



TAG 2017 Annual Conference
November 6-9, 2017
Ritz-Carlton Hotel, New Orleans, LA

2017 Call for Sessions Overview

Do you have a great presentation topic that you'd like to share? If so, we want to hear about it!

Please submit your completed [Call for Sessions Form](#) by Friday, March 17, 2017

Conference Theme

The theme of the conference is Learning. As organizations strive to mature in collecting relevant data and assess the impact from that feedback, the next challenge for organizations is to infuse and maintain a learning culture within their organizations to solidify the knowledge investments made.

As technology professionals and grantmakers, we are always in 'learning' mode and it is challenging to keep up with the constant pace of technological change. Organizations learn too—and the learning worker identifies and isolates the information needed to answer pertinent learning questions; develops a process for collecting, synthesizing and sharing the information in a meaningful way; and leads the organization towards the learning outcome.

At this year's TAG conference, we invite you to learn about the latest technology trends for your organization and leave with ideas to build learning workers that can advance your organization's learning.

The Conference Agenda Committee seeks the following sessions:

- 1 keynote
- 2 plenary sessions, 60–90 minutes each.
- 21 breakout sessions, varying in length from 60–90 minutes.

Conference Sessions

The committee welcomes sessions that are educational, relevant, timely, engaging and valuable.

The committee identified the following high level areas of interest for potential sessions. Your session does not have to fit into one of these areas of interest but we share the list to provide some guidance about the type of content the committee hopes to include in the conference.

- Technology leadership (ie strategy, planning, change management)
- Training (how workers learn, learning styles)
- How to become a learning organization, culturally
- Evaluation systems
- Knowledge management systems
- Managing data/data governance
- Business intelligence (predictive analytics, machine learning)
- Cloud—how to manage IT in the cloud environment
- Security (including mobile)
- Grants management software
- Content Management Systems
- Office 365/Sharepoint online
- Community foundation-specific session
- Creative use of technology in the field

Session Tracks

There will be three concurrent break-out sessions. Each session must be categorized as technical, management or grants. We hope to have a good mix of all three session types. Since the majority of sessions we receive are for the management track, we encourage you to think about submitting sessions for the technical and grants tracks.

Please indicate whether your session is more appropriate for a **management, technical** or **grants management** audience. We are seeking general sessions within each track as well as sessions that speak to the theme.

Technical: *Target Audience = Technical staff.* Session should be devoted to technologies themselves and should take an in-depth look at the technology. Despite this focus, these sessions should be targeted to the general technologist rather than a sophisticated engineer. To tie to the theme, these sessions should address making the most impact with your technology resources.

Management: *Target Audience = Technical or non-technical staff.* Session should be designed to discuss issues around technology management, change management, communications and collaboration, with some part of the presentation dedicated to the technology itself. These sessions deal with broader management issues and policies related to the technology function versus an in-depth look at the technology itself. To tie to the theme, these sessions should talk about managing systems and processes for greatest impact.

Grants: *Target Audience = Grants managers and technical managers.* Session should be focused on the grants application/grants management process or tools or software to facilitate the foundation's grantmaking operations. These sessions can deal with broad management issues and policies or take an in-depth look at a particular grants management software. To tie to the theme, these sessions should talk about measuring your foundation's and grantees' impact.

TAG Conference Goals

- **Education:** Provide practical educational opportunities and professional development for TAG members
- **Networking:** Provide networking opportunities for TAG members—connecting people with others facing similar issues for information sharing;
- **Community:** Build the TAG community—relationships that can be leveraged beyond the conference;
- **Leadership:** Enable TAG to provide leadership to the sector.

The primary goal of the annual TAG Conference is to be an educational learning opportunity for TAG members. What makes the conference unique is that it is the one place for technology professionals working in philanthropy to share their experiences with peers. As such, the conference sessions should be about the application of technology relevant to this specific audience niche.

Many members indicate they join TAG to network and share information and ideas with their peers. This conference is one way for TAG members to network with each other and build the TAG community. It also enables TAG to provide leadership to the sector.

Target Audience

The TAG membership consists of a very diverse set of professionals, all **responsible for managing the technology function or a software application within a philanthropic organization**. Vendors and consultants who work in the philanthropic sector also attend the TAG conference.

There is a wide range of technical expertise and sophistication among TAG members. Job functions vary from senior staff such as a chief information officer and director of technology to a 'jack-of-all-trades' manager of technology to technology-specific jobs such as a database administrator, software developer, web specialist and network administrator.

Many members who are responsible for technology are not technology professionals. Foundations large and small are outsourcing the technology function and non-technologists professionally trained in finance, grants management and communications are now also responsible for technology.

Hands-on training for technical staff on specific technologies is not the focus of this conference. However, we want the technical sessions to provide enough technical information to be a relevant educational experience for the technology professionals.

Tips to Getting Your Proposal Accepted

1. Outline succinctly what someone will learn from your presentation. List 3 key points the presentation will cover.
2. Be practical. We are seeking practical advice from working experts.
3. Offer a case study based on real-world experience. If you are a consultant, suggest a client as a co-presenter.
4. Explain how to do something or how to implement a service or a technology.
5. Write your proposal title and abstract in a way that will entice conference attendees to want to register for the conference.
6. Complete the form in its entirety, including having speakers confirmed.

Please note: the application must be submitted in full. You can't save it and go back and edit the form later. If you need to change something, please email Lisa Pool at lisa@tagtech.org.

Expense Reimbursement Policy for Presenters

TAG is a nonprofit and we do our best to plan the conference to break even and keep the registration fees reasonable. We try to accommodate expense reimbursement requests but we do have a limited budget. Our policy for speakers is to provide free attendance for the day of the conference. If you wish to attend the full conference, we ask that you register and pay for the conference. Please let us know whether you require or request travel expense reimbursement and/or the conference fee waived. Please note there is a possibility this could impact the committee's decision to accept your session.

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