



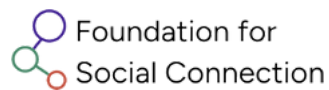
# SOCIAL CONNECTION CONFERENCE

OCTOBER

28-30

## SEEDS OF CONNECTION

OCTOBER 28-30 | ATLANTA, GEORGIA



Big ideas don't grow in isolation – they flourish through collaboration. The Foundation for Social Connection and Healthy Places by Design invite session proposals for interactive sessions at our upcoming 2025 Social Connection Conference – Seeds of Connection – in Atlanta, Georgia from October 28-30.

This year's theme, Seeds of Connection, explores how intentional relationship-building across sectors can transform communities and systems at every level of society. Featuring inspiring keynotes, dynamic sessions, meaningful moments of connection, and immersive community experiences, this event is designed to unite disciplines, spark new partnerships, and equip attendees with the relationships and tools needed to drive lasting change.

Join us as we bring together community leaders, social innovators, researchers, and organizers from the public, private, and social sectors to exchange insights, co-create solutions, and catalyze a movement to advance social connection across communities and the country. This work requires all of us. The relationships we nurture and ideas we cultivate over these three days will help transform communities for years to come.

### Topics of Interest

We are seeking fresh, forward leaning session proposals that are rooted in evidence and move beyond theory to highlight what is working. Whether you are piloting something new or scaling a proven approach, we welcome sessions that spark ideas, showcase impact and collaboration, and lift up bright spots advancing social connection across communities and sectors.

The themes below reflect topics we believe are especially timely and are meant to inspire, not limit your ideas. We encourage creative, cross-cutting sessions that reflect what's working, what's emerging, and what's possible:

- **The Art of Civic Connection** – *Reimagining civic life as a space for trust, belonging, and bridge-building.* Explore how communities are bringing people together across lines of difference through cultural traditions, faith practices and storytelling practice to strengthen civic dialogue and create opportunities for shared purpose and healing – from local town halls to participatory policy design.
- **We All Belong** – *Improving social connection for those most at risk of isolation and loneliness.* Highlight efforts that center inclusion and ensure everyone regardless of age, identity, geography, or experience has the opportunity to connect and belong.
- **Evidence to Action** – *Using scientific findings and insights to catalyze impact.* Share how research and data are driving meaningful change, and how on-the-ground initiatives are being evaluated and scaled to strengthen social connection.
- **Social Communities by Design** – *Designing physical and social environments to foster social connection.* From inclusive public spaces and accessible housing to transportation and zoning policies, explore how intentional design at every level helps communities increase social capital and improve quality of life.
- **Connection in the Digital Age** – *Harnessing technology and innovation to deepen, not dilute, human connection.* Dive into the promise and peril of digital spaces, artificial intelligence, and social media. Highlight tools, platforms, or policies that are helping people build meaningful relationships in a changing digital landscape.

## Session Format

Sessions should be **interactive and engaging**, designed to facilitate audience participation. We strongly encourage:

- Moderated discussions with diverse perspectives
- Audience Q&A and engagement
- Case studies, workshops, interactive demonstrations, or real-world applications

## Honorarium & Benefits for Speakers

- Each speaker will receive a **\$750 honorarium** to support travel, accommodations, and/or other expenses. Each session may include **up to three speakers**. Please note our goal is to bring together diverse perspectives on a topic.

- Speakers will also receive **complimentary registration** for all three days of the conference.
- Please note: We retain the discretion to modify or merge individual speakers' proposals for clarity and cohesion.

## Submission Guidelines

Please submit your proposal by **April 25, 2025 at 11:59pm Eastern Time** through [this form](#).

Your submission should include:

- **Session Organizer Information**
- **Session Details**
  - A concise and compelling title (max 15 words)
  - Topic of Interest Selection
  - Preferred Session Format Selection
  - Abstract – Briefly describe the session's focus, key discussion points, alignment to our Seeds of Connection theme, and why this conversation is relevant today. (max 300 words)
  - Key Takeaways – What will attendees learn or take away from your session? Include action-oriented learning outcomes or objectives. (3-5 bullet points)
  - Audience Engagement Plan- How will your session encourage discussion and interaction? How will your session support participants moving to action? (max 200 words)
- **Speaker Information and Bios** – Brief background information on the proposed speaker(s) including their titles, organizations/affiliations, and unique perspectives they bring to the conversation. (max 250 words each)

## Who Should Submit?

We invite **practitioners, policymakers, community leaders, advocates, innovators, and researchers** who are passionate about advancing social connection in their field, have experiences and insights to share, and who are open to a collaborative learning experience.

## Submission Deadline

All proposals must be submitted by **April 25, 2025 at 11:59pm Eastern Time**.

## Join Us in Cultivating Connection

If you have a compelling idea that aligns with our theme, we encourage you to submit a proposal! Together, we can **plant the seeds of connection** and **foster stronger, more resilient communities**.

For questions, please contact [conference@social-connection.org](mailto:conference@social-connection.org).