DESIGN EDUCATORS CONFERENCE
CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SPRING 2016

The AIGA Design Educators Community Steering Committee is seeking individuals or groups within various geographic regions who would be willing to assume leadership positions in producing a design educators conference in the Spring or Summer of 2015. Deadline for proposal submission is November 13, 2015.

These conferences provide an opportunity for design educators to:
 −Present research and teaching methodologies to experienced educators and practitioners as well as to rising designers, educators and students
 −Learn more about pedagogy, history, theory, studio practices, methodology and technology
 −Gather as a community to share ideas and insights about advancing and improving design education

As one in a series, this Educator Conference should respond to design education issues such as criticism, sustainability, pedagogical models and transnational contexts. We welcome insights about new areas of interest, connections or concerns that design educators must address in the near future.

DEADLINE
Please submit your proposal by November 13, 2015 to Design Educators Community Steering Committee members Kenneth FitzGerald (kfitzger@odu.edu) or Karen Zimmerman (kzim@email.arizona.edu). Proposals should be submitted as a PDF. Proposals received after this deadline will not be accepted.

REVIEW PROCESS
Submit a two-page proposal outlining your interest in producing a conference. The submitted proposals will be reviewed by the DEC Steering Committee. Selections are based on: the quality and relevance of the conference theme; the variety of themes that will comprise the conference series; the suggested time and location; how well the conference objectives meet the vision of the AIGA Design Educators Community; and the leadership abilities of the conference committee. The final selection will be announced November 24, 2015.

WHAT YOUR PROPOSAL SHOULD ADDRESS
01 Conceptual statement
Outline your interest in producing an AIGA Design Educators Community conference. Your conference may be modeled after those previously produced (including "Revolution", "FutureHistory", "Schools of Thoughts", "Design Frontier, Intent/Content", "Response_Ability", "Blunt", and "New Contexts / New Practices"), or it may devise a new format. Please describe your interest in producing a conference. This should include specific concepts for the conference, their relevance to today's educational environment, and how these concepts differ from other conferences.

02 Programming structure
Conference organizers are given liberty to produce unique programming. In light of this, please articulate your ideas for conference programming. We actively seek innovative programming and formatting that allow conferences to be more inclusive and interactive.

03 Support

Describe the support for a conference within the design educator community in your region. We encourage you to partner with your local AIGA chapter when possible. Please describe any partnering opportunities, listing what other regional groups or members would be involved and in what capacities. Outline any experience your team may have with producing conferences or other large-scale events.

04 Planning team

Provide the names, contact information, and short bios for the individuals who will take leadership roles in the conference production. While a full committee may yet to be formed, it is essential to identify the point person(s) responsible for the production of any future conference. Conference planning committees must contain a minimum of three members.

05 Potential dates

This conference should be held during the spring or early summer 2016. Exact dates may be outlined in your proposal. The Steering Committee will attempt to accommodate submitters' preferred event dates.

OPERATION AND BUDGET

Each conference will be responsible for establishing and managing its own budget. Adobe Systems has generously offered $10,000 to support each of the four AIGA Design Educators Conferences in 2015–17. Please be aware that this seed money does not typically cover all the expenses of the conference.

Conferences must be branded as an "AIGA Design Educators Conference" with the tagline "AIGA Design Educators Conference" appearing prominently on all event promotions. Conferences will be supported by the AIGA Design Educators Community Steering Committee, who will offer advice, their knowledge base, suggestions for additional support, etc.

The DEC Steering Committee will provide access to a conference handbook to groups preparing proposals. Please contact Karen Zimmerman for details. The handbook is not meant to be comprehensive or prescriptive, but it does offer recommendations based on past successes. If your proposal is accepted, you will be expected to follow the requirements outlined in the handbook.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact AIGA DEC Steering Committee members Kenneth FitzGerald (kfitzger@odu.edu) or Karen Zimmerman (kzim@email.arizona.edu). We look forward to reviewing your proposals.

See more at: educators.aiga.org