



National Association of Community and Restorative Justice (NACRJ)  
Presents the

**9<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Community and Restorative Justice:  
*Re-Envisioning Our Legacies: A Defining Moment***

July 29-August 1, 2024 | Washington, D.C.

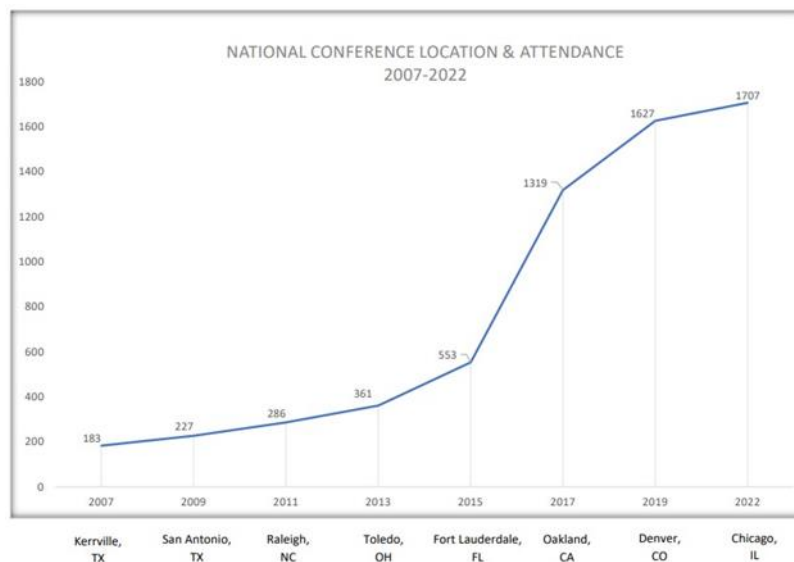
## CALL FOR BREAKOUT SESSION PROPOSALS

NACRJ is pleased to announce a call for breakout session proposals for the 9<sup>th</sup> National Conference, set to take place in Washington, D.C. from July 29-August 1, 2024. We are seeking dynamic and engaging presenters to share their insights, experiences, and expertise with our diverse audience.

### ABOUT

NACRJ has convened eight National Conferences on Community and Restorative Justice to date. The incredible growth of the conference over the past fifteen years, with attendance increasing from 183 participants in 2007 to 1,707 attendees in 2022, reflects the strong interest and global expansion of community and restorative justice across the United States and the world.

Formally established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 2013, NACRJ not only hosts the national conference but also offers membership services, formulates position and policy statements, and provides a growing number of programs and services to support and advance the fields of community and restorative justice.



## WHY PRESENT A BREAKOUT SESSION?

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Presenting a breakout session at the NACRJ conference offers a unique platform to share expertise and insights, inspire positive change, and connect with a passionate community of people. Your role as a presenter actively contributes to the broader mission of advancing community and restorative justice.

We encourage presentations that are co-developed and/or co-led by one or more of the following:

- **Youth and Young Adults (24 and under)** to bring innovative viewpoints and foster intergenerational learning that enriches the conference content.
- **Elders** to bring wisdom and insights that come with years of practicing and advocating for community and restorative justice principles.
- **Members of historically marginalized communities, including but not limited to Black, Indigenous, Latinx/e, Asian American, Pacific Islander, LBGTQIA+, and people with disabilities.**
- **Individuals who have firsthand experience with community and restorative justice practices** to demonstrate the profound impact of these processes.
- **Individuals who have experienced victimization** to emphasize the importance of their voices in shaping community and restorative justice approaches.
- **Formerly Incarcerated/Returning Citizens** to bring important insights from their experiences and/or from those who work in or have witnessed the complexities and challenges of the criminal legal system, providing valuable input for reform efforts.

## CONFERENCE THEME AND DESCRIPTION

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The 9th National Conference takes us to the nation's capital, a city that wields considerable influence on national and international affairs, and a place with deeply rooted community activism and movement making. More broadly, the entire DMV region (Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia) serves as an example of the transformative power of deliberate, local initiatives. This tapestry of history, cultural diversity, and innovation makes the DMV an ideal place to explore the past, present, and future of community and restorative justice.

In 2024, we stand at a critical juncture facing pivotal decisions on a national scale. These decisions encompass defining the values our country wishes to champion during a federal election year, clarifying our individual and collective roles in addressing global issues like oppression, conflict, and war, and determining how we want community and restorative justice to show up in our own communities.

Our conference theme, "*Re-Envisioning Our Legacies: A Defining Moment*," draws inspiration from the global Indigenous wisdom of "Seven Generations." This principle urges us to consider the far-reaching impact of our actions seven generations into the future while honoring the efforts of ancestors seven generations before us. The theme invites each of us to reflect on our personal and collective legacies: which legacies from our ancestors influence our work, which harmful legacies are we dedicated to overturning, and which legacies do we aspire to pass on to the next seven generations? This exploration teaches us valuable lessons, fosters connections between past and future, and empowers us to share the legacies that will be carried forward by future generations.

Join us in this defining moment as we envision, explore, and take action to ensure community and restorative justice principles not only survive but thrive within our own lives, families, and communities, and as we reimagine the systems and structures that underpin our society. By joining together, we will create impactful connections, enable the exchange of ideas and knowledge, and provide experiences that inspire tangible change. Together, we have the capacity to establish a legacy that is inherently restorative, leaving a profound and enduring mark on our world.

## CONFERENCE TOPICS OF INTEREST (“TRACKS”)

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The 9<sup>th</sup> National Conference will feature seven distinct tracks. The tracks, carefully crafted by local and national planning teams, offer a diverse spectrum of important topics and ideas for our presenters and attendees. The tracks are open to broad interpretation in the ways you see fit.

