Thriving Together: Queer APIs Building Community, Solidarity, & Movement
A national conference of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Asian Americans, Southeast Asians, South Asians, and Pacific Islanders
August 6 to 9, 2015: Chicago, IL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS for Conference Workshops, Arts/Cultural Programs, Networking Caucuses, Pre-Conference Convenings
Due by February 23

The National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA), along with Invisible to Invincible (i2i) and Trikone-Chicago, is pleased to announce this Request for Proposals (RFP) for the national LGBT AAPI conference. 250 attendees are expected. This RFP encourages our community to build the conference programming for workshops, trainings, arts and cultural performances, caucuses, and pre-conference convenings.

BACKGROUND
The National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance is a federation of LGBT Asian American, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) organizations to build the organizational capacity of local LGBT AAPI groups, develop leadership, invigorate local organizing, and challenge homophobia, transphobia, sexism, and racism. NQAPIA coordinates national conferences once every three years. Prior conferences were held in Washington, DC in 2012 with 350 attendees and Seattle, WA in 2009 with 250 attendees.

The national conference seeks to network, organize, agitate, educate, and build capacity of the nation’s LGBT AAPI community. We are committed to inclusion in every phase of conference planning, outreach, execution and evaluation. Overall, we hope to press a progressive agenda that will bring all LGBT racial and ethnic minority groups into the full fold of their families, society, the LGBT movement, and the AAPI community.

There will be workshops, panel discussions, presentations, open forums, caucuses, day-long strategy meetings, and performance art. In this open RFP, we hope for a wide array of topics on politics, organizing, skills, arts and culture, health and wellness, and others. We hope for presenters to be balanced in terms of gender/gender-identity, geography, and ethnicity. Caucuses will provide opportunities to network based on region, topic, or identity, such as women, transgender, students/youth, bisexuals, South Asians, polyamorous, etc. Social and cultural activities are also planned to recharge ourselves, to connect with each other, and to recognize our cultures. There will be a strategic NQAPIA General Membership Meeting at the end of the conference to discuss next steps, as well as to give feedback and evaluate the conference.
APPLICATION

**Title:** Please provide a short title that will be included in all conference materials.

**Description:** Provide a brief (50-75 words) description for publication.

**Session Type:**
- **Standard Workshop**: Basic (1 hr. 15 min.) session for general discussion or presentation
- **3-hour Workshop**: Longer (3 hr.) session to teach and apply new skills or to provide a more-thorough treatment of a topic
- **Open Networking Caucus**: Facilitated discussions of specific organizing themes, welcoming to all to participate
- **Closed Affinity Caucus**: Discussions for specific identities (e.g., Southeast Asian, transgender/gender non-conforming, polyamorous, youth) designated as “safe spaces,” limited only to those who affiliate
- **Arts/Cultural Program**: Performances (7-15 min.) during the Friday Arts/Cultural Night and/or day-long standing exhibits for display
- **Pre-Conference Convenings**: Strategic day-long (8 hr.) meetings on Thursday

**Track Classification (if any):**
- Allyship
- Art/Dance/Music
- Healing
- Health
- Identity/Culture
- International Issues
- Legal/Law
- Media
- Men/Masculinity
- Organizational Development
- Organizing
- Parents/Family
- People of Color
- Policy/Issue
- Professional Development
- Religion
- Sex/Sexual Liberation
- Skills Training
- South Asian
- Southeast Asian
- Trans/Gender
- Women/Feminist
- Youth
- Other

**Presenter Info:** Provide contact information (name, affiliation(s), phone, email) for all presenters. Recommended limit for workshops is four (4) presenters and for caucus three (3) facilitators. Please also identify the presenters’ experiences in presenting prior workshops, training, or similar sessions (if any).

We strongly encourage presenters and proposals that reflect the diversity of our community (e.g., racial/ethnic, gender/gender expression, geographic, socioeconomic, ability).

**Abstract:** Provide a more detailed abstract (150-200 words) about the session, summarizing the background, need for such a session, or/and intended audience. Abstracts will not be included in conference materials but will help the Conference Planning Committee evaluate proposals.

**Session Outline:** Provide a brief outline describing the general flow of the session.

**Setup:** We will do our best to accommodate requests.
- Flipchart and markers
- Screen and projector
- Special room arrangement
Coordinator: Provide contact information (name, affiliation(s), phone, e-mail) for the primary contact for the session. The coordinator need not be one of the presenters but will be a liaison between the Planning Committee and presenters.

SUBMISSION DETAILS
Submission: Please submit proposal to intern@nqapia.org.

Timeline: Proposals are due by February 23. Applicants will be notified of accepted workshops by April 10. Final text and confirmed presenters for all published materials are due by May 15.

Support: Workshop presenters are invited to register for the conference at the reduced rate of $150. No stipends or honoraria will be offered. Travel assistance is available for underrepresented groups and those with economic hardship. Community housing can be arranged. Separate application forms are required for travel assistance and housing.

CONFERENCE DETAILS
Location: University of Illinois at Chicago
Housing: Crowne Plaza Chicago Metro Downtown
733 West Madison Street, Chicago, IL 60661
NQAPIA rate: $139/night

Registration Fee: $225 (scholarships and limited income rate available)

Conference Agenda:
THURSDAY, August 6
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. – Pre-Conference Strategy Meetings
6:30 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. – Welcome Reception

FRIDAY, August 7
9:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. – Opening Breakfast Plenary: Transgender Issues and Allyship
10:45 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. – Session 1: Workshops and Caucuses
12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. – Lunch on your own
1:15 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. – Session 2: Workshops
2:50 P.M. to 4:05 P.M. – Session 3: Workshops
4:25 P.M. to 5:40 P.M. – Session 4: Caucuses
6:00 P.M. – Dinner on your own
8:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. – Show /Performance

SATURDAY, August 8
9:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. – Breakfast Plenary: International Issues and Solidarity
10:45 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. – Session 5: Workshops and Caucuses
12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. – Lunch on your own
1:15 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. – Session 6: Workshops
2:50 P.M. to 4:05 P.M. – Session 7: Workshops
4:25 P.M. to 5:40 P.M. – Session 8: Caucuses
6:30 P.M. to 12:00 A.M. – Community Catalyst Awards Dinner Dance

SUNDAY, August 9
9:00 A.M. to 10:15 A.M. – Session 9: Workshops and Caucuses
10:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. – Brunch Plenary: NQAPIA Annual Meeting
12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. – Session 10: Regional Caucuses
1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. – Closing Plenary: Report Backs, Next Steps, Evaluation, Thank Yous

Exhibitors all day Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning

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