

20 BRIDGE
26 CONFERENCE



The Art of *Being Water*

October 26-27 • Tacoma, WA

2026 Bridge Conference Workshop Request for Proposals Questions List

Thank you for your interest in presenting at School's Out Washington's 2026 Bridge Conference! Our annual convening brings together presenters and participants from across the expanded learning opportunities field, representing a wide range of identities, perspectives, lived experiences, and backgrounds. We also warmly welcome multilingual presenters and participants.

We aim to create a balanced and diverse program with a majority of presenters identifying as Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC). We strive to include workshops from across Washington and offer a variety of topics that meet the needs of attendees with different roles and levels of experience.

As an organization, SOWA is committed to breaking down language barriers and excited to host sessions in languages other than English. English grammar is *not* part of our selection criteria. Instead, we seek proposals that offer a high-quality, compelling workshop, including clear titles and description, engaging delivery, alignment with conference goals and values, relevance to event learning objectives, and a strong commitment to racial equity.

Important Dates and Timeline:

- The deadline for proposal submissions is **June 21, 2026**.
- All applicants will be notified of the status of their proposal by **July 31, 2026**.
- If selected to present, you'll be required to confirm your plans to present by **August 14, 2026**.

This year's theme is ***The Art of Being Water***. The Bridge theme invites us to embrace the power of adaptability, resilience, connection, and collective flow. It encourages us to listen deeply, collaborate boldly, and design with intention. Visit the [Bridge website](#) for more details.

We are looking for workshop proposals that help leaders and youth within programs and systems to:

- Understand stages of child and adolescent development (including what we know now that we didn't know 5-10 years ago), and how to apply this knowledge to programs and systems.
- Align employee, program, and organizational practices with values.
- Cultivate community care for youth and youth workers.

- Incorporate practices that support our humanity, from how to heal and manage grief to how to celebrate and play together.
- Lead an individual, organization, or system through transformational change.
- Create or grow new programs in collaboration with others, within an environment of support.
- Communicate about the strengths of the expanded learning opportunities field and the critical role we play in supporting youth and families to policy makers, government agencies, and the public.
- Reflect on our biases while learning and unlearning how to create more holistic and supportive environments for young people.

Please review this list of questions before completing your proposal via the [Form](#). Questions with an * are required.

We look forward to reviewing your proposal and thank you for your commitment to the expanded learning opportunities field!

Lead Presenter Information

Name of Lead Presenter *

Pronouns, fill in the Blank. This information ensures that we communicate with accuracy and respect. For more information, visit <https://uwm.edu/lgbtrc/support/gender-pronouns/>.

School's Out Washington is committed to a more equitable afterschool and youth development sector that reflects the young people and communities we serve; Black, Indigenous, and People of Color are highly encouraged to apply. Do you identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or a Person of Color (BIPOC)?

Yes/No/I prefer not to share

Lead Presenter's Role or Profession *

Organization Name (mark N/A if not applicable) *

Lead Presenter's Email *

Lead Presenter's Phone Number *

Lead Presenter's Address (Work/Home/Mailing)

Lead Presenter's Address Line 1 *

Lead Presenter's Address Line 2

Lead Presenter's City *

Lead Presenter's State *

Lead Presenter's County *

Zip code *

Lead Presenter's Biography: Bridge participants seek to learn from others in the expanded learning opportunities field – people with different roles, levels of experience, and perspectives. Describe your experience and education, and any other information about your background that would help us understand your connection to this workshop topic (maximum 900 characters). This information may be used on the SOWA website and/or other marketing material to help attendees learn more about the presenter's background and connection to the expanded learning field. *

Do you have co-presenters? *Fill out Co-Presenter 1 and/or 2 information, if applicable*

Workshop Proposal Questions

Session Title (maximum 100 characters). Use active verbs to entice workshop attendees. *

Session Description: Please provide a brief description of your workshop. Include the age group that your content focuses on, if any. (maximum 900 characters)

Note: Descriptions will be used in marketing and communication material.

Workshop learning objectives: Using Blooms Taxonomy - What will participants learn or be able to do? Please provide 2-3 learning objectives.

Does this Workshop Build Youth School Success? Yes/No - If Yes, Include a description of how the training impacts school success. For example: The workshop titled "Empathy Matters" may contribute to school success by providing youth with the soft skills needed to put themselves in other's shoes and have compassion for other students at school.

Audience (Choose all that apply): Direct service staff, School-Age Licensed Providers, Administrators, Managers, Executive Leader, Researcher, Trainer, Funder, Policymaker, Other

Racial Equity: SOWA is committed to building a more equitable expanded learning opportunities field to better serve BIPOC youth unjustly impacted by structural racism and other systemic barriers. The Bridge Conference is a space for deepening our learning and skills to address racism and sharing experiences from the community. Please describe how your workshop will contribute to the conversation of racial equity. *

Conference Focus area: Which of the following focus area(s) do you think your workshop could fit within? (see FAQ for definitions) Please select **one or two**. *

- Race and Equity
- Youth Development Programming
- Capacity and Systems Building
- Emerging Issues
- Multi-Sector Partnerships and Collaboration
- Self and Collective Care

Workshop Style: Please describe how you will deliver this workshop. (Choose all that apply.) * Presentation, Panel, Skill Practice/Hands On, Group Discussion, Other

Room Layout Preferences: Please select what room layout would best fit for your type of workshop. Select all that apply if you are flexible. We will do our best to accommodate preferences and appreciate your flexibility and understanding. [Click here](#) to see examples of room layouts.

