

International Sculpture Center

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32nd International Sculpture Conference
October 22 – October 25, 2026 | Twin Cities, MN
Call for Conference Panels Guidelines

We invite you to submit a proposal for the ISC's 32nd International Sculpture Conference in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. Please note that we encourage submission of full panels with 3-4 speakers. Individual presentations are accepted but are less likely to be selected for inclusion than complete panels as they will need to be matched to a panel with a similar theme by the committee.

Please read all guidelines carefully before sending your submission. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.

General Guidelines

1. Individuals wishing to submit a panel proposal for the 32nd International Sculpture Conference must submit a 200 word abstract for review by the Conference Advisory Committee. All abstracts must be submitted electronically via the [form](#) on the ISC website.
2. The panel proposal submission deadline is **April 2nd, 2026, 11:59 p.m.** Proposals received after the submission deadline will be automatically placed on the waiting list.
3. When submitting your proposal, be sure to include the following:
 - Panel Moderator Name, Job Title, Company or Organization, Email, and Phone Number - The author of the submitted proposal is considered the Panel Moderator.
 - The moderator is responsible for
 - Ensuring the Panel is meaningful for the audience
 - Building dialogue amongst panel members
 - Keeping the Panel on track during the presentation/discussion
 - Balancing panelist participation
 - Coordinating slideshow and/or presentation materials
 - Ensuring the panel starts and ends on time
 - Proposed Panel Title
 - Summary – 2-3 sentences suitable for inclusion in preliminary marketing materials
 - Abstract – 200 word maximum, clear but brief statement of panel objective
 - List of Proposed Panelists – List 3 potential panelists who could contribute to your panel discussion. Please include job title or organization and email address with panelist name.
4. All submitted proposals are considered confidential and will only be accessible to ISC and Advisory Committee Members. The Advisory Committee reserves the sole right to accept or reject any proposal for any reason. The acceptance of a proposal for presentation is an agreement between the ISC and the person listed as panel moderator that they have read and agree with all guidelines.
5. When drafting your proposal please keep the following in mind:
 - a) **Target Audience** – This conference will include artists and sculptors, arts administrators and directors, public art advocates and planners, educators and students, community ambassadors, among many others.
 - b) **Educational Objectives** – Panels should have a learning objective so that those attending come away with information to assist them with their own career.

- c) **Diversity & Inclusion** - Panelists should represent diverse perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds. The most successful panels are those that include varying voices that enlighten and challenge audience perception of a topic.
- d) **Format** - Panels should not exceed 3 panelists plus panel moderator.
- e) **Length** - Panels will be approximately 75 minutes in length. Presentations should not exceed 60 minutes, with 15 minutes for audience Q & A.

6. Applicants will be notified by June 2026 via email as to the status of their proposal.

Accepted Submissions

1. Accepted Panel Moderators are responsible for identifying 3 panel speakers for their panel. These speakers must be approved by the Advisory Committee and alternate speakers may be suggested.
2. All panel moderators will be required to submit a Recording Release and License form for all panelists by **June 12, 2026**. The ISC records its events and programs (when possible) to allow its programming to be accessible to all. The recordings of these programs are held in the ISC Archive and are posted on the ISC website to be viewed by those who could not attend the event. This form is required from all speakers involved in any program the ISC holds.
3. All panelists must submit a photo and bio (150-175 words) for conference marketing materials by **June 12, 2026**.
4. All panel moderators are required to submit the panel's digital presentation files in their entirety to ISC staff by **October 6, 2026**. Instructions will be sent for how to submit. The panel moderator is responsible for submitting one overall presentation for the entire panel with all speaker segments included, along with collecting and submitting any other files that will be shown.

Digital materials are required to include:

- Overall panel presentation in PowerPoint with all panelist segments included, in speaking order
- Panel timeline, outlining speaking order and list of all files each speaker will show
- Panel checklist including list of all the files which will be shown during the presentation
- All video, audio, and other files that will be shown during the presentation
- Video files must be submitted in .mp4 format
- Audio files must be submitted in .mp4 format.
- All files must be compatible with Mac AND PC

Presentations are considered final at this point, and the ISC does not permit edits after this deadline unless they are requested by the ISC. **The ISC will not edit any presentation files for panel moderators and/or panelists.**

5. All panel moderators and panelists must register for the conference. In appreciation for participation in a panel, all panelists will receive complimentary conference admission. If accepted, panel moderators and all panelists are responsible for their own travel and hotel accommodations.
6. If guidelines are not followed, panelists are subjected to removal from conference programming, at the discretion of the Conference Advisory Committee.