The Music Theatre/Dance (MTD) Focus Group of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) invites session proposals for the 2018 ATHE conference in Boston. Drawing on that city’s past and present as a site of artistic innovation, educational excellence, and political rebellion, the theme of the conference will be “Theatres of Revolution: Performance, Pedagogy, and Protest.”

All sessions that address any aspect of musical theatre, music theatre, or dance (and which may or may not intersect directly with the theme of the conference) are welcome, including:

- musicals on film and television,
- musical dramaturgy,
- musicology of theatre and dance music,
- both classical and non-traditional forms of music and dance theatre,
- the business of musical theatre and dance,
- musical theatre and dance pedagogy, and
- the work of particular musical theatre or dance professionals and practitioners.

2018 MTD sessions may wish to address the following kinds of questions:

- How have musical theatre and dance harnessed the ethos of social or political change in the larger public arena? When and how have musical theatre and dance responded to such change, and when have they instigated it?
- What have been the most important artistic or systemic innovations in musical theatre and dance? At what cost did they arrive? What frontiers have yet to be charted? How might we overcome the obstacles standing in the way?
- How has the American revolutionary spirit been depicted in works of musical theatre and dance? How might that spirit operate as a fundamental essence of these forms?
- What critical changes might be brought to the ways we teach musical theatre and dance to better prepare our students for advanced work in performance-related fields and to better meet institutional aims? What do we stand to gain by reassessing traditional pedagogical models?

**SUBMISSIONS**

Completed session proposals should be submitted online (beginning mid-September) via the ATHE website at [www.athe.org](http://www.athe.org). The deadline is November 1, 2017. Only complete session proposals—i.e., no individual papers—will be considered.

**SESSION FORMAT**

Although the traditional session format has consisted of the presentation of three related papers, moderated by a separate session chair, due to the ATHE 2018 theme of revolution, sessions that take carefully considered alternative formats are encouraged. (If deviating from a traditional paper panel or roundtable, however, please be very specific about the structure and the form of participant contributions.) Sessions that do not require audio–visual support are also strongly encouraged. Note that highest consideration will be given to session
proposals that articulate clearly the purpose and site of inquiry, and how each participant will contribute to the session’s overall objective.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY SESSIONS
Multi-disciplinary session proposals (sponsored by two or more ATHE focus groups) are also encouraged, as long as they reflect meaningful engagement with the interests of all sponsoring focus groups. It is important that before submitting a multi-disciplinary proposal, you must first contact the conference planner of each pertinent focus group to secure provisional sponsorship. (Note that sponsorship does not mean acceptance to the conference.)

ASSISTANCE & FOCUS GROUP CONTACT
If you have an idea for a session and would like help developing it, or if you are working on a paper or presentation and are looking for co-presenters, please make use of the MTD listserv (which you may join via the link at www.athe.org/group/MTD) and/or e-mail MTD Conference Planner Brian Valencia (brian.valencia@gmail.com).

Additionally, all proposers are strongly encouraged to check in with Brian Valencia and to keep him informed regarding panels in development, so that he can offer guidance throughout the preparation and submission processes.

For emerging scholars who have never presented at a national conference on the subject of music theatre or dance, MTD sponsors the distinguished and competitive Bruce Kirle Memorial Debut Panel each year at the ATHE annual conference. The details of this special panel will be circulated shortly, and submissions will be due in late winter.