- Round tables (seats 8-10 people)
- Theater style
- Classroom style
- U-Shape
- Large open space

Workshop Delivery: Describe how you will facilitate a high quality and compelling workshop. If possible, include a brief outline or agenda. *

Workshop Level: How would you define your workshop level? (Choose one) *

- Emerging: This session is designed for attendees with little or no knowledge of the subject
- Establishing: This session is designed for attendees with working knowledge of the subject
- Deepening: This session is designed for attendees with some expertise in the subject matter

Dates: When submitting a proposal, we will ask you to indicate which days you are available to present at the conference. Because there are a limited number of workshops in each Period, your availability may influence our decision-making as we finalize our menu of workshops. There will be five 90-minute breakout sessions, and one “lightning talk” 30-min session on day 2. Check all that apply. *

- Monday, October 26, 10:15 AM–11:45 AM PST
- Monday, October 26, 12:45 PM–2:15 PM PST
- Monday, October 26, 2:30 PM–4:00 PM PST
- Tuesday, October 27, 9:45 AM–10:15 AM PST (NOTE: 30-minute session)
- Tuesday, October 27, 10:30 AM–12:00 PM PST
- Tuesday, October 27, 2:30 PM–4:00 PM PST

Access and Support

Our goal is to create a supportive and accessible experience for our presenters. SOWA will provide room host for each workshop session. Room hosts will meet presenters in the designated room 15-30 minutes before the start of each workshop session and may assist with room set up, welcome attendees, and distribute evaluations 3- 5 minutes before the workshop ends.

Audio Visual Equipment: Please check items that you require for your workshop session. We may not be able to accommodate all requests. Please expect to provide your slide deck in PowerPoint format to our Bridge team. Laptops will be pre-loaded with your workshop materials prior to your session. Flip chart stands, papers, and markers will be provided. Conference staff will follow up with you to confirm what will be available. * Check all that apply.

- Projector & Projection Screen (e.g. for PowerPoint presentation)
- Audio (e.g. for playing music or showing a video)
- Podium/handheld Microphone
- Lapel/handsfree microphone
- Other (please describe)

Special Requests: If you have any unique requests that would influence the success of your workshop, such as the maximum number of participants, room set-up, etc., please record your request here. If your session is selected, we will follow up regarding your request.

Accommodations: If you have any accessibility needs and require any accommodations to fully participate as a presenter in this conference, please describe your request for additional accommodations here, or contact our team at bridge@schoolsoutwashington.org to inquire about how we might be able to accommodate your request.

Workshop Selection Criteria and Presenter Expectations

- **Selection Criteria:** SOWA will prioritize the following criteria in the workshop selection process: high quality and compelling workshop (e.g. clarity of title and description, style, and delivery); alignment with conference purpose, values, and target audience (youth development, out of school time, expanded learning). We seek to offer an array of topics led by a diverse representation of presenters/facilitators (i.e. geographic representation, racial and ethnic identities, career role(s), etc.) that can speak to attendees with varying levels of experience, interests, and expertise. English grammar is not part of our criteria.
- **Required Presenter Orientation:** If selected, presenters must attend one of the virtual Presenter Orientation meeting options listed below via Zoom.
 - 10/06/2026, 4:30 PM–6:00 PM PST
 - 10/07/2026, 10:00 AM–11:30 AM PST
- **Room Host & Pre-Workshop Check-In Requirements:** If your workshop is chosen, all presenters must arrive 30 minutes prior to their workshop start time, check in at registration, and check in with the room host at the assigned room at least 20 minutes prior to session start time.

RFP Questions List

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- **Complimentary Registration:** As a token of gratitude, each selected presenting team will receive up to 2 complimentary 2-day registrations (value of \$800 per registration). This will grant you access to all other workshops, activities, and meals for the conference. Additional co-presenters who would like to attend other parts of the conference must purchase a ticket.
- **Products:** We encourage you to share free resources, tools, curriculum, etc. in your workshop session. If you are interested in promoting a product or service that is not free or widely available to the public, we offer you the opportunity to become a sponsor or exhibitor for Bridge. Please see our current [Bridge website](#) for more information.
- **Photos & Video:** School's Out Washington may take photos and/or video of the 2026 Bridge Conference, including speakers, attendees, and other activities to use in marketing and other materials. Conference attendees waive any rights and any claims regarding the taking and publishing of such photos, video, etc.

I have reviewed the guidelines and agree to participate as outlined above if this proposal is selected for the 2026 Bridge Conference. Yes or No

Thank you for submitting your proposal to present at 2026 Bridge Conference!