

CALL FOR PROPOSALS! Children, Youth, and Performance Conference 2025

The *Children, Youth, and Performance Conference* is accepting proposals for our seventh conference, held in partnership with York University and Young People's Theatre. The conference sessions will take place from July 12-13, 2025 in Toronto, Canada.

The *Children, Youth, and Performance Conference* is an international, peer-reviewed conference where researchers, performers, educators, practitioners, and community organizers come together to share knowledge and explore applications and implications of performance work with, by, for, and about children and youth. The conference will be held in-person at Young People's Theatre in downtown Toronto, Canada.

Our conference is open to a variety of presentation topics and styles focusing on children, youth, and the performing arts. We invite presenters across 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, equity studies, communication studies, and public policy. Proposals are reviewed and selected by an interdisciplinary committee.

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. Child- and Youth-Centered Approaches in the Performing Arts
2. Methods and Practices in Arts-Based Work/Research with Young People
3. Sustainability in Performance work by/with/for/about Children and Youth
4. Collaborating with Young People in Performing Arts Projects/Initiatives
5. Sharing Knowledge through Performances by/with/for/about 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. Case studies will be grouped together in a session by the conference organizers. 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! Each 'Case Study' should be presented by 1-2 people (if you have a larger group, please propose an 'Organized Panel' instead). Laptops/projectors are available for this presentation format.

Organized Panel (20 or 45 minutes, depending on panel size): We welcome organized panel proposals for groups of three or more presenters, 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. Laptops/projectors are available for this presentation format.

Interactive Workshops (45 minutes): At CYP, workshops are highly interactive and experiential. Past workshops have involved participants engaging in dance, drama, music-making, and research creation practices to

learn new techniques and develop skills. Proposed 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). Interactive workshops typically take place in empty performance studios or theatre spaces. Workshop presenters are responsible for their own materials and set-up. Please clearly state and describe the specific activity/activities that attendees will engage in, in your proposal. 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. Due to space limitations and the high volume of workshop proposals our team receives, we recommend only selecting this presentation format if you are a practitioner/researcher who has experience leading similar workshops or experiential activities. Our team will meet with all selected workshop presenters (over zoom) in advance of the conference to support planning and ensure appropriate room allocation. If your proposed session is presentation-heavy (rather than interactive), involves PowerPoint, and/or space flexibility is not possible for your session, we ask that you propose/select a different presentation format (such as a ‘Case Study’ or ‘Organized Panel’).

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 and access to the lighting/sound booth is not available) – if presenters plan to present / discuss a past performance (not live performance at the conference), please propose a ‘Case Study’ instead of a ‘Performance Excerpt’. Our team will meet with all selected performance excerpt presenters (over zoom) in advance of the conference to support planning and ensure appropriate room allocation. 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 (case study, organized panel, interactive workshop etc.); and
- [5] a presentation summary (350 words max.).

There are two options to submit proposals: To be considered for **early acceptance**, please submit proposals by **November 22nd, 2024. The regular deadline is January 12th, 2025.** 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, who will share them with the review committee. Please thoroughly read these guidelines before submitting your proposal as there have been some changes from previous year’s proposals. Applicants may be part of multiple proposals given that co-presenters are different for each.