

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS!

### Children, Youth, and Performance Conference 2024

The *Children, Youth, and Performance Conference* is accepting proposals for our sixth conference, held in partnership with York University and Young People's Theatre. The conference sessions will take place in June 22-23, 2024 in Toronto, Canada.

This international, peer-reviewed conference is an exchange of knowledge between researchers, performers, educators, practitioners, and community organizers, putting performance research to work and examining its impact on the lives of young people. Through a range of informative and interactive sessions, participants will discuss the future applications and implications of performance work with, by, for, and about children and youth. This year's conference will be held in-person at Young People's Theatre in Toronto, Canada. The conference spaces are recently renovated, with HEPA air filters throughout the buildings for added safety.

Our conference is open to a variety of presentation topics and styles focusing on children, youth, and the performing arts. We invite presenters from a variety of disciplines and sectors, including, but not limited to child and youth studies, performing arts, Indigenous studies, social sciences, humanities, education, cultural studies, health studies, human rights, and public policy.

#### **Proposals**

We welcome proposals based on cutting-edge research, theories, and creative practices that are aligned with one or more of this year's five themes:

1. Rights-Based Perspectives on Children and the Performing Arts
2. Social and Environmental Activism in Performances by/with/for Young People
3. Community and Mentorship in the Performing Arts
4. Methods and Techniques for Child and Youth-Centred Performance
5. Interdisciplinary Performances by/with/for Children and Youth

Each proposal should outline the presentation's purpose, method(s), outcomes, or reflections, and what will take place during the session. Please indicate which of the five conference themes (listed above) your proposal aligns with, and your preferred presentation format (listed below):

**Case Studies (10 minutes):** These presentations should discuss particular projects or case studies relevant to one of the above conference themes. Each session will have a moderator and each presentation will have a limited amount of time (~10 minutes per case study presentation), with additional time for audience questions. These sessions have been a hit at past conferences as they are a great way to share key aspects of your work while having audience interests provoke further discussion. Case Studies should be presented by 1-2 people (if you have a larger group, please propose a 'panel').

**Panel (20 or 45 minutes, depending on panel size):** We welcome panel proposals of three or more participants, showcasing initiatives and projects relevant to one of the conference themes.

Panels may include any combination of researchers, practitioners, performers, and/or young people, in a collaborative, discussion-style format.

**Interactive Workshops (45 minutes):** Workshops should be directly relevant to at least one of the conferences themes, and welcoming to participants with varying levels of performance or research experience (participants will be a mixture of artists, researchers, practitioners, educators, community organizers, and others who engage in child/youth-focused work). Please ensure your workshop carefully adheres to the allotted timeframe (including all required set-up and/or take-down), as sessions will be back-to-back. Workshop presenters are responsible for their own materials and set-up. In-person workshops often take place in empty performance studios or theatre spaces, are highly interactive, and should not be presentation-heavy: please clearly state the specific activity/activities that will take place. If your proposed workshop is presentation-heavy (rather than interactive) and/or space flexibility is not possible for your workshop, we ask that you select a different presentation format.

**Original Performance Excerpts (up to 15 minutes):** We welcome short performances, derived from research projects, new works, or advocacy initiatives, addressing one of the conference themes. Within the allotted timeframe, each presentation should include a short performance (such as a monologue, song, movement piece, scene, etc.) followed by a brief talk-back with the audience. We welcome proposals that include child and youth presenters. Performance excerpts are live performances, without pre-recorded components (technology will not be available) – if presenters plan to present / discuss a past performance (not live), please propose a ‘case study’ instead of a ‘performance excerpt’. All performance excerpts must fit within the allotted timeframe (including any required set-up and/or take-down).

### **How to Submit Proposals**

Your proposal should be submitted as the text body of an email (not an attachment), with all listed co-presenters cc'd on the email. The email should include:

- [1] a succinct presentation title (10 words max.);
- [2] presenter name(s), affiliations, emails, and bio(s) (100 words max. for each bio);
- [3] which conference theme your proposal aligns with;
- [4] your preferred presentation format (snapshot, workshop, panel etc.); and
- [5] a presentation summary (300 words max.).

There are two options to submit proposals: To be considered for **early acceptance**, please submit proposals by **October 20th, 2023**. The **regular deadline is January 8th, 2023**. Applicants may submit a proposal for either deadline. Any presenters not accepted during the ‘early acceptance’ deadline are welcome to use provided feedback to revise and re-submit their proposal (or propose something new) during the regular deadline. Proposals must be sent directly to Dr. Abigail Shabtay, Conference Chair, at [ashabtay@yorku.ca](mailto:ashabtay@yorku.ca), who will share them with the review committee. Applicants may be part of multiple proposals given that co-presenters are different for each.