

## Selection Criteria

- **Connection to the theme.** The theme should be central to what the audience will experience.
- **Understanding of Spirit & Place’s mission and commitment to using the arts, humanities, and religion.** Through creative collaborations, Spirit & Place believes the arts, humanities, and religion help make communities great. *Together*, we can create civically engaged communities, tackle big issues, and build lasting bridges.
- Spirit & Place events should offer **inventive, “wow-like” approaches** and provide attendees with fresh insights and “ah-ha” moments. Consider participatory program formats, creative partnerships, unique venues, bold topics, and thought-provoking presenters.
- **Richness of opportunities for audience engagement/interaction.** Events should engage audience members on multiple levels. Consider design strategies that involve the senses, physical movement, and/or the intellectual and creative contributions of the audience itself. When possible, events should provide attendees a mechanism to stay engaged with the issue and/or each other.
- **Capacity to communicate and execute a well-planned program.** Even the most engaging and creative events need to be clearly articulated and well-organized. Your application should demonstrate you have thought about who your audience is and how you will design an event for them.
- **Strength of collaboration.** Applicants are required to collaborate with at least one other external partner. Interdisciplinary collaborations—those *between* rather than *within*—the arts, religion, and humanities are preferred, but not required. Also preferred are collaborations that demonstrate a willingness to share authority and event design responsibilities.

### The Spirit & Place “Oomph”

Selection Committee Members and Award of Awesomeness Judges often wrestle with whether an event has that special *oomph* the festival is known for. More than just being thought-provoking and unique, the *oomph* comes from creating a **shared community experience** celebrated through the arts, humanities, or religion and bound tightly to the yearly theme.

The Selection Committee often gives **special preference** and highly ranks applications that provide:

- **"Never-before-seen" opportunities** that illuminate the theme.
- Dynamic and **interactive events**.
- **Diverse ideas, people, and organizations.**
- Creative endeavors that tap into people’s passions and to inspire them to be more **engaged** in their communities.
- **Collaborations** based on shared authority and co-creation.
- Interdisciplinary events featuring the **arts, humanities, & religion**.
- Interfaith events involving **non-Abrahamic traditions**.
- **Opportunities that highlight, celebrate, and intentionally include** the complex diversity of our community across faith traditions, age spans (we welcome youth events!), life experiences, and ability levels.