

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



A National Conference on Education for Liberation
HOUSTON, TX
June 25-28, 2009

Proposal Deadline: January 15, 2009

BACKGROUND

Free Minds, Free People is a national conference that brings together teachers, high school and college students, researchers, parents and community-based activists/educators from across the country to build a movement to develop and promote Education for Liberation.

Education for liberation prepares the most excluded, under-served members of our society, in particular low-income youth and youth of color, to fight for a more just world by:

- Teaching students the causes of inequalities and injustices in society and how communities have fought against them.
- Helping them develop both the belief in themselves that they can challenge those injustices and the skills necessary to do that.
- Supporting them in taking action that leads to disenfranchised communities having more power.

The goal of **Free Minds, Free People** is to provide a forum for sharing knowledge, experiences and strategies that support the use of education as a tool for liberation by:

- Connecting local community efforts to national education for liberation activities.
- Expanding our network of education liberators by building relationships that cross barriers of geography, race, age, class, gender, sexual orientation, profession and other identities.
- Showcasing a broad spectrum of strategies, including arts, popular education, organizing, dialogue and scholarship, and their related impacts.
- Acting as a catalyst for the continued development of a social movement around education for liberation.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We invite K-12 teachers, community-based educators, students, activists/organizers, artists, parents and academic researchers to submit proposals that address the following issues:

Education for liberation in the classroom or community

Proposals submitted to this section may address the following issues:

- Critical analysis/academic achievement
- Personal development. Organizations/programs dedicated to the holistic development of youth and that treat youth as more than academic beings. Programs/organizations might include the following components:
 - 1) Cultural/ethnic/racial identity development
 - 2) Spiritual development
 - 3) Health awareness
- Creative/artistic development
- Organizing/political action

Creating the political/social/economic environment that makes education for liberation possible

Proposals submitted to this section may address the following issues:

- Education organizing (i.e. testing, policing of schools, school funding etc.)
- Parent organizing
- Teacher organizing
- Youth/intergenerational organizing
- Research on impact of education for liberation

Overall we are interested in proposals that:

- Include young people in the planning and execution.
- Are accessible to a variety of audiences. This conference will include people from a diverse range of experiences, cultures, educational backgrounds and professions. Even if the topic might be of particular interest to one audience the delivery should be widely accessible.
- Involve collaborations between more than one organization or school, particularly from different parts of the country. We are also interested in collaborations by people of different professions. For example, could your workshop be co-led by a university professor and a high school student? A parent and a teacher?
- Are led by people who reflect the communities that education for liberation should serve, particularly in terms of race, class and sexual orientation

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

Submission Deadline: **January 15, 2009**

Notification: **February 18, 2009**

Please choose one of the following format options:

- 1) **Panel discussion.** Several individuals with experience in similar topics will share a 90 minute time slot, fielding questions and generating dialogue with participants.***
- 2) **Workshop.** Practitioners will provide hands-on instruction and practical ideas and methods that participants can take back to their home communities. We prefer workshops that are more active. (Your workshop should last either 90 minutes or 3 hours).
- 3) **Paper presentation.** Authors / researchers will share a 90 minute time slot to present papers on a similar topic.***
- 4) **Poster session.** Presenters will set up posters of social justice education projects in a designated room where conference attendees can informally chat with you about your work, similar to a science fair. We ask that poster session presenters be available for a 90 minute interval.

Proposal Requirements:

Create a document answering the following questions and then submit your proposal online by visiting to www.freemindsfreepeople.org and clicking on "Submit a Proposal."

- € Contact person
- € Organization/ School
- € Title of proposal
- € Summary of proposal (50 words or less)
- € Which format is your activity: Panel Discussion, Workshop, Paper Presentation or Poster Session?
- € What do you plan to do? (In 400 words or less, please be as specific as possible)
- € Who is involved? (List names and titles of all workshop leaders)
- € Are youth involved in the planning and execution? If so how? What ages?
- € What days are you available to present? Please list all that apply: Friday, Saturday, or Sunday
- € Will there be handouts? If so, what are they it?
- € Supplies needed (markers, newsprint, AV etc)?
- € Do you need financial support to participate in this conference? (Limited **scholarships available**.)

***If you are interested in co-leading a panel or workshop on a particular topic, but don't know of other groups that share a similar interest, please let us know and we may be able to match you with another organization, school, or individual.