



## 2026 Building CAPACD Convention Call for Session Proposals

### About National CAPACD's Building CAPACD Convention

National CAPACD's mission is to advance equity and create vibrant, healthy neighborhoods by mobilizing and strengthening a powerful coalition of community-based organizations working in low-income Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities. We are a coalition of over 160 community-based organizations in approximately 23 states, and we work to improve housing security, increase access to economic opportunities, develop and preserve our neighborhoods across the country, and advocate for policies to achieve parity for low-income Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders at the national level.

The 2026 Building CAPACD Convention: *Anchored in Places, Powered by Communities* will take place on August 3-5, 2026, at the [Hyatt Regency](#) in Long Beach, CA, and it will convene hundreds of AA and NHPI leaders and their allies from across the country to learn, network, and catalyze change locally and nationally. For National CAPACD, place is more than geography - it sustains identity and belonging, preserves cultural heritage, and deepens collective resilience to drive action, which is more important now than ever. For decades, our coalition has challenged the displacement, disinvestment, and erasure of low-income AA and NHPI communities by building power through physical, cultural, and political place. In a time of challenge and uncertainty, place grounds us and offers a powerful platform to mobilize our communities to advocate for justice, build solidarity, and imagine futures of hope, healing, and connection.

National CAPACD seeks proposals for presentations, panels, workshops, roundtable conversations, and cultural presentations (such as art displays, film screenings, and storytelling workshops). We are interested in receiving proposals from various types of organizations, but we will prioritize proposals from our coalition members and community-facing community-based organizations (CBOs). Thus, proposals from other types of organizations should be in partnership with one or more community-facing CBOs. Submit a session proposal through our [Foundant portal](#) by Friday, November 14, 2025.

### Session Details

We invite proposals on a range of tools, strategies, and topics related to our Building CAPACD Convention theme, *Anchored in Places, Powered by Communities*, and following these four tracks:

#### *Homes as Anchors - Housing Justice and Community Development*

- This track focuses on community-driven strategies for housing justice that advance equitable access to safe, stable, and affordable housing for AA and NHPI communities. It includes research and analysis (such as gaps in affordable housing and housing inequities), housing

development, advocacy campaigns, tenant rights education, culturally responsive economic empowerment programs, community wealth-building strategies, and collaboration between local organizations to address systemic barriers to housing access.

### ***Neighborhoods as Anchors - Place-Based Work***

- This track focuses on neighborhood and place-based strategies, showcasing organizational and community efforts in neighborhood economic development and planning, zoning and land-use strategies, small business district stabilization, creative community-building through arts and culture, and partnerships between members.

### ***Resilience as Power - Capacity-Building and Leadership***

- This track focuses on strengthening the resilience of organizations and leaders who are driving community change. It highlights efforts to build and maintain nonprofit sustainability during challenging times, including how organizations deepen resilience through partnership, strategic fundraising, leadership, and capacity-building initiatives.

### ***Solidarity as Power - Protecting Our Communities***

- This track focuses on policy advocacy, community mobilization, civic engagement, rapid response, and strategies to strengthen coalitions and partnerships, grounded in our value of solidarity. Our value of solidarity posits that we are interconnected across identities, cultures, places, abilities, and generations, and through the common structural challenges that we experience. Thus, we must work in collaboration with other communities to bring everyone along in our vision for social and economic justice.

We strongly encourage applicants to propose sessions that:

1. Center National CAPACD's Values and Advance Racial Equity: All sessions should align with our [values](#) and engage attendees in issues facing communities of color and/or strategies, solutions, and campaigns that advance racial equity.
2. Consider Intersectionality: While we welcome sessions focusing on specific communities, we ask that they incorporate an intersectional lens, considering intersecting identities and experiences, and whenever possible, highlighting opportunities for multiracial allyship and coalition-building.
3. Center Communities Impacted: Any solutions offered must uplift voices, input, and solutions put forward by communities impacted by the topic.
4. Organizational Collaboration: As a coalition, we welcome proposals where multiple and diverse member organizations partner together to raise issues and share their work.

5. **Diverse Stories:** For this year's Building CAPACD Convention, sessions focusing on voices that highlight the diversity of our communities, particularly Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, Southeast Asian, South Asian, and Central Asian stories, are especially encouraged. We invite artists to share their creative and cultural expressions.

Please refer to past sessions for examples [here](#).

The 2026 Building CAPACD Convention will be a fully in-person event. At this time, we will not be accepting virtual session proposals. Session attendance may range from 60-110 attendees based on room capacity.

### Session Format

We welcome different formats for the sessions. Proposed sessions should be 1 hour and 15 minutes in length, and here are a few suggested categories:

- **Moderated Panel:** Panels are conversations with a moderator and up to 3 panelists. The moderator asks panelists specific questions related to the session topic, followed by an optional attendee Q&A before closing.
- **Practical Workshop:** Workshops are interactive discussions or participatory sessions that provide audience members with practical skills or advice in implementing a particular tool, strategy, or idea, and may include hands-on activities.
- **Roundtable Conversation:** Roundtables will involve facilitated discussions with conference participants around a few key ideas or questions proposed by the organizer. This format is meant to spur conversations around exploratory topics and ideas without formal presentations.
- **Cultural Presentations:** Exhibitions temporarily display art, artifacts, and film screenings that tell a story/narrative. Some examples include photos depicting neighborhood history and community-led projects, hands-on learning experiences with artmaking or traditional activities connected to a community, and videos or audio recordings of storytelling about preserving cultural sites or districts in gentrifying areas.

