



Unlocking the Power of Place
May 6th-8th, 2025 | spresummit.org
Center for Healthy Communities
Los Angeles, CA, US

Call for Session Proposals – Guidelines

Submission Deadline: November 8, 2024 11:59 PM EST

The Social Purpose Real Estate Summit (SPRE Summit) will bring together community real estate professionals and practitioners interested, active, and expert in all aspects of commercial community spaces in Los Angeles, California on May 6-8, 2025.

This interdisciplinary conference is for social purpose real estate leaders across North America; intentionally including various perspectives in the conversation. It is an opportunity to learn from peers and experts about best practices in development, ownership, and stewardship of social purpose real estate. Together we'll establish and grow the collaborative network necessary to create community-serving, community-owned real estate assets, so that ultimately social purpose real estate leaders can support greater impact in local communities.

With an expected 350 attendees, the SPRE Summit will be an opportunity for community space operators, philanthropic leaders, social justice advocates, CDFIs and lenders, government leaders, real estate development professionals and more to connect, collaborate, and learn. During sessions, roundtables, and plenaries, we will explore community spaces for the common good, how real estate can be an effective tool for shifting power, and what's next for community development, investment, and impact.

The SPRE Summit 2025 will feature sessions on the range of themes listed below. We are excited to see how our SPRE community will shape conference content, the conversation around community spaces, and the movement going forward.

Requirements for Session Proposals

We will have approximately 30 sessions. With a limited number of session spots, we are looking forward to proposals that meet the following basic requirements:

- **Session Length:** All sessions will be 90 minutes.
- **Speakers:** Please only include session proposals with a maximum of four speakers per session, including the facilitator/moderator.
- **Proposal Limit Per Organization:** Please limit proposals to no more than two per organization. Joint proposals from multiple organizations are still subject to the per organization proposal limit.
- **PowerPoint:** If you are including a PowerPoint presentation, it must be available in PDF and Microsoft PowerPoint with 4:3 standard slide sizing. Recommended total number of slides is no more than 30-35 across all presenters.

- **Select a Session Format.** In the application, you will be requested to select one of following session formats. We encourage sessions that are highly interactive and include time for discussion and questions.
 - **Panel Presentation:** A structured discussion, typically managed by a moderator and allowing for 20-30 minutes of audience Q&A. Has no more than four presenters total including the moderator.
 - **Workshop:** An interactive session that focuses on collaborative learning, skill building, or generating new ideas. Participants engage in hands-on activities, discussions, and exercises to achieve the workshop objectives. Typically has 2-3 facilitators and does not have a panel component.
 - **Deep Dives:** Focuses on in-depth exploration of a specific topic, approach, or challenge. The objective is to ensure attendees understand the subject matter, with an opportunity to apply that knowledge. May include a combination of panel presentation followed by an opportunity for attendees to apply their new knowledge through an activity, such as a case study review or interactive activity.
 - **Other format** (will need to explain in submission)
- **Conference Registration:** If your proposal is selected, the registration cost for the event will be a discounted speaker rate of \$295 USD. CSN is not able to provide any travel support for this conference, and it is the speaker's responsibility to make travel arrangements to attend the SPRE Summit in Los Angeles, California.
- **Session Scheduling:** CSN will determine the scheduling of all sessions. If your proposal is selected, you agree that you will be available for any of the times designated for sessions on May 7, 2025, or May 8, 2025.
- **Speaker Training Session:** If your proposal is selected, we will request that the speaker(s) attend a training session facilitated by CSN before the conference.
- **Session Combinations:** Please note that we may ask session proposals to combine efforts if the content is similar, particularly when there are two or fewer presenters included in the proposal.

SPRE Summit Session Themes

When submitting your session proposal for the 2025 SPRE Summit you will be required to select one of the content themes listed below. You cannot submit a proposal without selecting a theme, so please ensure that your session topic aligns with one of the themes.

CSN reserves the right to move your session proposal to another theme if we determine that doing so is a better fit for the conference agenda. For sessions that include legal, financing or fundraising and governance strategies, preference will be given to presentations that incorporate a combination of US and Canadian perspectives.

Theme	Description	Topics could include
SPRE Development	Examples of development successes and lessons learned. What should community leaders know before they embark on a project? Are there innovative approaches to getting projects done?	Visioning processes, gaining community support, partnerships with government during the entitlements process, partnerships with housing developers on mixed use projects, joint ventures, cost saving strategies,

