2020 National Conference
Washington, DC
November 16-18, 2020

CALL FOR WORKSHOP SUBMISSIONS
Deadline: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 by 12:00 AM EST

I.   General Information

About NSLA

The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) is a national, non-profit organization focused on the powerful impact of one achievable goal: investing in summer learning to help close the achievement gap. For more than 20 years, NSLA has been the leading voice on the importance of summer as a time that, while traditionally overlooked, is critical to educational development and instrumental in closing the achievement gap between privileged and less-resourced children. NSLA serves as a network hub for thousands of summer learning program providers and stakeholders across the country and uses the power of research, advocacy, training, and policy to transform America's neighborhoods and communities, one child at a time.

About *Summer Changes Everything^TM*

Summer Changes Everything™ is NSLA's national conference focused on summer learning and afterschool as solutions to equity and excellence in education. The conference brings together a legion of leaders and practitioners from nearly every state in the country to share strategies for increasing access to quality summer and afterschool programs, scaling what works in programs and partnerships and advocating for policies that help young people and families thrive beyond the school day or school year.

NSLA is excited to bring *Summer Changes Everything™* to Washington, DC, November 16-18, 2020. NSLA seeks creative and dynamic proposals for conference workshops that will enable the growing field of out-of-school time professionals to *build, strengthen, and expand* life-changing summer opportunities for all young people. **The workshops will advance evidence-based practices, effective partnership strategies, and leadership development at every level, as well as examine learning trends and policy implications that will have a direct impact on your work.**

The deadline for presentation submissions is Wednesday, April 15, 2020, 12:00 AM EST.
Notification emails will be sent by or before Wednesday, May 20, 2020, 12:00 AM EST.

II. Presentation Guidelines

Session Guidelines

Each 75-minute session must provide demonstrations, activities, examples, research, practical tools, implementation plan, and/or discussion addressing how summer learning opportunities can contribute to the education and healthy development of young people. Presenters should address how their presentation supports equity in their workshop. Accepted workshops will explicitly satisfy this requirement in the proposal's design.

Presenters should plan to speak for no more than half the session time to allow participants ample opportunity to interact with each other, ask questions, and otherwise participate actively during the session. Each session should clearly outline the knowledge, skills, and techniques that participants will be able to put into practice immediately when they return to their programs and communities.

In addition to our 75-minute workshop blocks, NSLA is pleased to offer Summer Innovation Snapshots (30-minutes) – quick sessions aimed at sharing highlights from unique summer success stories or promising practices. Topics can include a case study; a program best practice; an activity, lesson or technology demonstration; a quick discussion with experts or any other session topic that you believe would be effectively presented in this shorter format. Please use the submission form to clearly articulate how your session will be presented and to make the case for any elements that you are not including in the session design.

Through past conference evaluations, conference attendees have indicated a preference for sessions which have the following elements: a framework to understand best practices; examples and group exercises that empower and challenge them to plan improvements to their own programs, in their own communities, and for the field of summer learning; and tools to take back to their programs and implement right away. In your proposal, you will frame the sessions and identify clearly the tools and resources attendees will take back to their programs. Strong proposals will clearly articulate learning objectives and how your session addresses equity in education. Presenters who are accepted will work with NSLA staff to refine session objectives if necessary, craft final session abstracts and confirm any presenter changes and updates prior to presenting in October.

NSLA's goal is to curate content that is compelling, practical in application, and relevant to a variety of audiences. When submitting your proposal, you will be asked to identify the target audiences, youth age demographic, and the assumed level of expertise for your workshop audience. Providing specific details in these areas will help us to ensure we have content for different types of summer programs, programs working with both younger and older youth, and also programming designed for seasoned summer learning professionals looking to expand their knowledge in advanced topic areas.

Conference Strands

Accepted proposals will align with one of the following conference program strands. Your proposal should focus on one conference strand and one related content area. If you would like to present on more than one content area, please submit multiple proposals.

Program Planning Strand
Workshops will engage participants in developing quality at the program level. Successful workshops will

provide concrete tools for improving the following content areas at the program level, supported by research and/or specific examples from the field. Programs may include those that are located in/operated by schools, community-based organizations, libraries, museums, recreation centers, public housing, or any other type of learning or enrichment setting. Sessions will target the needs of program managers and site coordinators.

Content areas include:

1. **Program Development**
   - Mission alignment and goal setting; strategic planning
   - Proactive planning; soliciting staff and youth input
   - Curriculum development: scheduling; lesson planning; innovative practices
   - Active learning: youth skill-building; reframing conflict/behavior management
   - Youth recruitment and retention strategies
   - Incorporating health, fitness and nutrition

2. **Program Quality Improvement**
   - Data collection and youth assessments
   - Program evaluation and quality improvement planning cycle

3. **Quality Staff**
   - Staff training and professional development: competency-based training; support for non-certified staff and volunteers
   - Staff observation and feedback
   - Staff retention: staff input and collaboration; effective staff meetings

4. **Curriculum & Activities:** hands-on examples and demonstrations of STEM, literacy, and enrichment curriculums and activities

5. **Engagement & Interaction**
   - Youth voice: planning, choice, and reflection
   - Learning strategies: encouraging skill-building and higher order thinking
   - Family Connections: relationship building; family participation opportunities
   - Youth collaboration and leadership; adults as partners
   - Unique program culture
   - Social emotional learning

6. **Individualization & Access**
   - Cultural competency and equity
   - Tailored instruction
   - Non-traditional settings
   - Working with special populations

System Building Strand
These sessions will offer practical tips and highlight research on how community-wide summer learning and out-of-school time systems and school districts can lead to more youth served, higher quality programs, and positive outcomes achieved at scale. Sessions will provide tools, examples and resources for assessing the state of summer learning at the community level, building partnerships, planning a summer learning or out-of-school time system, or capacity building around key system competencies.

