

Call for Participation
The 38th Annual ARNOVA Conference

PHILANTHROPY IN COMMUNITIES: FINDING OPPORTUNITY IN CRISIS

Cleveland, Ohio
November 19-22, 2009

Deadline for submission of proposals is being extended to March 23, 2009

These are extraordinary times for communities – very difficult because of the global economic crisis and yet potentially hopeful because of the opportunities that accompany it. Many nonprofit organizations will function with fewer financial resources even as they remain critical in helping people in communities have their voices heard and needs met. Some may not survive, but a few may even thrive. At this Conference we hope to explore a range of questions about how this will happen, how these organizations will change, and the implications of these possible changes in civil society, philanthropy, volunteering, and nonprofit organizations for society as a whole.

Cleveland Ohio has a rich history of community philanthropy, deliberative democracy, and responsible civic engagement in pursuit of acceptable solutions to challenging issues facing communities. Key questions we hope will be addressed include:

- In various areas of nonprofit studies what have we learned that can guide current adaptations and innovations?
- What are organizations doing to respond to the combination of fiscal constraints and higher levels of need?
- In what ways is the nonprofit sector marshalling the resources and fostering the collective will to invigorate and sustain a sense of community among a diverse population?
- How are third sector organizations coordinating true collaboratives, building and managing networks, incubating and evaluating new ideas, and spanning geographic and issue boundaries to bring about real change?
- How is the nonprofit community engaging people in public discourse and action?

In addition, and as always, ARNOVA's annual research conference will be a key opportunity to discuss the latest research on nonprofit organizations and philanthropy in all its diversity. So, the conference committee seeks and welcomes proposals addressing a wide range of topics, in addition to the theme above. We invite proposals from all disciplinary (and interdisciplinary) perspectives.

Proposals that focus on issues of race and diversity, social equity, social justice and other issues connected to our broad fields of nonprofit studies and civil society are welcome. Proposals may focus on the entire sector or on specific nonprofit sub-sectors (health, education, social services, religion, arts, culture, and recreation).

❖ **To learn more about the Conference and opportunities to present go to www.arnova.org** ❖

One track will be devoted to the Conference theme with the intent of evoking a public conversation on the ideas, issues and questions surfaced there. In addition, however, proposals on other topics and areas (as described above) can be submitted to the specific tracks delineated on the following page.

Proposal Submission Tracks for the 38th Annual ARNOVA Conference

We offer examples of the types of questions appropriate for each track, but encourage those interested in submitting a proposal not to read these suggestions as exclusionary.

- Accountability, effectiveness, and evaluation
How do nonprofits remain accountable amidst tremendous shifts in funding, expectations, and need? How do we know our work is effective? How are evaluation practices and metrics shifting to capture large-scale community change?
- Boards, governance and leadership
Will the various ‘governance models’ that envision certain roles for government, business, and nonprofit organizations be significantly altered in the foreseeable future?
- Community and grassroots organizations
Will social movements gain traction? Will faith communities increase their involvement in meeting human needs?
- Fundraising and giving
How are individual philanthropists responding to these troubling times? Have donor trends shifted? Are people ‘tightening their belts’ or giving even more generously?
- International perspectives and issues
How are nongovernmental organizations outside the United States engaging people and strengthening communities at home?
- Philanthropy and foundations.
Will foundations treat their assets differently or change their decision making practices?
- Public policy
How are nonprofit organizations engaging in policy advocacy work that has the potential to fundamentally alter how people are treated, what services are provided, and how the system operates?
- Strategy, programs, and innovation
When resources get scarce and challenges are high, nonprofits are driven to find new ways of working. What will these be? What kinds of alliances will emerge? Will organizational forms change? How is the power of technology being harnessed to meet and respond to changing expectations and needs?
- Theory and methods
Will new theoretical insights evolve and paradigms shift because of these new challenges?
- Voluntarism and volunteering
Will voluntarism be invigorated? What new/additional knowledge skills, and abilities will be needed by volunteers?
- Teaching and Education
How is academic research being used to inform decision-making? What’s being done to prepare the next generation of nonprofit leaders?
- Philanthropy in Communities: Finding Opportunity in Crisis
Conference Track – as described in the bulleted questions on page one of this call.

Types of Presentations & Submissions:

Proposals for papers, Panels (pre-arranged) of 3-4 papers, and Colloquies of at least 3 presenters are solicited. Submissions by practitioners and doctoral students engaged in research are also welcome. The Conference Planning Committee seeks volunteers to chair or serve as discussants for paper sessions. We particularly welcome younger scholars and members of under-represented groups to make their interests known to the conference organizers so we can include you in our community.

The on-line proposal submission system will open February 15, 2009, and close at midnight, March 23. To submit a proposal, you will be able to go to www.arnova.org, and –under the Tab for “Conference” – click on the tab that says “Submit a Proposal.” **More information about submitting proposals can be also be found there -- under “Guidelines and Instructions for Proposals”.** Questions can then be directed to the ARNOVA office at (317) 684-2120, or to conference@arnova.org .