

DESIGN FUTURES STUDENT LEADERSHIP FORUM REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) 2020

Design Futures Student Leadership Forum is seeking *elective workshop proposals* from practitioners and educators in design, planning, community development, community organizing, philanthropy, sustainability, social entrepreneurship, public health, economic development and related disciplines for the 2020 Design Futures: Public Interest Design Student Leadership Forum

The Washington University in St. Louis will host the 8th annual Forum from May 18th through the 22th, 2020 in St. Louis, MO. Previous conferences held at the University of Texas-Austin in 2013, Tulane University in 2014, University of Kansas in 2015, University of Virginia in 2016, University of Minnesota in 2017, University of Detroit Mercy in 2018, University of Utah in 2019 and supported by a consortium of leading member schools and funders from across the country.

With seven very successful Forums behind us, we are excited to expand our practitioner-faculty network even further and attract a broader base of the leading thinkers to share lessons learned, contribute to this professional network, and support the growth of our future leaders. Each year we make sure to include new workshop leaders and welcome back successful workshops from previous years. If you've never submitted a proposal or have been unsuccessful in the past, we encourage you to try this year. And whether you're a seasoned professional or in the early stages of your career, we welcome you to apply.

WHAT IS THE DESIGN FUTURES STUDENT LEADERSHIP FORUM

The Design Futures Student Leadership Forum is a five-day interdisciplinary leadership development convening that centers principles of racial justice and social equity. Design Futures fosters capacity-building for future leaders to think critically about power, privilege, and positionality in the practice of community-engaged design and to rethink and elevate the role of the designer to address and dismantle systemic oppression in the built environment. We typically welcome 60-70 students from as many as 14 participating schools of design, planning and related disciplines, as well as 30-40 practitioners and university faculty attending with their students and/or leading workshops throughout the forum.

Our guiding principles include:

- striving to build the next generation of leadership in the field;
- continuing to diversify the ecosystem of community-engaged design in terms of discipline, background, race, gender, and scale;
- elevating the rigor and critical capacity of design curricula;
- and curating a national network of thought leadership drawn from contributing universities and practitioner-faculty committed to the advancement of the field.

For more detailed information about the event and its evolution, please look over our website and the annual yearbooks produced: <http://www.designfuturesforum.org/forums/>

FRAMING THE 2020 FORUM

The relationship of the built environment disciplines with issues of community impact has evolved significantly in recent years, from an increased focus within communities and institutions, to the increasing emergence of work that more explicitly addresses equity and racial justice. If the events of the past few years have shown us anything, it is that the need for these disciplines to more deeply invest in the latter continues to grow. That investment includes training the next generation of practitioners to not only understand the traditional skills around shaping the built environment and undertaking community engagement, but also what are the components of the systems of oppression that continue to enable the context that we're working in, the history of forces in the built environment and beyond that produced that context, the ways in which we engage in the system through our own power and privilege, and the skills needed to understand what community engaged design leadership looks like in an intentional landscape defined by actors, allies, and accomplices. Throughout the week we will collectively explore past and present struggles toward equity and racial justice in St. Louis, MO. Through a lecture on the history of St. Louis, a local day out in the city, and —for the first time— a cohort of Local Emerging Leader participants, we will ground the Forum in St. Louis while taking away broader lessons that apply to other communities that we live and work in.

The Design Futures curriculum contains two tracks: Core and Electives. The selection committee is enthusiastically soliciting **submissions for its Electives workshops**.

About Design Futures Core

While not part of the RFP process, the Design Futures Core is a critical track in the program. It will provide the foundational knowledge mentioned above and will be taught by an invited group of leading practitioners of those issues. The courses to be taught as part of this core curriculum are as follows:

- **History and Context: On This Site: Uncovering the (Racialized) History of Site, Places, and Neighborhoods** (Jess Zimbabwe and Bernadette Onyenaka)

Participants will learn about the history of race-based zoning, redlining, block-busting, racially restrictive covenants, and confederate monuments in American cities. They will also learn how to research specific events that may have taken place on or near a site, as well as public memorials and markers in a place. They will gain the skills to find records, such as historic newspaper reports, to get a better understanding of the history of racial segregation in their city or any other site where they are working.

- **From Oppression to Racial Justice: What are the components of the systems of oppression impacting the context that we're working in?** (Kiara Nagel)

This training will be a platform to create a shared definition and understanding around the concepts of oppression including racism, sexism, ableism, classism, (etc) and how these methods of oppression intersect with each other and appear in everyday life from personal experiences to institutionalized examples. Participants will be able to identify how these oppressions manifest in the built environment and community-engaged design, and discuss tools to dismantle and address these issues to move towards justice and equity as outcomes.

- **Privilege and Power and Positionality: How do we understand our own positionality and self work in the context of these issues?** (Liz Ogbu and Christine Gaspar)

This workshop will outline and collectively explore concepts of privilege and power and how these important ideas exist in community-engaged design. Participants will reflect on their own positionality, including their fragility and their privilege, and understand how these are fluid and complex in projects. Students will workshop tools around personal agency and how to leverage their power but also learn to identify fragility and how this can also impede projects.

About Design Futures Electives

In addition to the core, there will be several Design Future Electives, which is the focus of this request for proposals. This elective curriculum is intended to provide the practical skills needed to support application of the foundational knowledge within built environment projects. Examples of practical skills include — but are not limited to — understanding financing for low income real estate development, specific methodologies for building successful stakeholder partnerships, and understanding successful models of revitalizing distressed commercial corridors. These are just examples; we are very open to your ideas and what you think future leaders in community engaged design need to know! Every year we receive several proposals on community engagement, so if your proposal focuses on that particular skill, please be specific with your process and impact as well as how your workshop will highlight themes of equity and racial justice. Unconventional topics, such as public health, participatory action research, and ethnography, that extends beyond design but applicable to the design practice are welcomed!

