

Call for Proposals



Proposal Deadline: January 21, 2011

BACKGROUND

Free Minds, Free People is a national conference presented by the Education for Liberation Network, The Brotherhood/Sister Sol, the Chicago Freedom School and Youth in Action 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 as a tool for liberation. The conference is a space in which these groups can learn from and teach each other, sharing knowledge, experience and strategies.

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:

- Exploring with students the causes of inequalities and injustices in society and how communities have fought against them.
- Helping students to develop both the belief in themselves that they can challenge those injustices and the skills necessary to do that.
- Supporting students 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:

- Building and sustaining connections between people from different backgrounds with an interest in justice-oriented education work
- Supporting participants in developing and deepening their practice as learners and educators committed to social justice
- Nourishing justice-oriented education work in various communities, with an emphasis on the host city, by making strategic connections to collective action in other parts of the country
- Acting as a catalyst for the continued development of a social movement around education for liberation
- Supporting and promoting youth-led education and organizing efforts
- Utilizing a collaborative conference planning process that elevates the leadership of students, parents, teachers, researchers and community-based organizers/educators.

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:

I. Teaching and Learning: Education for liberation in the classroom or community

Proposals submitted to this section may address the following issues:

- Defining and developing academic achievement. Organizations/programs/curriculum that address the accountability movement's demands on schools, teachers, and students and/or explore alternative ways to address academic needs.
- Developing the whole child. Organizations/programs/curriculum dedicated to the holistic development of youth (cultural/ethnic/racial identity; spiritual/emotional support; health awareness) and that understand youth as more than intellectual beings.
- Fostering creativity and artistic expression. Organizations/programs/curriculum with specific attention to the creative arts (performance, dance, music, visual arts, theater, writing, etc).
- Connecting to political advocacy and organizing. Organizations/programs/curriculum emphasizing school and community relationships, historical grassroots movements, and current day political action.

II. Organizing and Research: Creating and exploring the political/social/economic environment that makes education for liberation possible

Proposals submitted to this section may address the following issues:

- Education organizing (e.g. testing, policing of schools, school funding etc.)
- Parent organizing
- Teacher organizing
- Youth or intergenerational organizing
- Research on education for liberation
- Educational policy and policy issues
- Classroom and community connections

III. Kids Track

We will have special programming for youth ages 6-12. Proposals for this section may include the following:

- Historical exploration of equality
- Arts-based activities (visual and/or performing)
- Team-building or community-building activities
- Exploration or activities about current events or school issues
- Activities addressing student empowerment

Overall we are particularly 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 addresses, particularly in terms of race, class, gender, religion, and sexual orientation
- Are based on popular education principles to promote an environment of continued mutual learning and growth. Popular education acknowledges that the community is the source of knowledge.

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

Submission Deadline: **January 21, 2011**

Notification: **February 28, 2011**

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 action-oriented 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 or research exploration.** Authors/researchers will share a 90-minute time slot to interactively explore papers on a similar topic and engage the audience in the issues and implications for youth and social change.***
- 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 <http://www.edliberation.org/fmfp-2011/call-for-proposals>.

Presenter Information

1. Contact person
2. Organization/School
3. Who is involved? (List names and titles of all workshop leaders)
4. Are youth involved in the planning and/or execution? If so how? What ages?

Activity Information

5. Title of proposal
6. Summary of proposal (75 words or less)
7. What do you plan to do? (In 400 words or less, please be as specific as possible. If you are proposing a workshop, please specify 90 min. or 3 hrs.)
8. What do you expect participants to learn or gain from this session?

Audience Information

9. What audiences would benefit most from this session? Please list all that apply: Teachers, Parents, High School Students, College Students, College/University Faculty, Community Educators/Organizers, Other (please specify).
10. Is this session intended for people who are new to the topic or for those who are more experienced? Be specific about any advanced or assumed knowledge/experience.
11. How is your session accessible to a diverse audience?
12. What is the maximum number of participants for this session?

Logistical Information

13. What days are you available to present? Friday and/or Saturday
14. Will there be handouts? If so, what are they?
15. Supplies needed (markers, newsprint, AV, etc.)?
16. 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. For example, if you are presenting research about nutrition in schools, it might match up well with research exploring obstacles to student achievement.

Any questions? Contact info@freemindsfreepeople.org