		innovations in construction methods, putting together a development team.
Ownership & Governance for SPRE Projects	Ownership and governance structures best suited for SPRE, including shared spaces and models that democratize development and support community control.	Ownership frameworks like cross sector and public/private partnerships, direct ownership by community members, LLCs, and Co-Ops. Governance models and how they impact the development process and ongoing operations. How community voice is incorporated in decision making/led by community.
The Money in SPRE	Project funding/financing strategies or sustainable revenue models that support affordability.	Project funding including strategies for creative financing, and successful use of both traditional and less frequently used funding and financing tools. Operating revenue including alternative leasing models, and SPRE revenue streams beyond “rent”.
Architecture & Equitable Design for SPRE	Physical design of SPRE projects is key to spaces that function well, are accessible, and that reflect community.	Universal, culturally relevant, and/or trauma informed design. Designing for belonging, fostering collaboration, and or wellness. Designing for shared space amenities and community driven design processes.
SPRE Operations, Programs & Community Activation	From operational sustainability, to managing community centered spaces, to supporting tenants and community, to fostering collaboration, daily operations can set SPRE spaces apart.	Efficiencies in facilities management, SPRE staffing, tenancing strategies, tenant relations for shared spaces, managing conference and event space, community organizing, visitor and community experience, collaboration like referral systems and joint guest intake, and fostering tenant shared risk taking.
SPRE Impact & Evaluation	We know it when we see it, but how do we validate the impact of SPRE? Impact measurement and evaluation is key to elevating the field and future fundraising narratives.	Practices, modalities, frameworks, tools, and metrics for measuring, evaluating, and reporting on social and environmental impact. Identifying inputs, outputs, and outcomes for data collection, analysis, and management. Survey design, impact reporting, involving community stakeholders, etc.
Community Hubs & Shared Space	SPRE shared spaces provide important community infrastructure and often come as themed spaces such as: wellness and opportunity hubs, arts and culture space, youth centered space, and more.	Special considerations when designing, developing and operating themed spaces, fundraising for themed spaces, tenant/partner selections and shared impact strategies.

Power Building & Placekeeping through Land Control	SPRE Projects frequently drive community organizing and realize new community power. They are also key to place keeping and fighting displacement. Knowledge of the political landscape and systems are core to an enabling environment that promotes community power building.	Stories and playbooks of success around how SPRE projects ripple into new community power. Navigating and influencing local, state and federal policies, zoning and building code. Advocacy for local ownership and land control, or SPRE projects that fight commercial displacement.
SPRE Placemaking	SPRE projects are placemaking spaces born of a community vision, and anchor neighborhoods, making visible its unique people, culture and history. They can create belonging and safety, tying together community.	Strategies for placemaking including public spaces, how SPRE buildings interact with the community around them, fostering belonging and collective identity, and culture keeping.
Community Controlled Economic Development & Commercial Corridors	SPRE can be central to supporting community-controlled revitalization. Community Development Corporations, Land Trusts and other nonprofit corridor stewards can be key to paving the way for new investment while fighting displacement.	SPRE strategies to drive locally-led community and economic development including small business incubation, job creation, and commercial corridor work that support entrepreneurs of color responding to threats of displacement.
SPRE Climate Mitigation, Adaptation & Resilience	SPRE plays a key role in community resilience broadly, but with intentional investment it can be purpose built to respond to crises and a pressing need to build net zero projects.	How community facilities are evolving to respond to a changing climate, resilience hub development, sustainable/net zero building design, accessing the historic federal investment in climate adaptation via the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and other state-based incentives.
Exurban, Rural & Indigenous Places	We recognize that all the land on Turtle Island is indigenous land. SPRE can be a particularly important tool for communities outside of urban places, especially where there's been a historic underinvestment in community infrastructure.	Special considerations when identifying partners, locating projects and fundraising for non-urban SPRE, shared impact strategies.
Emerging Strategies & New Opportunities in SPRE	Approaches to SPRE are always evolving. COVID has catalyzed the way we use space. Moves to support land control in low-income communities and communities of color are critical. Shared space operators continually evolve center offerings.	Social, economic and racial justice approaches, business model changes, program and service offerings, and future of SPRE.

Suggestions for Developing a Strong Proposal

To increase your chances of being selected, we suggest that you:

- Share practical information that attendees can act on in their day-to-day work or project.
- Sharing “lessons learned” from your work is of particular interest to attendees.
- Avoid just describing your project. Focus on the impact it makes, what you’d do differently if you were to do it again, how it is innovative, and key takeaways.
- Go in-depth rather than staying broad or skimming the surface.
- Consider the diversity of your presenters (race, ethnicity, gender) as well as the institutions they’re affiliated with.
- Including methods for interaction between workshop attendees. Consider small-group discussion, speed dating, workshoping a problem, or conducting a skills training.
- Include presenters from two or more organizations. Collaboration between sectors can offer different perspectives.
- No sales pitches. CSN is not looking for session proposals that come across or are structured as sales pitches for a particular product, service or firm.
- Avoid exclusionary jargon. Knowing that attendees are coming from various sets of experiences, defining key terms and avoiding jargon is key to cross-sectional content.

SPRE Summit Working Group

Community Spaces Network and Community Vision have created the SPRE Summit Working Group with organizations from across the social purpose real estate sector to define a vision forward for community real estate, development, and investment through the design and implementation of the SPRE Summit. Proposals will be reviewed by CSN, CV, and the SPRE Summit Working Group composed of the interdisciplinary organizations below.



Timeline & Submission Instructions

- Session Proposals Due: 11:59 pm EST on Friday, November 8, 2024
- Presenters Informed of Selection Decision: January-February 2025
- Questions about the process or proposals? Please email info@communityspaces.org.

[Download Practice Form](#)

[Submit Proposal](#)