



## EPIP 2021 National Conference, June 7-11 Call for Sessions

### Background

Our call for sessions is open to all leaders, changemakers, and activists working in the social good sector. Whether you work in philanthropy, at a non-profit organization, or directly with communities, we invite you to submit a session proposal.

As we review session proposals, we may pair you with other session designers if there is enough alignment and similarity between session ideas. *Should this occur, you would be notified and provided with the opportunity to respond.* Should we have feedback or need to ask clarifying questions regarding your session proposal, we will be in touch.

To submit your session idea, please fill out [this short application](#) no later than **Friday, March 12, 2021, at 11:59 pm PST.**

### Theme and Tracks

It has never been a better – and more urgent – time to celebrate and invest in the leadership of imaginative, resilient and bold leaders in philanthropy. As EPIP celebrates its 20th anniversary, we continue to reimagine philanthropy so that it better nurtures and uplifts emerging Black, Indigenous, queer, trans, disabled, immigrant, women and POC practitioners who are themselves reimagining an equitable and justice-driven future of philanthropy.

**R/evolution** recognizes and honors the evolution of EPIP and the sector over the last 20 years as well as the movement moment EPIP members and foundations are navigating following the massive upheavals exposed in 2020 – the revolution. As philanthropy reconfigures itself in service of the movement, so must it transform its

internal operations so that we create the conditions for leaders to thrive and flourish.

**Track 1: REWRITE** seeks to elevate the forgotten histories of giving and philanthropy in communities of color. We wish to feature forgotten, reclaimed and/or never voiced narratives, and also create space and infrastructure to share and affirm narratives that explicitly generate meaning and POWER within philanthropic practice. Sessions will highlight individual and organizational strategies and practices to unlearn and accurately, inclusively, intentionally and explicitly center the experiences and leadership of the most marginalized people of color.

*Sample topics could include:*

- Emergent strategies to challenge ahistorical, dominant cultural narratives and values and advance accurate and complete stories of Indigenous communities and people of color's contributions to building wealth and cultures of giving
- Supporting and partnering with efforts to create, change and disseminate new and complex narratives with cultural institutions, publishing, arts and entertainment, news, digital, or social media, and other domains.
- Tools and resources to embed new ways of thinking about strategy and evaluative practice within grantmaking, particularly following the upheavals of covid-19 on the philanthropic sector

**Track 2: REBUILD** challenges us to advance transformative work in the sector which is rooted in the knowledge and wisdom of Black, Indigenous and communities of color. We cannot solve intractable problems that face us by using the same thinking and actions that created the problems themselves. To create lasting positive impact, our sector needs new ways of participating, planning and problem-solving. As our common humanity unites us in both our struggles and achievements, we must together envision a future for our sector which centers the dreams, needs and solutions of the communities we serve. Sessions in this track will highlight adaptive and transformational approaches which build philanthropic cultures, practices, partnerships, and initiatives that center the voices of the most impacted in the development of grantmaking and programmatic strategies.

*Sample topics could include:*

- Forward failing and successful efforts to address the entrenched power dynamics within funding relationships
- Understanding and managing risk tolerance in the current climate
- Utilizing design thinking and other creative strategies to develop a dynamic vision for the future of philanthropy
- Building trust-based, philanthropic partnerships with communities hit hardest by covid-19
- Developing inclusive, anti-oppressive workplaces to encourage and nurture diverse leadership

- Enacting change within an organization from a non-traditional position of power and authority

**Track 3: RENEW** views healing as an integral part of individual and collective longevity and liberation. Healing experienced as resiliency and survival practices addresses the reality of generational trauma, the ongoing impacts of colonization, racism, sexism, homophobia, violence, and economic disenfranchisement by centering the collective safety and emotional, physical, spiritual, environmental, political and mental well-being of communities. Sessions in this track will highlight lessons learned from funders and partners who are both doing and funding the work of healing justice and share resources and tools to best examine and support the long-term care and sustainability of social justice movements and their leaders.

*Sample topics could include:*

- The role of healing justice and holistic security and strategies for self-care, wellness, resilience, allyship, power-building and survival
- Navigating the shift to embed, embody, and support healing justice and trauma-informed philanthropic practices
- Efforts to engage in truth and reconciliation, restorative justice, or other transformational processes
- Building trusting, mutually respectful relationships within our institutions and with communities
- Creating space at the table for others to show up whole and authentic
- Practices for philanthropic practitioners to explore healing individually and collectively

**Track 4: REIMAGINE** provides space for sessions that best fit with the our 20th anniversary theme or do not fit neatly into one of the above tracks. The conference planning committee will place accepted submissions into sessions that best complement the session topic. Priority will go to sessions proposed by EPIP alumni or who seek to engage EPIP alumni in the content development.

EPIP encourages session proposals that speak to and align with the 2021 Conference theme and tracks described on the previous page. Additionally, we encourage submissions that are creative and seek to engage participants beyond the traditional panel-style presentation model. **In particular, we will prioritize sessions that demonstrate how they will ensure greater interaction and dialogue in the virtual realm.**

## Examples of Session Types

### UnPanel / Fishbowl Dialogues

*Duration: 60 minutes*

Similar to a traditional panel, there are 3-4 speaker on a topic. Adapted to the virtual space, the conversation begins with speakers, but audience members "tap in" to be part of the conversation. Everyone else just witnesses without commenting. This witnessed conversation on a topic can be quite powerful, helping to bring clarity and shared experience to everyone attending.

### Skill Workshop

*Duration: 60 - 75 minutes*

Facilitators demo a concept for 10-12 minutes, and then present interactive ways for attendees to practice and/or experiment with the concept for the next 45 minutes. This format is great for those with experience facilitating in an online space and/or who are interested in teaching a concrete skill or exploring a new concept with peers.

### Roundtable

*Duration: 60 minutes*

You'll facilitate a roundtable session for your peers where they'll share ideas and best practices concerning a single topic related to emerging practitioners and professional development. This is a great opportunity to grow your virtual facilitation skills!

### Formal Presentation with Audience Participation

*Duration: 60 minutes*

If you have a big, well-developed idea you may want to prepare a formal presentation, and plan time during the session to involve the audience.

### Connection Over Content

*Duration: 60 minutes*

Hold space for community members and intentionally connect with peers to help rekindle our commitment and passion for transforming philanthropy and becoming inclusive leaders. While these are casual, we encourage creating structure so participants get the most out of the time.

*Please note: all sessions will be conducted virtually via our virtual conference platform. You will have access to features like polls, breakouts, whiteboards, and a chat box. We encourage you to design sessions that are as interactive as possible. Please avoid sessions that rely on slides and/or a few talking heads. If selected, we will work with you to bring the right virtual facilitation techniques to your session.*

**Submitters will be asked to identify their session's title, description, track, session format, target audience, and any identified speakers for their proposed sessions.**

### **Review and Decisions**

The Conference Planning Committee and EPIP staff will review all submitted proposals and select sessions for the R/evolution, the EPIP 2021 Virtual National Conference. Before making final selections, we may contact those submitting session proposals to ask for clarification, recommend different tracks, and offer other feedback to session presenters.

Final selections and notifications will be shared by the end of March 2021, with the expectation that session submissions and titles will be finalized for conference materials by late April 2021.

If you have additional questions, please contact [conference@epip.org](mailto:conference@epip.org) with CALL FOR SESSIONS in the subject line.