



CALL FOR PROPOSALS
2018 a2ru National Conference
Arts Environments: Design, Resilience, and Sustainability

November 1 – 3, 2018 • Athens, GA

The Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru) invites proposals for the 2018 a2ru national conference, *Arts Environments: Design, Resilience, and Sustainability* to take place at the University of Georgia, in Athens, Georgia, November 1–3, 2018.

a2ru advances the full range of arts and design-integrative research, curricula, programs, and creative practice to acknowledge, articulate, and expand the vital role of higher education in our global society. a2ru’s work, in partnership with more than 40 research institutions, envisions a world in which universities—students, faculty, and leaders—explore, embed, and integrate the arts in everyday practice and research. With generous support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the a2ru National Conference is an opportunity for practitioners and researchers from across the higher education spectrum to share innovations and perspectives in the arts.

THEME

The 2018 theme, *Arts Environments: Design, Resilience, and Sustainability*, is an invitation to explore the relationship between creativity and diverse cultural locations, by framing discussions about design, resilience, and sustainability in context of interdisciplinary artistic and environmental practice. The theme offers an opportunity to think broadly about the ecology of the arts and their environments, in terms of performance, design, and engineering. A land and sea grant institution inextricable from the town of Athens and the broader ecologies of Georgia and the Southeast, the University of Georgia will provide a rich context for thinking creatively about Arts Environments globally.

CALL

a2ru invites proposals for presentations from researchers, field leaders, and practitioners about arts-integrative research, practice, and curricula that explore the intersections, synergies, and interfaces between arts, environments, and their influence on design, resilience, and sustainability. Presentations vary in length and number of participants. We accept panel, paper, performance, and working group proposals. a2ru encourages proposals featuring panelists who are diverse in their backgrounds, pursuits, affiliations, locations, and ages. The ideal panel discussion will consist of participants who represent a broad range of perspectives and experiences, and represent more than one institution.

a2ru is designed for networking and knowledge-sharing. In submitting your proposal, please help us connect you with your fellow researchers by identifying your work within one of these two tracks:

1. Objects, Spaces, and Places—Implications for Design, Sustainability, and Resilience
2. Arts and Design Integrative Research and Practices in Higher Education

Topics in Track One may cover arts research and creative practices that span any domain(s) from health, engineering, law, psychology, etc. and include national initiatives such as creative placemaking, urban prototyping, etc. All should have clear implications and insights for design, sustainability, and resilience.

Topics in Track Two are primarily concerned with creating and supporting work, developing tools, and presenting ideas about integrating arts and design in the context of academic research and teaching cultures.

More information about the tracks and how they relate to a2ru's mission and research available [HERE](#).

Contexts

Proposals may address the following elements:

- systematic analysis, comparisons, and inquiry
- new knowledge
- synthesis and reviews
- documentation of creative activity and scholarship
- descriptions of workflows, practices, techniques, roles, and modes of integration
- documentation and evidence of exploration and discovery
- treatments and investigations of subject areas
- experimentation
- performance or exhibition
- insights into the institutional complexity of integrative research involving the arts

FORMATS

- **Papers or alternative equivalents such as performances or time-based media presentations.** Papers/performances/presentations will be grouped by the selection committee into sessions around common themes.
- **Discussion panels.** Panels should focus around a conference-themed topic and include a moderator and 3-4 panelists; each panelist is encouraged to offer a brief position paper or introductory presentation to uniquely enhance audience discussion. Panels should build in a direct dialog interface with attendees within an overall session.
- **Working groups.** Groups provide opportunity for immersive work sessions that participants sign up for in advance of the conference. Proposals should include a focus topic in relation to the conference theme as well as the intended working methods and outcomes of the group process.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION

All session proposals for a2ru's 2018 national conference require (1) clear and concise titles and abstracts, (2) well-developed objectives, and (3) a detailed outline of your planned content delivery. Fields included in the online submission form include:

- Title
- Format selection *[as described above]*
- Track selection *[as described above and elaborated upon [HERE](#)]*
- Abstract (250-500 words)
- Online description (3-5 sentences)
- Target audience and description of how content is relevant to that audience (faculty, deans/provosts/other administrators, directors/other professional or academic staff, students, industry and non-profit partners, funders, librarians, museum professionals)
- Expected learning outcomes
- What will be presented that is new, distinctive, or innovative
- Links or documents to support the merit of proposal
- A/V needs
- Contact information and bios for primary contact, presenter(s), and moderator (panels only)

CRITERIA FOR REVIEW

1. What does this proposal bring that is new, or emergent, to national/international discussion?
2. How does the topic translate or apply to other communities and institutions?
3. What are the broader implications of the work or findings?
4. The selection committee seeks projects that:
 - Explore, speculate, or research new pathways;
 - Use collaboration as a core feature;
 - Explicitly broaden participation;
 - Introduce exciting new forms, formats, or outcomes;
 - Expand existing programs;
 - Foster media literacy;
 - Highlight new institutional and artistic coordination mechanisms.

a2ru reserves the right to not accept any proposal that fails to meet the guidelines as presented here. All accepted proposals will be added to the public a2ru repository. a2ru membership is not necessary to propose or participate in a conference event – however, all presenters must register for the conference.

Submit Proposal [HERE](#).

Deadline for submission is April 6, 2018; Notification by June 1, 2018.

For questions or more information,
contact Maryrose Flanigan at flanigam@umich.edu or visit a2ru.org