

Selection Criteria & Preferences

- 1.) ***Theme (required).** Your event should center the festival theme while leaving room for creative interpretation. The theme should be clearly reflected in both planning and audience experience.
- 2.) ***Civic Tools (required).** Identify which civic tool(s) your event uses and how. For the arts, describe your approach. For the humanities, specify the disciplines involved. For religion or spirituality, explain how your event engages beliefs, practices, or texts.
- 3.) ***Collaborative (required).** Your event must involve at least one external partner. Partnerships can take many forms—venue, promotional, or organizational support—but co-creative, cross-disciplinary collaborations that share authority will rank highest.
- 4.) **Clarity & Capacity.** Clearly describe what the audience will experience and demonstrate that you have the capacity to execute your plan. The committee needs to understand your event from start to finish.
- 5.) **Inventiveness.** Your event should offer fresh insights or approaches, whether a new offering or an adaptation of existing programming. Highlight bold topics, creative partnerships, inventive formats, or unique venues that make your event stand out.
- 6.) **Audience Care.** Identify your audience and design your event for their needs. Consider accessibility, family-friendliness, public transit access, timing, or other supports that ensure a positive experience.
- 7.) **Commitment Beyond Self.** Spirit & Place values communal engagement. Your primary goal should not be visibility or brand promotion. Events should contribute to the collective festival experience, reflecting our values of reciprocity, abundance, emergence, and people-centeredness.

Nothing for us, without us.

If your event is about a community, that community should be part of the process from the start. Involve partners early—including in your application—and collaborate with those whose stories or experiences you are highlighting.

What receives special preference and ranks high with the Selection Committee?

- "Never-seen-before" opportunities and interactive elements that illuminate the theme.
- Diversity of ideas, people, and organizations.
- Creative endeavors that inspire attendees to be more civically engaged.
- 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, ages (we welcome youth events!), life experiences, and abilities.