



FRECC
Facilitating Racial
Equity Collaborative

**NEEDED – YOUR WORKSHOP IDEAS
for the
2023 Overcoming Racism Conference
Friday, November 10th and Saturday, November 11th
Metropolitan State University, Saint Paul, MN**

WORKSHOP IDEAS DUE June 5th, 2023

"Today's events are tomorrow's history, yet events seen by the naked eye lack the depth and breadth of human struggles, triumphs and suffering. Writing history is writing the soul of the past... so that the present generation may learn from past mistakes, be inspired by their ancestor's sacrifices, and take responsibility for the future."

~ Epifanio de los Santos

Overcoming Racism: Reclaiming History and Paying What's Due is the theme of this year's conference. The theme focuses on two distinct and related topics:

1. Historical Recovery - reclaiming movements, strategies, approaches from the past that could be useful in our current work—if they were known, and
2. Paying What's Due to those harmed by oppressive acts sanctioned by government and every other sector in our society in which primarily Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities were stripped of their land, rights and ability to create generational wealth. Black and Indigenous people also experienced cultural genocide, of which the after effects are still felt today.

There is much we can learn about building and sustaining movements from our history if we knew it. We tend to reinvent the wheel when we already have blueprints and platforms in place from decades past about how to approach the work that needs to be done. Knowing our history helps us to use the lessons from past successful and disrupted movements or struggles to keep current and future racial justice/equity movements moving forward and not getting disrupted or derailed, which has happened all too frequently.

Knowing our history also equips us with the truth about the injustices, oppression and harm BIPOC communities have been subjected to over time, and how the impact of those government sanctioned actions and other systemic injustices created disparities based on race/ethnicity/ culture, which continue to be maintained today. Knowing and understanding the history of the injustices, oppression and harm BIPOC communities have been and continue to experience is important, and is the first step in creating remedies and repairing the results of those actions on BIPOC communities. Knowing our history also teaches us about the strengths and resiliency of BIPOC communities,

and the critical roles they have played over time in building our economy and creating wealth for others.

The **TAKE AWAYS** for those attending the 2023 Overcoming Racism Conference are:

- Participants will have knowledge about the history of successful and failed racial justice/equity movements, why some succeeded and how others were disrupted and/or derailed, and use that knowledge to strengthen current racial justice/equity efforts/movements.
- Participants will have knowledge of current racial justice/equity movements/efforts focused on reducing and eliminating racial disparities and creating remedies and repairing the injustices and harm BIPOC communities have and continue to experience, and be able to join those efforts.

The Overcoming Racism Conference is seeking workshop ideas from people involved in racial justice/equity work. The past continues to inform the present. The racial justice struggles of the past have strong potential to inform and guide our current work. Successful movements and strategies are there to be studied and built upon. What does our history offer us and how can we best make use of it? Potential workshops might explore:

- Historical or present-day programs and movements designed to decrease/eliminate the racial wealth and income gap
- The rich history of Black entrepreneurship and ways to support current and future BIPOC-owned businesses
- Ways to promote BIPOC home ownership, a proven pathway to generational wealth
- The role of quality training programs, colleges, and universities as a route to successful employment in well-paying jobs
- Initiatives to rebuild strong neighborhoods that reflect the cultures of their residents, have resources that support families and children, and provide schools in which all children flourish
- Use of language and how it is used to raise up or oppress racial/ethnic/cultural communities

Workshops may also focus on:

- **specific remedies or repairs**, either currently available or proposed, for those harmed by government-sanctioned oppressive actions.
- **programs or activities that highlight the strengths and resiliency of BIPOC communities**, such as programs that draw on the capacity of youth and young adults.
- **current racial justice/equity movements in Minnesota**, including but not limited to:
 - voting rights

- criminal justice reform
- the elimination of racial disparities in health care
- addressing educational inequities
- fair housing initiatives
- the true history of local BIPOC communities, and the leaders/change agents within those communities

ALL workshop ideas must focus on one or both of the “Take Aways” listed above.

Virtual Information Meetings

- Interested in sharing the work you’re doing but not sure if it’s a fit for the conference?
- Unsure about how to submit a workshop idea?
- Never presented at a conference or in front of a group before?

The Conference Program Committee definitely wants to hear your ideas and will provide you with support in submitting a workshop idea.

To learn more about submitting workshop ideas, and to ask questions about the process, the Conference Program Committee will be holding virtual **informational meetings about submitting workshop ideas** at the following dates and times:

- Thursday, April 27th, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm
- Tuesday, May 2nd, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm, and
- Wednesday, May 3rd, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

To join one or all of these meetings, click on this [Zoom link](#).

Workshop and Conference Details

- The Overcoming Racism Conference will again be in person this year. All conference activities, morning sessions, and workshops, will be held on location at Metropolitan State University, in Saint Paul, MN.
- Workshops will be 90 minutes in length and should include different ways to engage workshop participants.
- Workshops must specifically address the conference theme and at least one of the take aways. Those that are not will be rejected.

The deadline for workshop idea submissions is Monday June 5th, at 5:00 pm Central Daylight Savings Time

The following information must be included in your workshop idea submission:

- The first and last name(s), contact email, cell phone number and exact names and titles, if they have one, of everyone who will be involved in presenting your workshop idea. If selected, we will be collecting short bios and headshots of all presenters and will need this information soon after you've been notified that your workshop idea has been selected.
- Information about your workshop idea, including how it addresses the conference theme and at least one of the take aways.
- How you plan to engage workshop participants during your workshop.

Additional Information:

- Selection notifications will be sent out by mid-July.
- Free registration **is provided for up to two presenters** from each workshop selected. If a workshop has more than two presenters other presenters will be required to pay if they want to attend the conference. Scholarships are available for those requesting assistance for the registration fee.
- We are providing \$150 per workshop to those presenters who request it, no questions asked, to help remove any barriers that may interfere with their ability to present a workshop.

How Workshop Ideas will be selected for the Conference

The Overcoming Racism Conference Program Committee will be selecting workshop ideas for conference workshops **that address the Conference theme and at least one of the Conference take aways.** Those proposals not meeting these requirements will be rejected.

Submitting Your Workshop Idea:

If you have an idea for a workshop, please describe and submit your workshop idea using this [Google Form](#).

Please send any questions you may have about this call for workshop ideas to: coordinator@overcomingracism.org

"Examine the present and learn from the past to see how the future will unfold. Too often we just look at the present and base our actions solely on that."

~ Shinjo Ito