### ***Beginning With Ourselves***

- Explores the application of community and restorative justice principles within our personal lives, our families, and our workplaces, and how we can draw upon the wisdom of our ancestors to advance and carry forward our legacies.
- Covers topics ranging from restorative parenting to embracing restorative justice as a way of life.
- Explores strategies that prioritize mutual respect in addressing harm and conflict, while simultaneously tending to the needs and collective well-being of all individuals.

### ***From Birth Through High School***

- Explores the desired legacy of our educational and family support systems, one that lays a solid foundation for the prosperity and well-being of all students and families.
- Explores approaches that emphasize trauma-informed practices, restorative justice principles, and DEIJ (diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice) to establish a compassionate and equitable educational path for each child and family.
- Explores strategies to dismantle the birth-to-prison pipeline, focusing on prevention and support, empowering both youth and families with resources, opportunities, and tools to overcome barriers and unleash their potential.

### ***Community***

- Explores critical aspects of community violence prevention and responses, focusing on specific strategies, programs, and approaches grounded in community and restorative justice principles, with an eye toward creating lasting legacies of safety and well-being.
- Explores the multifaceted community and restorative justice approaches needed to prevent and respond to various forms of violence that plague our communities such as mass shootings, gun violence, gang-related issues, and human trafficking.
- Examines areas of deficiency and recognizes achievements in community frameworks and grassroots initiatives that bolster social cohesion, social capital, and collective efficacy, contributing to building resilient communities free of violence and exploitation.

### ***Law and Policy***

- Explores the pivotal role and enduring legacy we aspire for our law and policies to have in driving the advancement of community and restorative justice.
- Examines the imperative for reform and innovative legislation, dissecting the effectiveness of specific state and national laws and identifying areas needing reevaluation.
- Explores strategies to raise awareness and garner support from all stakeholders, from lawmakers to law enforcers. Additionally, amidst new and old resistance and pressure, explores effective ways to advocate for community and restorative justice at all levels.

### ***Ending Mass Incarceration***

- Explores the pressing issue of mass incarceration and delves into specific strategies to prevent and respond to this crisis while considering the legacies it leaves behind.
- Explores practices for re-entry and reintegration, examines strategies and personal stories that empower individuals to rebuild their lives and positively impact their communities post-incarceration.
- Explores strategies to end mass incarceration safely and methods that prioritize healing and rehabilitation for both victims/survivors and those who have committed an offense.

### *At the Intersections With Other Fields*

- Explores the synergies of community and restorative justice within various domains, extending from environmental justice to food justice and social sustainability, emphasizing the potential for fostering a holistic, sustainable legacy across sectors.
- Explores how community and restorative justice principles intersect and bolster areas of practice such as social work, mental health, domestic violence prevention and advocacy, and alternative dispute resolution.
- Explores innovative cross-sector efforts that empower communities and address systemic issues with compassion, empathy, and healing.

### *Youth and Young Adults*

- Explores strategies and approaches that prioritize the unique needs, voices, and experiences of young individuals within community and restorative justice, enabling them to contribute to a fresh and transformative legacy.
- Explores supporting and equipping youth to actively participate in community and restorative justice processes, fostering their leadership, facilitating their roles as advocates and agents of positive change, and honoring their existing contributions to the work.
- Explores effective intergenerational collaborations and partnerships between professionals, educators, and youth to create more inclusive and youth-focused restorative systems.

## **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

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- **Submission Deadline: December 31, 2023**
- **Submissions must be completed via the online portal accessed through a link on the 2024 Conference page on the NACRJ website at [www.nacri.org](http://www.nacri.org).**
- **Submission Format:** As of this time, we anticipate presentation time slots to be allocated for either 60 minutes or 90 minutes.
- **Tracks: Each Breakout Session Proposal must be submitted under ONE of the seven tracks.** If the reviewers believe a submission fits better in another track, they will send it to those reviewing proposals for that track. Please do not submit the same proposal under multiple tracks.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

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Our Breakout Session Review Committee comprises more than 30 volunteers who have generously offered their time and expertise to carefully review the hundreds of proposals we receive. These dedicated committee members will assess each submission, ensuring that the selected sessions align with our conference's objectives, are of high quality, and have the potential to engage and captivate our diverse audience.

Our primary goal is to curate a conference program that truly reflects the rich tapestry of community and restorative justice. By drawing upon the collective wisdom of our committee, we aim to craft a varied and compelling lineup of sessions, covering a wide range of topics and perspectives. This approach not only ensures that every attendee finds valuable content that resonates with their interests and expertise but also fosters an inclusive and dynamic environment where ideas, experiences, and knowledge can be shared and celebrated.

Please note: The information you submit will be used by the Breakout Session Review Committee to identify potential conference presenters. Submission does not guarantee selection as a presenter. We anticipate our capacity to be approximately 150 presentation opportunities.

## IMPORTANT DATES

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- **Call for Proposals Opens: November 10, 2023**
- **Submission Deadline: December 31, 2023**
- **Notification of Acceptance: March 15, 2024**

## QUESTIONS

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For questions, please submit by email to: [conference@nacrj.org](mailto:conference@nacrj.org).

Visit [www.nacrj.org](http://www.nacrj.org) to sign up for the National Conference (Email) updates and to submit your proposal.

Follow @nacrjusa on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for updates and announcements.

Don't miss this opportunity to share your knowledge and make a meaningful contribution to the 9<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Community and Restorative Justice. We look forward to receiving your innovative and inspiring breakout session proposals!