Strong workshop proposals must:

- Be interactive experiences for all participants. While it may be necessary to have a lecture style introduction to the workshop, it should be brief and prepare the students for some kind of hands-on, interactive learning experience.
- Have clear learning objectives that are tied to developing specific skill sets.
- Be appropriate for a multi-disciplinary group. While the majority of participants are attending schools of design and/or planning, we also have participants coming to this work from different fields such as urban ecology, engineering, public health, business, and others.
- Directly address how your own work addresses equity and social justice.
- Provide a “takeaway for practice” handout or resource (e.g. best practices case studies, community engagement workshop types list, “my path to PID,” etc.)
- Fit into either a 1.5-hour or 3-hour time slot.

Proposal Submission is available via <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DesignFutures2020>

For those unable to access the submission form, proposals must include the following for review by the Design Futures Student Leadership Forum selection committee:

- Name of workshop facilitator(s)
- Contact Info for all facilitator(s)
- Title and organization for all facilitators (if applicable)
- Will you attend the Opening Circle and Framing of the Forum on Monday 5/20/19?
- Preferred date: Tuesday 5/19/19 or Wed 5/20/19 or no preference.
- Whether you are requesting a 1.5-hour or a 3-hour time slot
- Audience (Workshops are open to both Design Futures students and faculty. If the content of your workshop is more appropriate for a student only audience (e.g. because of power dynamics, issues of vulnerability, etc.), then please note that and include an explanation. If the content is appropriate for all, then you can leave this blank.)
- Proposed Workshop Title
- Proposed Workshop Summary (500 word summary)
- Please include how your workshop aligns with Core workshops (100 words)
- Learning Objectives (at least three bullet points)
- Example(s) of Possible Exercises
- Example(s) of a “takeaway for practice”
- Relevant Past Teaching/Training/Workshop Experiences (at least three). For those with less than five years of professional experience, leadership roles and relevant experience that inform your workshop is also welcomed. Please indicate this and include these in your application.
- Statement of Work (brief description of your work and how it addresses equity and social justice, with specific examples; 250 word limit)
- We seek to include applicants from diverse backgrounds and lived experiences. Please describe how your own lived experience has influenced your work, including if they identify with any historically marginalized communities.

Please email submission to designfuturesforum@gmail.com

NOTE: Submission via surveymonkey is preferred.

HONORARIA AND OTHER RESOURCES

Selected workshops will each be awarded an honorarium that is expected to cover all travel and accommodation costs. Design Futures will provide a \$1500 honorarium for each facilitator, for up to two facilitators for a total of \$3000 available for each workshop. Any workshops that include additional faculty beyond two members, will be expected to fundraise any additional monies. Workshop facilitators will book and pay for their own travel and accommodations, and will receive their honorarium check at the Forum. Alternative payment schedule is possible and can be discussed individually, as required.

There will be a local hotel identified with special discounted rates for Design Futures faculty. Breakfast and lunch is provided on all days. Two evening events for the Design Futures faculty cohort will be an opportunity to network and discuss their work as a peer group and more generally explore the growth of public interest design and related fields.

SELECTION PROCESS

Please note that priority will be given to workshop facilitators that are available to attend the first day Opening Circle and Framing of the Forum. We will be creating shared agreements and laying the foundation for relationships and building a community of practice during the week, we hope that facilitators will be a part of the Opening Circle and available for students prior to their workshop. Design Futures faculty are also expected to commit at least a day and a half of their time to participating in Forum events—most of our colleagues find attending other sessions to be quite beneficial to their own professional development, and they find engaging deeply with high quality students to be energizing and enriching as well.

All workshop proposals submitted are reviewed in full by the selection committee. The committee is comprised of at least 6 members; the Design Futures Program Director, two members of the Advisory Board programming committee, two representatives from the host institution (Design Futures alum and faculty) and one Design Futures alum from a previous year.

In addition to assessing the quality of the workshop proposed, the selection committee has a mission to foster a diverse faculty cohort and will take into consideration the diversity of the workshop presenters (in terms of gender, race, age, professional affiliation, geographic location, and career advancement) when making its final decisions. We value intergenerational spaces and we encourage proposals from practitioners with less than five years of experience to design and facilitate workshops they would have liked to experience in the early stages of their career or in their education.

Please be advised that only one application per institution or organization is permitted.

SCHEDULE

Monday, December 9, 2019 - RFP released

Monday, February 7, 2020 - Deadline for workshop proposals

Friday, March 6, 2020 - Successful applicants notified

FAQ

If I have applied in the past but was not selected, can I reapply?

Sure! If you were not selected in the past, please review the criteria to better understand what makes for a strong application. We have tried to make our criteria clearer each year so that workshop leaders can better focus their proposals.

I have questions about my application and/or the submission process. Where can I get help?

Email designfuturesforum@gmail.com with any questions you have about your application or the submission process. Please email at least one week in advance of the deadline if you have questions about content for your application.

More than one person in my organization wants to submit a proposal, how do we proceed?

Given that we limit applications to one per organization (be it a school, professional firm, non-profit, etc.), if there is interest from more than one person or group of people in your organization we ask that you develop an internal selection process and choose which proposal you would like to put forward for consideration.

Can I submit an application to lead one of the core workshops?

No. This year we are reaching out to specific people to lead these workshops. In future years we will likely run an RFQ process to lead the core workshops, but this call is for proposals for the elective workshops.