**Share your expertise!**

Brookgreen Gardens has issued a Call for Sessions for the annual Garden Symposium taking place in Murrells Inlet, SC, March 15, 2025. We encourage garden and art professionals from across the fields to apply! Please review the proposal guidance below and submit your session proposals by Sunday, October 27, 2024. All submissions applicants will be notified Friday, November 15, 2024. Registration will be required for all accepted in-person presenters.

Thank you, and good luck!

**Session Format**: Presentations: 45 minutes, discussing a specific idea, model, or project.

**Session Subject Areas:** Sessions may be submitted in the following subject areas and may address more than one subject area:

● Native Plants and Ecological Benefits

● Historical and Cultural Perspectives

● Sustainability and Conservation

● Community and Education

● Horticulture

**How Sessions Will Be Selected:** Each proposal will be considered according to the following criteria:

● Practical value to practitioners

● Originality

● Quality

● Significance to gardening

Sessions will be selected to create a balanced set of offerings for symposium participants. This includes a diversity of topics, intended broad audiences, and speaker representation (such as geographic and organizational representation).

**Recommendations for Writing Proposals**

● Craft Descriptive and Specific Session Titles

● Ensure your session titles clearly convey the content and focus of your presentation.

● Define clear learning objectives.

● Clearly articulate the learning objectives of your session, detailing how these objectives will be achieved and why they are important and relevant to your intended audience.

**Additional Tips:**

● This symposium attracts hundreds of gardening enthusiasts and professionals from diverse backgrounds and various organizations across the United States. Please consider this diversity when crafting your proposal.

● Sessions can go beyond project descriptions to include models, frameworks, sample activities, and other resources beneficial to adult garden educators.

● Your session proposal should reflect your personal experience and/or research within the field of horticulture, art, and/or history.

Email education@brookgreen.org with any questions.

**WRITING YOUR PROPOSAL**

Use the checklist below to collect the needed details to compile your presentation proposal prior to submitting it online. Carefully consider the four components below that will be used by peer reviewers to assess your presentation. Please note: All sections must be completed as instructed to ensure your presentation is reviewed.

1. Title of Session or Workshop (15-word limit)

2. Presenter and Co-presenter Information (Name, email address, phone number)

4. Session Track (See above for all subject area options)

5. Session Format (45-minute presentation with Q&A)

6. Statement of Purpose and Outcomes (100-word limit)

State the purpose of the presentation and the anticipated outcomes. The purpose will communicate the intention or goals, and the anticipated outcomes will give details of what those attending can expect from the presentation.

8. Organization of Content (100-word limit)

Describe the content in a well-organized way with a clear outline of the presentation.

9. Relevance of Topic (100-word limit)

Include details on how the topic is relevant or makes a timely contribution to horticulture, history, art, sustainability, and conservation issues and trends.

10. Impact on Practice (100-word limit)

Indicate how the presentation promotes best practices and provides an enriching professional development opportunity for attendees.

12. Brief Program Description (50-word limit)

This version of your presentation description is what will be seen by Garden Symposium participants in the printed program, the website, and in various marketing promotions. It will influence the attendance of your session.

**PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS**

All proposals are evaluated using a blind peer review process by the Proposal Review Committee composed of Brookgreen Gardens’ management team. Each proposal is reviewed by peers with similar interests and expertise and each proposal receives reviews that are averaged for the final score. All scores are normed to establish a common benchmark for acceptance consistent with the number of proposals to be accommodated in the Symposium program. Proposals are rated on a score of 4 (high) to 1 (low) according to Statement of Purpose and Outcomes, Organization of Content, Relevance of Topic, and Impact on Practice.

**SCORING CRITERIA**

**Statement of Purpose and Outcomes**

Is the purpose clearly stated and are the anticipated outcomes well-defined?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **4**  **Precise statement of purpose and detailed description of anticipated outcomes.** | **3**  **Good statement of purpose and with some mention of anticipated outcomes.** | **2**  **Adequate description of purpose, but little indication of outcomes.** | **1**  **Vague description of purpose and no reference to outcomes.** |

**Organization of Content**

Is the topic well-organized with a clear outline of the content to be presented using examples as supporting evidence for the subject matter being presented?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **4**  **Coherent organization of content with well documented examples used as supporting evidence.** | **3**  **Good organization of content with helpful examples used as supporting evidence.** | **2**  **Adequate organization of content, but lacking sound supporting examples.** | **1**  **Poor organization of content with no supporting examples.** |

**Relevance of Topic**

Does the topic make a relevant and timely contribution to issues and trends in horticulture, history, art, sustainability, and conservation issues and trends.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **4**  **Highly relevant and timely contribution with potential to create widespread interest** | **3**  **Reasonably relevant and somewhat timely contribution with potential to create good interest.** | **2**  **Low relevance, lacking currency, and likely to only generate marginal interest.** | **1**  **Lacks relevance and is unlikely to attract interest.** |

**Impact on Practice**

Does the proposal promote best practices and provide enriching opportunities for professional development?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **4**  **Excellent model of best practices and highly likely to influence professional development.** | **3**  **Good example of best practices and likely to encourage professional development.** | **2**  **Acceptable contribution to best practices and a marginal impact on professional growth.** | **1**  **Poor description of best practices and unlikely to have an impact on professional growth.** |