

Please read the guidelines carefully before submitting your proposal.

Forward Together (معًا إلى الأمام) is a call to gather as a community and discuss ways to maintain relevancy and deal with the challenges facing science engagement within our institutions, considering recent and ongoing global changes.

Our audiences' needs, expectations, perspectives, and attitudes have evolved with emerging digital tools and solutions. The potential of these new tools has contributed to the rise of modern educational techniques across the world. Digital media is now an essential means of communication and digital production has become embedded in our organizational shape; joined by an in-gallery aesthetic where technology is ever more ambient, making digital visitor experiences the expected. Today, there is no longer a choice between 'digital' and 'nondigital'; instead, the public anticipates a blend of both, an embodied augmentation of one with the other. Moreover, these new digital tools offer extensive opportunities for enhancing operations, interpreting content, engaging visitors, and collecting data. This influences our institutions to reorient their missions, goals, and especially their content.

NAMES 2023 will aim to seek answers to: How to design for science engagement? How have recent challenges impacted our sector? What changes have occurred in visitors' needs, expectations, and experiences? How to benefit from data analyses in a significant way? How will trending topics such as Global Warming affect science engagement and our institutions? What will be the impact of big data and artificial intelligence on science engagement?

Together, we will pursue all these answers, in hope to understand what awaits our field in the coming years.

NAMES Conference Purpose

The purpose of the Conference is to:

- 1) Share knowledge and expertise;
- 2) Assist science centres and museums, and their staff, to operate at the highest professional level;
- 3) Enable science centres and museums in the North Africa and Middle East region to network, build alliances, and ensure long-term sustainability, as well as impact, on their communities.

Proposal Submission Timeline

- Thursday, 1 December 2022 – Submission of proposals opens
- Thursday, 9 February 2023 – Submission of proposals closes
- Thursday, 9 March 2023 – Session Proposals feedback deadline

Evaluation Criteria

All proposals are evaluated and approved by NAMES Conference Program Committee (NCPC 2023) according to the following criteria:

- The focus and learning outcomes are well presented and thoughtfully articulated;
- The proposal offers new concepts and thoughts that have not been presented previously at NAMES' conferences;
- The proposal is relevant to the track that it is presented under;
- The proposal is relevant to the region and/or is global in nature and addresses actual needs;
- The session proposal ideas and organization are well-conceived and developed.

Proposals submitted by NAMES members and meet the criteria will be given priority.

7 Session Formats

All sessions are 60 minutes long and must have a chair/moderator, in addition to the speakers/presenters/experts.

1. **PechaKucha**—a storytelling format: A minimum of 8 presenters each show 20 slides for 20 seconds of commentary each (6 minutes and 40 seconds total) about their work experience in relation to the session's topic.
 - The NCPC encourages proposals related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their organizations.
2. **Panel Session**—a discussion session: The moderator introduces 3-4 presenters, who each present their views on the topic of the session to the audience; 15-20 minutes are allocated for discussion at the end of the session.
3. **Fishbowl**—an open circle discussion: Led by a moderator, 3-5 panellists are seated in a circle, the fishbowl, with an extra empty chair so that any participant can come forward and participate by asking a question or contributing an idea. When this happens, an existing member of the fishbowl must voluntarily leave the fishbowl and free a chair. The discussion continues with participants frequently entering and leaving the fishbowl. Many audience members can spend some time in the fishbowl and take part in the discussion. When time runs out, the fishbowl is closed and the moderator summarizes the discussion.
4. **Reverse Science Café**—an open dialogue session: Participants become experts and 3-5 experts become listeners. In groups, the experts ask the participants questions to get their inputs on issues relevant to the topic, creating a two-way dialogue to formulate solutions.
5. **Solution Workshop**—a problem-solving workshop: 3-5 experts, each on their table, present a problem their organization faced or is facing. Participants are asked to suggest solutions, before the expert reveals how their organization solved or plans to solve the problem. Participants are invited to share problems or challenges amongst their tables and brainstorm solutions; participants can create mind maps.

6. **Workshop**—a practical, interactive, and hands-on format that allows presenters to explore one topic in-depth; preferably conducted by more than one person.
7. **5-min Showcase**—a session dedicated to exhibitors and consultants. Each participant will have 5 minutes to promote their services and offerings in the most creative and time effective way.

Priority will be given to proposals that have all speakers identified with clear linkage.

Create a Proposal

Please ensure that your session proposal includes the following information; failure to include all the necessary details may lead to your proposal being eliminated from the review process:

- 1) **Session format** (PechaKucha, Panel, Fishbowl, Reverse Science Café, Workshop, Solution Workshop, or 5-min Showcase)
- 2) **Session Title** (should not exceed 50 characters or about 10 words)
- 3) **Track** and relevance of content
- 4) **Abstract** (no longer than 500 words)
- 5) **Keywords**
- 6) **Learning Outcomes** (no longer than 150 words)
- 7) **Description** (no longer than 150 words).
 - *Should your proposal be accepted, this description will be published in the Conference Program, on the website, etc.
 - *The NAMES Conference Organizing Committee reserves the right to edit.
- 8) **Moderator's and Presenters' Names**
- 9) **Moderator's and Presenters' Bios** (each bio should not exceed 150)
- 10) **Special Requirements**; please make sure you mention in your proposal any special set-up requirements (roundtables, whiteboards, flip boards, extra stationary, etc.) or any other needs that must be noted

Session halls mainly feature a podium with microphones for presenters and chairs for participants. Presentations are displayed on a screen using a laptop provided by the Host (all technical details will be discussed and finalized upon confirmation of the proposal).

Submission of Proposals

Please submit your proposal to: namesnetwork@bibalex.org by the specified deadline.

Note

Please note that all NAMES 2023 speakers must be fully capable of covering their cost of attendance and speaking. By covering their cost of conference registration, travel, and accommodation, speakers will be supporting NAMES Network, its growth, as well as gain exposure in the region.