Ideas for Presentation Topics

This list is only intended to offer ideas for presentation topics. It is not exhaustive, nor are topics listed in any priority order. GPA is especially interested in session proposals that address one or more of these topics for the seasoned professional (intermediate to advanced sessions) and in session proposals that directly address GPC competencies. Choosing a topic from this list does not guarantee acceptance of one’s session proposal for the conference.

- Budgets—proposal/program budgets and budget narratives, multi-year budgeting, multi-funder budgeting
- Career development—grant reviewing
- Career development—moving into consulting, training, publishing, or foundation positions
- Career development—nonprofit or fundraising leadership
- Career development—supporting new grant professionals, resume building, preparing for retirement, etc...
- Cultivation—developing relationships with funders
- Ethics—ethical decision making
- Evaluation plans—developing strong but realistic evaluation plans
- Faith-based funding—communicating with funders, access to government grants
- Giving trends—economic and political factors, or by type of funder
- Grants leadership—supporting organizational growth, strategic planning, campaigns, case statements
- Grants management—compliance issues or managing and implementing grants
- Grants management—recruiting, hiring, and supporting new grant writers
- Grants office—managing, business tools, structures/roles
- Insider’s views—from any type of grant making agency (government, foundations, or corporate)
- Logic models—especially intermediate or advanced levels, connection to evaluation plan
- Partnerships—facilitating long-term partnerships, meeting challenges of collaborations
- Personal growth—combating burnout, healthy practices, work/life balance
- Personal growth – diversity, equity, inclusion
- Program development—understanding/researching evidenced-based and best practice models
- Program development—working with program staff or partners, group facilitation skills, collaborating on objectives
- Program management—differing roles/expectations for grants professionals
- Proposal development—responding to guidelines, obtaining data and content, formatting tips
- Proposal development—writing skills, grammar, content, writer’s block
- SIGs—focused on the needs of one or more particular GPA Special Interest Group, such as Tribal Nations or public safety
Ideas for Advanced/Master Level Presentation Topics

The following list is suggestions for topics for our advanced professionals as suggested from conference evaluations, discussion among the program committee and conversations with some of our advanced professionals. This is not an exhaustive list of topics but topics of high interest. Choosing a topic from this list does not guarantee acceptance of one’s session proposal for the conference but could increase your chances.

- Advocacy
- Career development—grant reviewing
- Career development—moving into consulting, training, publishing, or foundation positions
- Career development—nonprofit or fundraising leadership
- Career development—supporting new grant professionals, resume building, etc...
- Conflict Management
- Funder Panel
- Personal growth—combating burnout, how to overcome personal weaknesses
- Program Management – donor advised funds, strategic planning
- Time Management (e.g. Pomodoro technique)
Specific Ideas
The following list is suggestions that were made during the 2021 conference, collected by the Professional Education Committee or from the feedback GPA received through the session evaluations and overall conference survey.

- 21st Century Skills Development
  - Intergenerational Communications
    - How people from different generations work and work together
    - Being aware of generalities like familiarity with technology, etc.
  - Coaching
  - Empathy
  - Teaming

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)
  - Writing with a Racial Equity Lens
  - How to Promote DEI in the Grant Industry
  - What is DEI and why it matters to grant professionals
  - How you can be a DEI leader
  - How to make the field of philanthropy more DEI focused as a profession
  - Creating a Cultural Competency Plan
  - CDFI (Community Development Financial Institutions) grants
  - CAPS (Community Action programs)
  - Minority Business Development agency

- Working with program, exec, finance staff in grant process is not just herding cats, but training cats. A session on what that “training” should include

- Grantwriting as activism and advocacy

- A panel of Approved Trainers to talk about what grant training should include

- How to write without disempowering – ie. Adjustments to uplift the community

- Grant impact reports, templates and technology tools (Best apps) to use as a grant writer

- Stewardship and cultivation

- Research Grants

- Grant Management

- Technology Tools and Resources for grant professionals

- Municipal grants (best practices, cases, examples, showcase on outcomes)

- International Grants
  - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
  - Impact international grants have on domestic and vice versa

- Working with county, city – CDGP and HUD – Maybe a Panel

- Leadership development

- Post Award
  - Handoff of program
  - Compliance Monitoring
  - Working with Funder when problems
  - Falling short of targets

- Facilitating Meetings

- Team Communication/Leading Teams

- Conflict Resolution