

Together We Rise

October 27-28 • Bellevue, Washington



2025 BRIDGE CONFERENCE HEALTH, ACCESSIBILITY, & SAFETY RESOURCE GUIDE

School's Out Washington (SOWA) seeks to create a welcoming space for all attendees at our Bridge Conference. We are committed to working on these areas for accessibility:

Accessibility

- Accessibility Accommodation Requests
- Location Accessibility

Learning Environment

- Sharing Pronouns
- You Belong Here
- Considerations for our Collective Learning
- Encouraging Mindfulness and Restoration
- Supporting You as an Engaged Learner

Food & Materials

- Food
- Reception
- Conference program
- Workshop and keynote presentations

Health & Safety Protocols

- Venue health and safety protocols
- Proactive precautions
- Nearby emergency care facilities

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ACCESSIBILITY

Accommodation Requests

If participants have any specific accommodation requests related to one or more disabilities or language access, please include your request when you register and email us directly at bridge@schoolsoutwashington.org. Please reach out **as soon as you are aware of your access need and at least two (2) weeks prior** to the first day of the conference.

While we seek to expand the designation of resources for accessibility accommodations, our budget is limited. Our current policy is first-come, first-served when addressing accommodation requests. **Please reach out as early as possible with your request and/or inquiry.** We will do our best to meet the accessibility requests and/or work with you to identify alternative solutions if we're not able to meet the exact need.

Location Accessibility

Parking

Meydenbauer Center (MC) main parking garage is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The parking garage entrance is midblock at 11100 NE 6th Street, between 110th Avenue NE and 112th Avenue NE. The garage houses 9 disability parking stalls next to the building's elevators. ADA parking stalls are reserved next door at The Bravern for over height vehicles.

In the event MC's garage fills, there is overflow parking spaces in the North lot, where oversize vehicles may also park. Visit Meydenbauer Center's website for details about the main parking location and rates, nearby transit and additional parking options.



Meydenbauer Center Garage Parking

The garage entrance is midblock at 11100 NE 6th Street, between 110th Avenue NE and 112th Avenue NE.

Parking garage offers 434 parking stalls and 6',9" clearance. Oversized vehicles park in the North Lot.

Meydenbauer Center North Lot (overflow parking)

The North Lot entrance is midblock off 112th Avenue NE, between NE 8th Street and NE 6th Street.

Pay station located in NE corner of lot.

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Public Transportation

Use [King County's Trip Planner](#) or [Sound Transit \(ST\)](#) to see what other transportation options are available. Visiting Bellevue, WA for the first time? Plan your trip using the [Bellevue Visitor Guide](#), which offers an array of resources and guides for visitors.

Conference Venue

The conference will take place primarily on the main and 4th floors of the MC (view [floor plans](#)). The MC has an elevator, accessible on all floors. Both the main and 4th floors have resting and seating areas throughout.

- **Restrooms:** All are encouraged to use the restroom of their choice. These are the available restrooms:
 - Main Floor, MC: Gender inclusive restrooms
 - 4th Floor, MC: Gender inclusive restrooms
- **Nursing Room:** A nursing (lactation) room is located on the 4th floor of the MC.
- **Mindfulness and Quiet Area:** If you are looking for a quiet space from noise or distractions, we are currently working with Meydenbauer Center in selecting room(s) that would support our attendees best. Check back for more information.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The Bridge Conference space comes to life with your perspective, wisdom, and questions. We value your presence and your participation and want you to get the most out of our time together.

Sharing Pronouns

In the spirit of creating an inclusive space for everyone, **we invite you to add your pronouns to your nametag when signing in.** Creating an explicit culture around [sharing pronouns](#) is one way to support people's right to determine how they want to be addressed, and affirms the dignity of trans, non-binary, intersex, and gender non-conforming folks.

We All Belong Here

It is our goal to cultivate a sense of belonging for everyone at Bridge. If you experience discrimination or bias based on race, religious belief, national origin, immigration status, age, sex, pregnancy, citizenship, familial status, disability status, or Veteran status during your stay at our hotel partner, at the venue, or during your Conference experience, we encourage you to let us know so we can follow up to address the matter or remedy the situation in order to create an environment where all are welcome and valued. To report an incident, you may approach any School's Out Washington staff member, notify us at bridge@schoolsoutwashington.org, or call our Conference phone number, at 206-336-6922.

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Considerations for our Collective Learning

- **All languages** are welcomed, accepted and encouraged.
- We recognize that **we are a neurodiverse community**: We all take in knowledge, navigate environments, and express ourselves differently. We encourage you to participate via one or more modes – active listening, note taking, asking questions, and/or sharing in group discussions.
- We **seek to meet you where you are at**. Our intention is to offer an array of sessions that match different learning preferences, from interactive workshops with group discussions and activities to presentations, and workshops tailored for those with beginning, intermediate, or advanced knowledge of specific subjects.
- We strive to **support you with any questions and feedback**. In addition to the presenter(s), each session will be supported by at least one staff or volunteer, and live customer service support will be available before, during, and after the conference.

Encouraging Mindfulness and Restoration

- **Breaks Between Sessions**: We intentionally scheduled transition periods and breaks of 15-20 minutes in between sessions to encourage participants to take care of basic needs and move to the next session.
- **Give yourself and others grace**: We invite you to collaborate with us to cultivate a community of care.

FOOD & MATERIALS

Food

We provide **breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack each day**. Food items are labeled with ingredients to support those with dietary restrictions, and designated cards may be used to request specially designed meals for plated meals.

Conference Program

Your hard-copy conference program will include the schedule and session titles. The full conference program with session descriptions, presenter details, and more will be available on the online platform Sched at least four weeks prior to the conference. Conference workshops and schedule are subject to change at any time.

Workshop and Keynote Presentations

We encourage presenters to use 20-point font and color contrast for presentation slides, and upload PDFs of slide decks and other materials to our virtual platform for attendee review.

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HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Venue Health and Safety Protocols

Meydenbauer Center and W Bellevue Hotel follow City of Bellevue and Washington State, and CDC health and safety guidelines. If attendees have specific concerns or need special accommodations for your stay at the W Bellevue, please contact them prior to your arrival.

Proactive Precautions

To center those most vulnerable in our community, we strongly encourage attendees to proactively take precautions, including mask-wearing prior to, during, and after the Conference, being up to date with [COVID-19](#) vaccinations and boosters, administration of a rapid COVID test in the 24 hours prior to attending the Conference to confirm that you are COVID-negative, and frequent handwashing and hand sanitizing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other viral illnesses.

No person in any Conference role should attend or stay in attendance if they are currently experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19, as identified by the [CDC](#). Although refunds are not available after October 3, 2025, we strongly encourage anyone in this situation to consider transferring their registration to another individual, such as a colleague, who can attend.

Nearby Emergency Care Facilities

Overlake Medical Center
1035 116th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Kaiser Permanente Bellevue Medical Center
11511 NE 10th St, Bellevue, WA 98004

*Some of these norms were adapted from CompassPoint's workshop expectations.
This document will be updated periodically. Version 7.5.2*