

Call for Proposals

Mawachihitotaak (let's get together) Conference

May 4th-6th 2022

Greetings relatives!

Over the past year visioning and planning has been underway for the Mawachihitotaak (let's get together) Conference that will bring together a diverse community of Métis thinkers. This gathering will take place in Winnipeg, Manitoba from May 4th to 6th, 2022 at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Our intention is to create a space for Métis scholars, art makers, knowledge holders, students, language speakers, organizers, writers, and other community leaders to share knowledge and engage in conversation together. Through our visiting we will discuss a range of Métis priorities and scholarship areas, all while nourishing our relationships and celebrating the different forms that we are carrying and building Métis knowledge.

Deadline to submit proposals is January 10th, 2022 at 11:59pm CST. Please send your submission as an attachment in Word document format to MawachihitotaakCFP@gmail.com

Who should submit a proposal?

Métis thinkers from a range of disciplines and professions are encouraged to apply. This includes scholars and students working within Métis Studies and Indigenous Studies, and those whose work falls in fields that centre other knowledge systems. We also encourage contributions by Métis thinkers and creatives who engage with knowledge outside of academia. Diverse perspectives will help us convene a dynamic and generous thinking space that will broaden our individual and collective understandings.

Creating space for Métis people to share knowledge with one another is a priority for this conference. Other Indigenous relatives and non-Indigenous allies are welcome to come and engage in this space with us, however, Métis thinkers will be prioritized as presenters. Proposals must include a speaker bio(s), and a brief description of applicants' connections to the Métis Nation (see below for more details).

If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of the conference and would like support in putting together a proposal please let us know. Support requests and all other inquiries can be sent to Mawachihitotaak@gmail.com

What topics will be covered and what form will the sessions take place?

Knowledge categories that will be woven throughout the conference include:

- Academic Research
- Community Observations
- Traditional Knowledge
- Arts Based Explorations

Proposals for in-person, hybrid or virtual sessions are welcomed. Sessions may take the form of: presentations, poster sessions, panels, round table discussions, workshops, artist talks, art interventions, film screenings, poetry/spoken word/literature readings, musical performances and other formats as approved by the planning committee.

Applicants might be interested in focusing their proposed session on one of the themes below. Please keep in mind this list is not exhaustive and is limited by the collective imaginations of the organizers—we welcome work in other areas.

- Métis health and wellbeing
- Relationality and kinship
- Research methodologies
- Métis history and archiving
- Literatures and storytelling
- Language learning and revitalization
- Métis futurities
- 2SLGBTQ+ stories
- Métis feminisms
- Technology
- Life sciences
- Economics and entrepreneurship
- Governance and legal systems
- Métis geographies
- Religion and spirituality
- Community organizing and activism
- Peoplehood, self-determination and sovereignty

What should a proposal include?

Interested community members are invited to submit a proposal that includes the following:

- Session title
- Session format
 - In-person, hybrid, or online
Our goal is to get together in person. Online and hybrid sessions will be considered, however, the majority of sessions are intended to be in-person.
 - Knowledge sharing form: presentation, poster session, panel, round table discussion, workshop, artist talk, art intervention, film screening, poetry/spoken word/literature readings, or musical performance
Other formats will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the organizing committee.
- Speaker information
 - Speaker bio (maximum 100 words)
Proposals with more than one speaker must include bios for each person (100 words each)
 - Community connection statement—in addition to the speaker bio mentioned above, please also include a brief statement that provides the organizers with more information about your ties and responsibilities to the Métis Nation. This might include family lines, community relationships, connections to place, citizenship etc. (maximum 1 page)

Speaker bios are being collected for conference materials; community connection statements will be viewed only within the organizing committee during the proposal review process.

- Session abstract (maximum 200 words)
- Technical/space requests (ie. laptop, projector, circular seating, tables, maximum number of participants etc.)
Organizers will try our best to meet requests though they cannot be guaranteed.

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Can I submit more than one proposal?

There is no restriction on the number of proposals speakers can be included on; however, we encourage applicants to keep in mind our goal of creating space for a diverse group of Métis thinkers.

What if I just want to attend?

Information about general registration to join us at the Mawachihitotaak (let's get together) Conference will be shared in late Winter/early Spring 2022.