary conference is for social purpose real estate leaders across North America; intentionally including various perspectives in the conversation. It will be an opportunity for learning from peers about best practices. We'll hear from expert practitioners who bring skills and innovative resources for creating social purpose real estate. Together we'll establish and grow the collaborative network necessary to create community-serving, community-owned real estate assets, so that ultimately social purpose real estate leaders can support greater impact in local communities.

With 500 attendees, the SPRE Summit will be an opportunity for community space operators, philanthropic leaders, social justice advocates, CDFIs and lenders, government leaders, real estate development professionals and more to connect, collaborate, and learn. During sessions, roundtables, and plenaries, we will explore how to create and operate community spaces for the common good, how real estate can be an effective tool for shifting power, and what's next for community development, investment, and impact.

The SPRE Summit 2023 will feature 35+ sessions on a range of themes. We are excited to see how our social purpose real estate community will shape the conference content, conversation around community spaces, and the movement forward.

Requirements for Session Proposals

We will have approximately 35 sessions varying in theme, topic, and structure. With a limited number of session spots, we are looking forward to proposals that meet the following basic requirements.

Session Length: all sessions will be 90 minutes, with no more than 60 minutes of presentation, and 30 minutes of a discussion, engagement activity or Q&A run by the speaker(s).

Speakers: please only include session proposals with a maximum of four speakers per session, including the facilitator if you're having one.

Proposal Limit Per Organization: please limit proposals to no more than two per organization. Joint proposals from multiple organizations are still subject to the per organization proposal limit.

Presentation Format: presentation must be available in PDF and Microsoft PowerPoint with standard slide sizing. Recommended total number of slides is no more than 30-35.

Conference Registration: if your proposal is selected, NCN will pay for your registration costs for the event. NCN is not able to provide any travel support for this conference, and it is the speaker's responsibility to make travel arrangements to attend the SPRE Summit in Detroit, Michigan.

Session Scheduling: NCN will determine the scheduling of all sessions. If your proposal is selected, you are agreeing that you will be available for any of the times designated for sessions on October 25, 2023 or October 26, 2023.

Speaker Training Session: if your proposal is selected, we will request that the speaker(s) attend one of two training sessions facilitated by NCN before the conference.

SPRE Summit Session Themes

The SPRE Summit 2023 includes 11 themes, covering various components of social purpose real estate. The themes and sessions will inform the tracks, which will be developed later to help guide attendees' experience. The 11 themes are listed below with examples to help spark session ideas. NCN will not restrict sessions to these themes and welcomes new and varying perspectives on these topics. When submitting your session proposal, please note that you will be required to select one of the themes listed below.

Emerging Strategies	<i>new approaches, innovation, resiliency hubs, mixed-use with housing</i>
Legal / Regulatory	<i>changes to laws, governance structures</i>
Funding & Finance	<i>creative funding and financing strategies. Also New Market Tax Credits (NMTC), Housing Tax Credit (HTC), Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), readiness, unlocking government and foundation support.</i>
Operations	<i>creating efficiencies, programming, etc.</i>
Social Purpose Real Estate Development	<i>trends, gaining community support, innovations in the development process</i>
Design with Community	<i>physical and programmatic design to support safe and inclusive spaces such as universal design, sustainable design, and trauma informed design</i>
Community Asset Building	<i>promoting power building through local control and ownership</i>
Place Making / Keeping	<i>how are spaces being used to empower their community and benefit their community, such as cultural place keeping, COVID response, food security, etc.</i>

Shared Spaces 2.0	<i>how are community facilities evolving to respond to needs</i>
Impact & Evaluation	<i>using data to tell your story and gain support</i>
Partnerships	<i>how cross sector partnerships, micro-partnerships, public-private partnerships, etc. can be successful</i>
Other	<i>NCN welcomes additional ideas or perspectives</i>

Sample Sessions Ideas:

- Themed spaces like: human service hub, arts/culture space, youth centered space, etc.
- Community engagement and voice in a real estate project
- Community ownership, governance, and wealth-building
- Collaborating for change and impact
- Designing for belonging, culture and fostering collaboration
- Scaling impact: joint ventures with affordable housing developers

Suggestions for Developing a Strong Proposal

To increase your chances of being selected, we suggest that you:

- **Share practical information** that attendees can act on in their day to day work.
- **Go in-depth** rather than staying broad or skimming the surface.
- **Consider the diversity of your presenters** (race, ethnicity, gender) as well as the institutions they're affiliated with.
- **Including methods for interaction between workshop attendees.** Try a small-group discussion, speed dating, workshopping a problem, or conducting a skills training.
- **Include presenters from two or more organizations.** Collaboration between sectors can offer different perspectives.
- **No sales pitches.** NCN is not looking for session proposals that come across, or are structured, as sales pitches for a particular product or firm.
- **Avoid exclusionary jargon.** Knowing that attendees are coming from various sets of experiences, defining key terms and avoiding jargon is key to cross-sectional content.

SPRE Summit Working Group

The Nonprofit Centers Network has created the SPRE Summit Working Group with organizations from across the social purpose real estate sector to define a vision forward for community real estate, development, and investment through the design and implementation of the SPRE Summit. Proposals will be reviewed by NCN and the SPRE Summit Working Group composed of the interdisciplinary organizations below.



Timeline & Submission Instructions

- *Session Proposals Due:* 11:59 pm ET on Friday, May 15, 2023.
- *Presenters Informed of Selection Decision:* Mid July
- *Questions about the process or proposals?* Please email Elizabeth O'Brien at elizabeth@nonprofitcenters.org.

[Download Practice Form](#)

[Submit Proposal](#)