



## **AdNet 2026 Annual Conference: Call for Sessions Guide**

*Deadline to Submit: October 3, 2025*

### **About The AdNet 2026 Conference**

The AdNet Annual Conference brings together professionals from community foundations across the country to share insights, explore best practices, and learn from one another. As we plan for 2026, we recognize the challenges and rapid shifts facing the philanthropic sector. From leading hybrid teams to building operational resilience in uncertain times, we need forward-thinking sessions that inspire, educate, and equip our attendees.

This year's conference will be designed with **every career stage** and **foundation size** in mind. Whether you're new to the field, managing the assets for a small community, leading a team, or thinking at the strategic enterprise level, we want to build an agenda that speaks to you.

### **What We're Looking For in 2026**

We are seeking proposals that:

- Address the current and emerging challenges in philanthropy
- Offer tools, frameworks, or case studies that attendees can adapt and apply
- Reflect a diversity of perspectives, geographies, and foundation sizes
- Encourage audience participation and interaction

### **Priority Topics Include:**

- Managing and developing high-performing teams
- Supporting and supervising remote/hybrid staff
- KPIs and performance measurement for advancement teams



- Innovation in donor stewardship and engagement
- Technology tools and trends
- DEI in advancement and donor engagement
- Communications and marketing best practices and trends
- Fund development strategies in uncertain economic times
- Partnering with program teams to advance mission
- Succession planning and professional development

**We also welcome:**

- Real-world case studies
- Sessions co-presented by multiple foundations
- Sessions that spotlight community impact or internal transformation

**Session Formats**

- **Panel Discussions:** 3-4 speakers with a moderator; interactive Q&A encouraged
- **Workshops:** Hands-on sessions with tools, templates, or group work
- **Fireside Chats:** Intimate conversations with thought leaders
- **Solo Presentations:** Especially if they present fresh research, ideas, or compelling personal stories

**Who Can Submit**

We welcome submissions from community foundation staff at all levels.

**If you are submitting a session on behalf of an organization that is not a community foundation, your organization must be a sponsor at the Thought Leader level or higher.**



For details on sponsorships, please refer to the 2026 Sponsor Prospectus (coming September 2025) or reach out to our Sponsorship Coordinator, Stephen Stephens, at [sstephens@arbmeetings.com](mailto:sstephens@arbmeetings.com). For other questions, please contact [conference@adnetcf.org](mailto:conference@adnetcf.org).

If you believe your organization - though not a community foundation - is similar in mission or scope and does not fall under the normal sponsor requirement (for example, you are a community-based nonprofit, an individual not representing a company, or a public sector partner), you are welcome to complete the session submission form. We will review your submission and follow up with you directly.

### **Review & Selection Process**

Submissions will be reviewed by the AdNet Content Committee using a standardized rubric.

#### **Criteria include:**

- Relevance to the field and conference goals
- Clarity and focus
- Interactivity and engagement
- Practicality and innovation
- Speaker expertise and diversity

### **Speaker Logistics**

Speakers are expected to cover their own conference registration and travel expenses. At this time, AdNet is unable to offer honoraria. However, we are exploring ways to enhance the speaker experience and welcome feedback.



## How to Submit

Please complete **the [Online Submission Form Link](#)** by **October 3, 2025**. For questions, contact Roxanne Legere [[rlegere@arbmeetings.com](mailto:rlegere@arbmeetings.com)].

Let's build something meaningful together. We look forward to your ideas!