

**InterAction's 2019 Conference on  
Community Theater for Social Justice Action**  
*Call for Workshop Proposals*

Time: April 26-28, 2019

Location: Civil Rights Heritage Center & ND Center for Arts & Culture, South Bend IN

Topic/Theme: Uplifting Young People of Color!

InterAction is launching our second annual conference!

At our 2018 Community Theater for Social Justice Action Conference, Ntozake Shange offered a keynote speech on the importance of movement building among communities of color and connected performance art with social justice. For Youth Inquiry (FYI) performed their play FORECAST, which addressed the fears many black parents have about raising black children in a white supremacist society. The works of both Shange and FYI served as foundational texts for our conference-wide discussions as to how to Uproot Anti-Blackness.

This year we are building our conference on: **Uplifting Young People of Color!**

To that end, we welcome students, activists, community organizers, theater practitioners, educators, and community members to join us in strategizing how to uplift YPOC voices and narratives to address our racial justice issues today, such as; anti-immigrant xenophobia, racism, Islamophobia, sexism, homophobia, school-to-prison pipeline, migration-to-school-to-prison pipeline, and more.

Young People of Color become the leaders of major racial justice movements, but often have their stories silenced, appropriated, or erased. We are turning the limelight back on Young People of Color and the work that centers them at this conference. We hope to give them the support and resources to continue the work in our communities, theatre, and institutions to create just and equitable societies.

At InterAction, we support young people of color at the intersections they live in: gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class, religion, ability, documentation status, and more. Thus, we are looking for those who will bring strategies to push our work, and the work of the supporters of Young People of Color in this movement, to become ever more inclusive.

We invite all Young People of Color, their mentors & educators, and everyone with an interest in amplifying the voices of Young People of Color to explore the intersections at which they live.

We are particularly interested in strategies around activism and theatre work that is directly advancing racial justice. We are looking for works that centers counter-narratives, the lived experiences of people of color told by people of color. Counter-narratives are rooted in a Critical Race Theory that believes that these real, lived experiences of people of color are the first step towards identifying how oppression works and thus, how to dismantle it.

We want to fill our conference with inspiring, engaged, and compassionate people who want to share their tools for advancing the work and the voice of Young People of Color.

Our three criteria for submitting to the conference are:

- I am a young person of color /OR/ I work uplifting young people of color.
- I use counter-narrative storytelling to do racial justice and/or social justice work.
- I want to share my strategies with a wider community.

If you can say YES to all three statements, you are the perfect fit for submitting to our conference!

This year, we are looking to have the following mix of levels of engagement:

- 25% Beginner
- 30% Intermediate
- 45% Expert

We are NOT looking for: academic papers, case studies, fictional theater, promotional showcases, etc.

**We are accepting submissions until December 1st, 2018 11:59pm EST to [conference@interactioninc.org](mailto:conference@interactioninc.org). In the email title, please use the following format: [Submission: Last Name, Title of Talk]**

Logistics of Leading a Session:

- Session sizes will range from 18-35 people. Session size is determined by room availability. Each room for sessions can hold up to an average of 18 people, and 35 people maximum.
- Basic sound systems (simple speaker) and projectors are provided for all sessions. There will be sound and projector provided. Chairs are also provided.
- Rollable tables, while available, are not guaranteed for all sessions.
- No laptops provided, however there are cables to which you can connect your device.
- You will have to bring your own laptops to connect
- Your room may or may not have rollable tables.

The format of the presentation should be a tool-sharing workshop. This does not mean you need to exclude performance as a part of it, as performance may also serve as a tool. However, we ask, in the design of your session, that you carefully consider the skills that our participants can apply in their own communities to drive racial justice and keep the sharing of those skills at the forefront of your presentation.

[ Submission Form]

**Title:**

**Subtitle: How to \_\_\_\_\_**

(In order to drive strategy sharing home, we require every submission to have a HOW TO \_\_\_\_\_ subtitle.)

**Learning Level:**

Beginner

Intermediate

Expert

**How do you address the theme, Uplifting Young People of Color? (up to 100 words)**

**How do you engage racial justice, theater/performance arts, and intersectionality? (up to 100 words)**

**At the end of your workshop, what will participants be able to do in their communities? (up to 100 words)**

**Presenter Name(s):**

**Presenter(s) Age:**

**Presenter's Racial/Ethnic/Cultural Identity:**

**Presenter's Other Salient Identity they wish to share:**

**Presenter Affiliation(s):**

**Website/Links:**

**Presenter Bio(s) / Organizational Mission(s) (up to 100 words):**

**Email(s):**

**Phone Number(s):**