

Red Flags

The Selection Committee will give lower scores when it spots these “red flags.”

- **Wish Lists.** Do not list collaborating partners, speakers, or other talent with whom you have not spoken! The application is not a wish list of people and organizations you would like to work with if selected. Rather, you should only list those—even if not 100% committed—have expressed an interest in being involved. Otherwise, you are presenting an event idea that may no way of actually happening as described.
- **Outside Your Lane.** Look for partners who round out deficits in your proposed event and/or bring in a unique point of view, especially if you are tackling a topic outside your mission area. Events about historically marginalized and oppressed groups that fail to center the expertise and voices of those groups in the planning of the event will face additional scrutiny. Events described as “interfaith” that do not engage across faiths in meaningful way in the design of the event will also not do well.
- **Transactional Collaborations.** The strongest collaborations are co-creative with partners involved in the early design stages and/or providing content expertise. Spirit & Place staff and the Selection Committee realize developing the relationships needed to secure venue space, staff support, and supplies is also important (time-consuming) work. Collaborations that appear transactional or “in name only,” will be scored low. To be blunt: Adding a bunch of partner names to your application for the sake of naming lots of folks is not going to win you points.