



2024 BMC Conference Guidelines: Basics & Priorities

Housed on occupied Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe Land amidst 1,600 acres of Adirondack wilderness, Blue Mountain Center (BMC) was repurposed from a private 19th century golf course resort and family estate into a social justice oriented artist residency and conference program in 1982. Today, BMC offers a unique refuge to artists, activists, organizers and cultural workers who produce transformative work for their times. We trust conference and residency participants to choose the rhythm they need to counter the pressures of the world, whether through collaboration or solitude, work or rest, in a nurturing environment. This year our schedule consists of ten Spring and Fall conferences — three to four day gatherings for up to 22 attendees, as well as two focus residencies — eight day gatherings for up to 15 participants.

BMC conferences typically include movement building gatherings, cross-silo and issue based discussions and organizational retreats. Individuals, grassroots groups and community and non-profit organizations are encouraged to submit proposals, including initiatives operating without established institutional or foundation support. BMC Focus Residencies are longer than conferences, and are typically curated by a team of organizers to convene cultural workers of all kinds around a specific topic, theme or conversation. Focus residencies are a combination of individual work time and group convenings around the thematic issue. If you are unsure of whether you want to plan a conference or a focus residency, please reach out to BMC staff and we will help guide you through which format makes the most sense for your group.

For all gatherings BMC offers traditional (i.e. simple and comfortable) Adirondack lodgings, warm and inviting meeting space, and access to the outdoors. Three wholesome, family-style meals per day keep participants well-fed and engaged in shared dining spaces. Our kitchen staff are able to accommodate food allergies as well as vegan and vegetarian diets. Cell phone service is limited, but we are connected to the outside world via the internet and landline in designated spaces. A foundation grant enables BMC to make its facilities available at no cost to conferees. *

Upon acceptance, conference organizers are asked to work with BMC staff to design a gathering that will work well with what we offer. We seek partners who are dependable organizers, who can bring considerate, committed people to our remote location, who work to maximize diversity (of all kinds), and who demonstrate connectivity to the larger movement for a healthy, peaceful, and just society.

**Our facilities are not available for rent. We are unable to provide direct financial support, travel stipends, or significant travel assistance for attendees. Donations to support BMC's ongoing programming is appreciated.*

Please read and review the application on the following page, and follow instructions to set up a pre-application phone call before submitting your application. We thank you for your interest and look forward to reviewing your application!



Participants from the Changemaker Authors Focus Residency at BMC in 2022.

Focus Residency & Conference Proposal Application Form

Thank you for your interest in holding a conference or focus residency at the Blue Mountain Center. This document is designed to help us gather the information we need to consider your proposal for the upcoming season. Please submit proposals by **January 8th, 2024**. Selections for 2024 conferences and focus residencies will be announced no later than **January 22nd, 2024**.

Before completing your application: please read the attached BMC Conference Guidelines document which will provide you with a description of Blue Mountain Center's facility, mission and priorities. Please contact nica@bluemountaincenter.org to schedule a pre-application phone call to discuss your proposal and address any questions before submitting your application.

Proposal deadlines: January 8th, 2024.

APPLICATION - Please create a new document and supply the following information listed in sections 1 and 2.

1. CONTACT & GENERAL INFORMATION – please include: Name and/or topic of Conference

- Name(s) of conference Organizer(s)
- Address
- Telephone
- Email
- Group/Organization
- Estimated Number of participants (maximum is 18)
- Names of (known) attendees
- Preferred dates - please list top three dates, in order, from either the conference or focus residency date list, (depending on the nature of your gathering) below.

2. WRITTEN PROPOSAL - Can be up to two pages. Please include:

- Gathering description (topic of the conference/focus residency, the way the gathering will approach the topic, etc.).
- Why now? Explain the timeliness or need for this gathering.
- The desired outcome from the gathering (purpose, goals, etc.)
- A preliminary agenda.
- The funding source(s) for travel and extra costs.
- Anything else you wish to share about the gathering.

2024 Focus Residency Dates:

#1 - Wednesday, October 2 - Sunday, October 13
#2 - Wednesday, October 16 - Friday, October 27

2024 Conference Dates:

#1 - Wednesday, April 17 - Sunday April 21
#2 - Wednesday, April 24 - Sunday, April 28
#3 - Wednesday, May 8 - Sunday, May 12

#4 - Wednesday, May 15 - Sunday, May 19

#5 - Wednesday, May 29 - Sunday, June 2

#6 - Wednesday, June 5 - Sunday, June 9

#7 - Wednesday, October 30 - Sunday, Nov 3

#8 - Wednesday, Nov 6 - Sunday, Nov 10

#9 - Wednesday, Nov 13 - Sunday, Nov 17

#10 - Wednesday, Nov 20 - Sunday, Nov 24