

CHANGE FEST Mildura, VIC 24

Contribute to ChangeFest24 Expression of Interest Guidelines

Are you a community leader, practitioner, collaborator, educator, researcher, or policymaker interested in designing and leading a session at ChangeFest 2024?
We would like to hear from you about your ideas.

About ChangeFest24

ChangeFest is the nation-wide movement for place-based change in Australia. ChangeFest24 is to be held on Latje Latje Country in Mildura, Victoria between the 20th and 22nd of March 2024. It will be hosted by the local community in partnership with Hands Up Mallee, Connected Beginnings Mildura, with Collaboration for Impact as the National Backbone Team.

ChangeFest celebrates the significance of place and the progress being made. It supports the movement to learn and strengthen our understanding of community-led approaches and demonstrates how initiatives across diverse parts of the nation are encouraging cross-sector collaboration, meaningful engagement, and centring the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and community as a vital pathway in transformative change. For more information about ChangeFest24 please visit the [website](#).

Calling for contributions

Planning for ChangeFest24 is underway and we are excited to invite expressions of interest for program contributions. The program includes a mix of keynote sessions and speakers, panel discussions, break-out sessions, story circles, a culture and arts program, and dedicated time for connecting and building relationships.

ChangeFest invites proposals for the 25+ break-out sessions across the three days. The format of sessions is flexible (see below) and there are options to lead 45 or 90 minute sessions with audiences between 20-80 people. Contributors are required to deliver/lead the session in person and are responsible for their own registration and travel costs.

Proposed sessions need to align with at least one of the CF24 learning priorities (see next section).

ChangeFest is interested in having many different people and experiences included in the program. Breakout sessions are an opportunity for applied learning, sharing, celebrating, exploring topics together, and sparking our imaginations about the possibilities. For example, breakout sessions might aim to start or deepen conversations, facilitate learning from each other and/or around a practice or topic, or involve hands-on-learning that seeks to deepen practice and advance knowledge, skills, and understanding. Session format can include:

- Presentation: Share an example, story of change, or your learnings, including time for audience participation e.g question time, small group discussions
- Yarning circle: Host a yarning circle around a purpose or focus question that helps the group share ideas and perspectives and encourages actively listening to others
- Roundtable: Moderate and bring together several speakers for an organised conversation that bring a variety of perspectives to a subject, question or curiosity
- Workshop: Run a hands-on session for participants to do applied learning to build understanding, skills or knowledge
- Other

The principles across the overarching program design will include: equity; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander centred; inclusiveness and diversity; understanding the role of place (including stories of the Mallee); and an invitation for all who come to co-create the environment.

CF24 Learning priorities

Rivers of Change: people, places and possibilities

Two rivers flow alongside each other before converging to create a powerful source of life. ChangeFest '24 is about coming together from different places and different perspectives to create something more powerful together. Like merging rivers, CF24 centres on aspects of community-led change that when combined, create more equitable places and systems.

CF24 learning priorities are:

- Communities collaborating for change
- Creating more accountability to communities
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership for better, shared futures
- Celebrating and learning from the diversity of community-led initiatives across the country
- Creating lasting change - the roles, practices, and tools for community-led systems change
- Emerging trends and possibilities with place-based change.

Each of these are described below.

CF24 Learning priorities

Learning priorities	Description
<p>Communities collaborating for change</p>	<p>This explores the role of community collaborations in creating more equitable places and systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing space for voices, listening, being heard and shifting how we each work • What this looks like in practice – small scale and large • Beyond consultation – centring equity in meaningful ways in our work • From design to evaluation – embedded equity across all stages and phases of the work
<p>Creating more accountability to communities</p>	<p>This is about elevating shared leadership, decision-making and, ultimately, accountability to communities. Through this, recognising that local and national decisions are interlinked and that we need to work across places and scales to influence the barriers within the systems we are part of.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared ownership and shifting decision-making and accountability to communities • Being accountable to the community and having a shared vision • Equitable governance for shared decision and vision making • Moving to community outcomes, not just program KPIs
<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership for better, shared futures</p>	<p>This is about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and leadership being at the heart of change, community, place and better, shared futures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ voices, perspectives, protocols and practices in community-led change • Sharing stories of local change and impact • Tools for imagining shared futures, action, and systems practice
<p>Celebrating and learning from the diversity of community-led initiatives across the country</p>	<p>This is about sharing our many stories, examples and experiences and celebrating the significance of place, progress, and learning across the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories of change from the Mallee, other regional communities, and nationally • Using crisis conditions to drive systems change • Understanding the importance of place in community-led change

Learning priorities	Description
Creating lasting change - the roles, practices and tools for community-led systems change	<p>This explores what it takes to create lasting change including the roles, practice, and resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring different roles in community-led systems change – what are they, and what do they look and feel like? • Practice - What systems and work are we choosing not to notice? • Resources and tools that enable the work
Emerging trends and possibilities with place-based change	<p>This is about what we are seeing across and above the work and the movement and exploring the ‘so what?’ and ‘what next?’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring signals of what is coming next for place-based change • What shared aspirations, learning and challenges do we see across the movement? • What next for the ChangeFest movement?

Proposed sessions need to align with at least one of the above. If you need any help placing your idea within the priorities or wish to test out your idea, please get in touch.

How to submit an EOI

Please submit your session proposal via the EOI form **by COB 30th November 2023**.

[Click here to access the EOI online form.](#)

The EOI form asks that you provide:

- Name/s of contributor, organisation/community, and contact details
- A short description of the proposed session
- The learning priority your session fits with
- The format, preferred session length and audience

If you have any questions, wish to discuss, or experience difficulties when submitting your responses online, please contact Laura Barnes at laura@collaborationforimpact.com.

Key dates and information

- **30th November 2023 (COB):** Call for Expressions of Interest closes.
- **December 2023:** Selection process (see below).
- **December 2023:** Notify and engage with selected contributors. This may include requests for additional information, bios, images; a meeting to discuss the proposal further and refinement of the proposed session if needed; confirmation of session title and key text to use in promotional materials. Contributors will need to register their attendance if they have not already at this point.
- **January 2024:** Program finalisation and public sharing.
- **February 2024:** Briefings with event organisers and final preparations.
- **March 2024:** 20th to 22nd March, ChangeFest gathering in Mildura, Victoria.

Selection criteria and process

Selection will be based on both individual submission and take into account the program design as a whole including:

- Alignment to ChangeFest24 learning priorities and [ChangeFest Statement](#)
- Building a balance of gender, cultural representation, and geography
- Balancing perspectives across sectors (community, government, services, research, philanthropy etc) and scales (local to national)
- Capacity to demonstrate applied learning of activities and application to others in the field.

We particularly welcome sessions that:

- Allow for participation and active engagement of the group
- Encourage connection and meaningful conversation
- Consider equity, accessibility, and social inclusion
- Consider the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge
- Demonstrates a cross-sector approach
- Draws on learning from the 'how' of place-based change over theory
- Are original, creative, and engaging.

A panel made up of Mildura CF24 local hosts, ChangeFest National Advisory Group, and Collaboration for Impact (CFI) representatives will guide the selection process.

Registration for contributors

Contributors are responsible for their own registration and travel costs. Please see the [website](#) for ticket prices and packages. Contributors will be required to book their tickets as part of the program finalisation process and will be eligible for early bird prices.

However, we do not want the registration cost to be a barrier to contributing so please contact Laura Barnes at laura@collaborationforimpact.com to discuss options if needed.