CALL FOR PROPOSALS, DUE DECEMBER 5, 2016

Springboard for the Arts, the Center for Small Towns and the Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota are seeking proposals for the 2017 Rural Arts & Culture Summit, which will take place June 6 – 8, 2017 at the University of Minnesota, Morris.

The 2017 Rural Arts and Culture Summit will gather rural artists, arts organizations and community and economic development leaders from the upper Midwest and beyond. The goal of the RAC Summit is to build capacity for long-term partnerships between artists and rural communities by facilitating cross-sector conversations and professional development workshops for up to 400 artists, board members/staff/volunteers of rural arts organizations, and rural development stakeholders.

We are looking for sessions and workshops that do any of the following:

1. Provide **resources or training** to help individual artists and arts organizations thrive in rural communities.
2. Bridge relationships between the arts and other sectors (health, economic development, environment, education, historic preservation) by providing stories of impact/lessons learned about **artists engaging in rural community development issues**.
3. Celebrate **diverse forms of creative expression** in rural communities
4. Inspire **action for sustaining or growing support** for rural arts and culture.

**DEADLINE & SUBMISSION**

Please read the proposal guidelines before you submit your proposal. The deadline for submitting your proposal is midnight on **Monday, December 5, 2016**.

The proposal form can be found at this link: [http://tinyurl.com/racproposals](http://tinyurl.com/racproposals)
DATES AND LOCATION
The Rural Arts and Culture Summit will be held June 6 – 8, 2017 at the University of Minnesota-Morris in West Central Minnesota. Breakout sessions will take place on June 7th between 10am and 5pm and on June 8th between 10am and 3pm.

Morris is a town of 5,333 people, located about 150 miles Northwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul, and 115 miles Southeast of Fargo, North Dakota.

AUDIENCE
We anticipate an audience of approximately 350 - 400 artists, arts and culture leaders, and community economic development leaders, primarily from rural communities in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Iowa.

SESSION TYPES
Breakout sessions are each 75 minutes long. Breakout sessions typically draw between 10 and 35 participants. Sessions that are interactive and provide an opportunity for participation and conversation are highly encouraged.

We will accept the following types of sessions:

- Skill Building Workshops
- Panel Discussions (no more than 4 participants per panel)
- Hands-on arts workshops, activities or performances

SELECTION PROCESS & TIMELINE
Session proposals will be reviewed and scored by the RAC Summit staff and a steering committee made up of rural arts leaders representing the perspectives of the RAC Summit audience. Proposals will be selected based on the quality, creativity and clarity of the presentation proposal, and the relevance to the Summit’s primarily rural audience.

We will notify you of your proposal status in early February. If your proposal is selected you will be eligible to receive a modest travel stipend and discounted registration for your participation.

Note: In some cases, if we receive proposals that cover similar topics, we will contact you to discuss your willingness to combine sessions with another potential presenter.
SUBMITTING A SESSION PROPOSAL
An online Proposal Submission form is available here: http://tinyurl.com/racproposals

If you are submitting a session proposal, you will be asked to provide the following information in the online proposal:

- Session Title
- Session Type
- Session Category
- Session description, 500 words or less
- Your bio, 250 words or less
- Information about you: Contact information, Occupation
- Information about co-presenters (names, bio, contact info)
- Technology/space/set-up needs for your presentation

ABOUT THE RURAL ARTS AND CULTURE SUMMIT
The Rural Arts and Culture Summit is a biennial event that was founded in 2011 by A Center for the Arts in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Since 2013, The Rural Arts and Culture Summit has been hosted by the Center for Small Towns at the University of Minnesota – Morris, in partnership with Springboard for the Arts and the Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota.

The Rural Arts & Culture Summit is generously funded by the McKnight Foundation and the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

QUESTIONS?
Please contact:
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