*\*Please note that we may ask you to leave a few minutes at the beginning of your session to accommodate opening remarks from one of our Building CAPACD Convention sponsors.*

### Review

Proposals will be evaluated by a Program Review Committee, made up of National CAPACD staff. Proposals will be accepted based on the completeness and quality of the application, the presenter's expertise, contributions to AA, NHPI, and BIPOC communities, and demonstration of the proposal's alignment with National CAPACD's values.

### Review Criteria

Category	Points Awarded
<b>1. Centers National CAPACD's Values and Advances Racial Equity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alignment with our <a href="#">values</a> and engaging meaningfully with them</li> <li>● Topic focuses on issues facing communities of color and/or strategies, solutions, and campaigns that advance racial equity</li> </ul>	25
<b>2. Intersectionality &amp; Organizational Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Multiple groups or organizations with different identities collaborating on a session proposal</li> <li>● Factors to consider for intersecting identities and experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Examples include but are not limited to: race, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, immigration status, carceral status, education attainment, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Highlights opportunities for multiracial allyship and coalition-building</li> </ul>	20
<b>3. Solutions that center the communities most impacted</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Solutions offered uplift the voices and input of communities impacted most by the topic</li> <li>● Session feels productive and recommends solutions offered up by communities most impacted</li> <li>● Participants walk away with clear examples of how to address the topic</li> </ul>	20
<b>4. Track Alignment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Clearly fits into one of the 2026 Building CAPACD Convention track topic areas</li> </ul>	20
<b>5. Presenter(s) Expertise</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Experience in the work they're presenting on</li> <li>● Clear understanding of topics</li> <li>● Expertise may come from experience other than formal work and does not need to correlate with job title</li> <li>● Expertise in serving communities</li> </ul>	15

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lived experience in the topic presented is highly valued</li> </ul>	
<b>Total possible points</b>	<b>100</b>

### **Support for Presenters**

Accepted sessions will be eligible for two presenter scholarships with a possibility of a third, depending on need. This number should include a moderator (if needed) for the proposed session. Presenter scholarships are inclusive of a 1) Building CAPACD Convention registration and 2) a travel stipend (\$750 per person for non-locals and \$350 per person for locals). Proposed sessions should be 1 hour and 15 minutes in length.

### **Timeline to Submit and Review**

- Call for proposals opens: Tuesday, October 14, 2025.
- Deadline for proposal submissions: Friday, November 14, 2025.
- Proposal acceptance notices sent: Friday, December 12, 2025.
- Mandatory orientation for presenters: May 2025.

### **Submission Deadline and Instructions**

All applications are due by Friday, November 14, 2025, 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time and should be submitted online via National CAPACD's grant portal, [Foundant](#). The Foundant [user guide](#) provides detailed information about how to create an account and access the grant portal. If you have any questions about the open call process, please contact [rfp@nationalcapacd.org](mailto:rfp@nationalcapacd.org).

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## **SESSION PROPOSAL FORM**

The application form will ask for the following information:

### **Contact information:**

- Name
- Pronouns
- Organization
- Title
- Email
- Cell Phone

### **Session Information:**

- Session Title
- Session Description (1000 character limit)

- Session Track

### **Presenters:**

- How many total speakers (presenters, moderators, facilitators, panelists, etc.) do you plan on having for this session?
- Primary presenter/moderator/facilitator name
- Other speakers or panelists (Title, Affiliation)
- Other speakers' or panelists' contact information (email)
- Please write up brief bios of all of the speakers/panelists

### **Audience:**

- Intended audience (i.e., entry-level staff, senior leadership, staff working with immigrants or monolingual residents, policymakers, funders, etc.)
- What interactive/audience engagement strategies do you plan to use? (i.e., pair/share, breakout groups, icebreaker poll questions, games such as a timed puzzle or mini trivia, and collective generation such as word clouds or writing a story together)

### **Values:**

- You or your organization's connection to National CAPACD (i.e., cohort/network member or grantee)
- How will your session engage with National CAPACD's [values](#) and advance racial equity?
- How will your session consider intersectionality, and does your session include more than one organization collaborating or co-presenting?
- How will your session center on the communities that are most impacted and offer productive solutions?

### **Scholarships:**

- How many presenter scholarships would you need in order to attend the 2026 Building CAPACD Convention?  
 \*\*Note: If you are offered a network/program scholarship, then you should accept that scholarship instead of a presenter scholarship. Each person can only receive one scholarship of any kind from National CAPACD.
- We are able to offer a few sessions one additional scholarship, based on need. If you feel that you need a third scholarship in order to present your proposed session in the best way possible, please tell us why. Please also explain why your organization is not able to support the cost of this presenter attending the Building CAPACD Convention.

**Combining proposal topics:**

We sometimes receive multiple session proposals on similar topics in different parts of the country, or on topics that complement each other to provide additional context and information to Building CAPACD Convention participants. If your session proposal seems to fit well with one or more other session proposals, would you be open to considering a combined session? (yes/no)

**Other:**

- Optional Comments: Is there anything else that you'd like to note and share?