



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

WMCAT 20/20: Exploring Conflicting Visions for the Future, will be a two-day immersive experience for a limited audience of diverse leaders, doers, thinkers, and stakeholders, curated by the West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology (WMCAT). Taking place June 4-5, 2020, WMCAT 20/20 will be centered on learning and radical collaboration through which we provide ample opportunities to move out of self-curated echo chambers, experience divergent viewpoints, and revel in creative pursuits.

**WHO:** WMCAT 20/20 will engage a limited audience of 250 ticket holders. WMCAT will be intentional in curating a diverse audience through an application and nomination process, as well as making a limited number of tickets available to the public. This will ensure the audience reflects different approaches, entry points, lived experiences, and points of view.

**WHAT:** WMCAT 20/20: Exploring Conflicting Visions for the Future is a new, immersive conference aimed at creating a space for various points of view with the intention of challenging our assumptions, advancing conversations, and building community. The event will focus content around four pillars of personal and community development: Education, Economic Support, Health and Well-Being, and Social Capital. Linking learning and connecting will be a series of “happy accident” immersions and experiences.

**WHEN:** WMCAT 20/20 will take place over two days on June 4 and 5.

**WHERE:** The event will be held at WMCAT’s state-of-the-art space and surrounding areas on the Westside of Grand Rapids. WMCAT will activate indoor and outdoor spaces for a unique venue experience.

**WHY:** The West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology continues to be guided by our mission to provide a culture of opportunity for people to make social and economic progress in their lives and community. In 2020 we want to seize this moment in our history and our leadership to create a space to challenge and push our thinking and assumptions. WMCAT 20/20 is a manifestation of our belief in the power of voice, community building, experiential learning, design, and the curation of interesting immersions that can ignite equitable creativity.

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS OVERVIEW

WMCAT is seeking speakers, performers, and facilitators to engage attendees of WMCAT 20/20 in sessions around four tracks: Education, Economic Support, Health and Well-Being, and Social Capital. These tracks and corresponding topics have been generated with the help of more than 50 diverse leaders from business, nonprofit, government, creative, and education fields.

Over the course of two meetings in early 2019, WMCAT facilitated intentional design sessions with many of these leaders to begin shaping the event. From there, we formed four community-led committees to generate relevant topics for each of the four WMCAT 20/20 tracks, with a fifth committee to plan activities that can further bring interesting and unusual intersections, unconventional social capital and accidental learning. These committees met three to four times over the course of three months, lending their expertise and passion to the creation of WMCAT 20/20.

The committee-created topics for which we are requesting proposals are listed in question form at the end of this document. All proposed sessions should address one of these topics, and you are encouraged to do so in creative, out-of-the-box ways. Performances, simulations, debates, and unusual ways of presenting content are especially interesting.

### Speaker/Performer/Facilitator Responsibilities

- Provide a high-quality, engaging experience for attendees.
- Provide a summary of your session and biography.
- Ensure that no products or services of the speaker/performer/facilitator are promoted to attendees before or during the session without prior permission.

### Notification

Your time and input are highly valued and will be carefully considered as we curate a diverse and engaging event. WMCAT will respond to your submission by Friday, November 15 to let you know how we would like to proceed. If your proposal is selected, WMCAT will request more in-depth information about the proposed content and the format in which it will be shared.

## PROPOSAL TOPICS

The following topics have been generated by community committees to inspire the content for WMCAT 20/20: Exploring Conflicting Visions for the Future. These committees each created a variety of topics, only some of which are listed here for proposals; WMCAT is confirming speakers/performers/facilitators internally for the topics not listed here. Please choose one of these topics to serve as the basis for your proposed session.

- How might we increase our knowledge of different business structures and their impact on community (i.e. LLC, S Corps, B Corps, social enterprises)? *(Track: Economic Stability)*
- How might we explore models of building wealth in place -- whether they be proposals pointed toward equity like reparations and universal basic income, or models pointed toward current systems of generational wealth transfer? *(Track: Economic Stability)*
- How might we explore what talent gaps exist, where talent pools are being created, and the job training available to build a diverse workforce (paying attention to who's driving the conversation, the wage gap, baby boomers retiring, talent pipelines, and jobs of the future)? *(Track: Economic Stability)*
- How might we better understand the impact current educational systems are having on students? *(Track: Education)*
- How might we apply cultural intelligence to discerning the function of education for different bodies (race, gender)? How might we go beyond conventional constructs of educational models? *(Track: Education)*
- With current conversations in K-12 and higher education pointed toward the needs of employers, how might we examine conflicting visions for the purpose of K-12 education? How might we ensure there is space for examining the role of creativity and life-long learning in purpose-driven education? *(Track: Education)*
- How might we examine our relationship to the value, or lack of value, we apply to the teaching profession? Potential ideas to explore: How does data inform our perception of value placed on the teaching profession? How does our understanding of this perception of value influence our empathy for teachers? *(Track: Education)*

- Grand Rapids is the second most philanthropic city in the country, and simultaneously home to some of the worst economic and health outcomes in the country (maternal health, lead in homes, PFAS). How might public and/or private capital be used to develop healthier communities from the ground up or top down? How might we leverage resources to create better health outcomes for all in our region? (*Track: Health and Well-Being*)
- Against a backdrop of alarming maternal infant health outcomes and inconsistent maternity leave policies, how might we elevate the voice of women in shaping legislation and policy around women's health? How might we better understand the effects of unpredictable maternity leave policies and lower maternal health outcomes on our families and the broader community? (*Track: Health and Well-Being*)
- In a city known for its restaurant scene, beer, and recent marijuana legalization, how might we explore the role that income and status play in our perception – and even criminalization – of how people socialize and cope in their environments? (*Track: Health and Well-Being*)
- How might we explore social capital as a tool to advance social justice work and/or suppress social justice work (paying attention to the role of individuals and institutions in advancing this work)? (*Track: Social Capital*)

## HOW TO SUBMIT

Please complete the form at the link below to submit your information and proposed session details by [October 7](#) to WMCAT for consideration. Your proposal should address one of the community-created topics (listed as questions) above.

[SUBMIT PROPOSAL](#)

*If you have questions about WMCAT 20/20: Exploring Conflicting Visions for the Future or about this RFP, please contact Megan Lorenz at [megan.lorenz@wmcats.org](mailto:megan.lorenz@wmcats.org).*