Sessions will target the needs of community intermediaries, executive directors, researchers, summer learning champions, and others in leadership roles looking to address out-of-school time learning at scale.

Content areas include:

1. **Shared Vision and Citywide Coordination**: Creating a shared vision for summer learning guided by a multi-year, community-wide summer learning action plan that includes defined goals and strategies and aligns with education and out-of-school time priorities.

2. **Engaging Leadership**: Building partnerships between stakeholder group that represents key sectors including city and/or county agencies, schools, libraries, funders, program providers, intermediary or coordinating body, and other community members (including parents and youth).

3. **Data Management**: Processes for data sharing, collection and analysis across summer learning stakeholders.

4. **Continuous Quality Improvement**: Processes for quality improvement of both the summer learning system and summer learning opportunities.

5. **Sustainable Resources**: Identifying funding targets and strategies for scaling the system and improving quality of summer learning opportunities.

6. **Marketing and Communications**: Strategies to understand summer learning demand; build awareness of need and available resources; and support recruitment and enrollment.

Research, Policy & Advocacy Strand

These sessions will highlight trends and achievements in summer learning research, policy, and advocacy at the local, state and national levels. Sessions will target the needs of executive directors, school district and public agency leaders, and others in leadership roles.

Content areas include:

1. **Federal and state legislation and initiatives** that support, broaden access to, and/or increase youth participation in summer opportunities, including funding for summer programs

2. **Funding and Budgeting:** Identifying and securing funding sources at the federal, state, local, and private levels; Grant writing – please be specific about the type of funding and programming that your session will cover

3. **School district strategies:** for creating and expanding summer learning opportunities

4. **Advocacy campaigns:** at the state and national level

5. **New research on summer opportunities:** how research informs program practices. Note: research- focused presentations should include a program, school, or other partner that illustrates the study or research findings in practice. Presentations of

research without an implementation or field-level partner co-presenting will not be accepted.

<u>**Leadership, Equity and Organizational Management**</u>
These sessions will share lessons and resources on being an effective and inclusive leader, managing staff, fundraising operations, marketing, and navigating organizational challenges.

Content areas include:
1. **Promoting Equity and Inclusion**
2. **Strategic Planning**: Defining organizational direction; Allocating resources to pursue strategy; Mechanisms for implementing strategy
3. **Board Recruitment and Management**: Building an effective board; Developing organizational depth; Board chair-Executive director relationship; Effective board operations
4. **Creative Fundraising**
5. **Cause Marketing**: aligning efforts between for-profit and non-profit organizations to produce profitable and societal benefits for both
6. **Communications**: Strategies to understand summer learning demand; build awareness of need and available resources;
7. **Crisis Management**: developing rapid response organizational plans to address emergency situations with staff, funders, partners, etc.

Crosscutting areas of interest
While not required, sessions addressing the following areas are of particular interest to NSLA audiences.

- Arts
- College Access
- Environment and Outdoors
- Libraries and Museums
- Literacy
- Public and Charter Schools
- Public Housing
- Research and Evaluation
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Special populations (e.g. homeless or foster youth; youth with physical or learning disabilities; refugee or migrant youth)
- Sports and Wellness
- STEM
- Trauma-informed Practice

III. Presenter Guidelines

- Presenters contribute their services in a volunteer capacity.
- **All session presenters must register for and attend the conference <u>at their own expense</u>.** Presenters are offered a reduced conference registration fee of $425 for the full conference, and $350 to attend the day of the presentation only. These rates are available only for up to two (2) presenters per session.
- All presenters **must** register for the conference once the presentation is approved by the committee. Registrations must be received by **August 15, 2020 in** order to receive the presenter discounted conference rate. *Sessions without at least one presenter registered by this date will be cancelled and the space filled by an alternate session.*
- Sessions must be either 30 or 75 minutes in length. You must identify the session length for which you are applying.

- Presenters should be active on the conference mobile app before, during and after the conference to engage with conference attendees and promote their session to increase session engagement.
- Presenters must leave time available at the end of the session for attendees to complete session evaluations.
- Presenters are responsible for providing all presentation materials and handouts. Presentation and handout files (PDF only) will be uploaded into the mobile app.
- Presenters will be required to disseminate one conference invitation email and one conference social media post in support of the event. NSLA will provide a template.
- Presenters will be required to incorporate NSLA branded slides within their presentation.
- Participate in a virtual conference orientation meeting prior to the conference date.
- NSLA will provide flip charts, markers, LCD projectors, and screens as needed.
- Laptops will not be available; please plan to bring your own.
- The National Summer Learning Association's *Summer Changes Everything*^{TM} national conference is a non-commercial forum. The promotion or selling of products or services during breakout sessions is prohibited. ***Sales pitches disguised as presentations will not be considered.*** Conference exhibit space and sponsorships, including sponsored workshop sessions, are available for this purpose.

IV. Instructions for Submitting a Presenter Proposal
- All proposals are to be submitted using the online form. The link is found at the bottom of this page.
- **The online proposal form can be saved after you have begun working.** Be sure to save your log-in credentials so you can sign back in to update, make changes, and submit additional proposals.
- If you have any problems or questions, please contact the NSLA conference team at NSLAconference@summerlearning.org.

V. Presenter Form
Online Proposal Submission Form

*Please remember to check your proposal for spelling and grammatical errors.