



## Submit Your Abstract for Programming at the 2027 HxA Conference

Abstract submissions will open July 15th and close on August 31st. Submitters will be notified of their decision no later than October 15th, 2026. All abstracts must be submitted via our submission form located on [our website](#).



## Renew. Reform. Rebuild

Higher education is facing a crisis of trust and purpose. The institutions, norms, and practices that have long sustained the pursuit of knowledge are under pressure — from political interference, institutional timidity, cultural polarization, and a crisis of public trust. The question is no longer whether the academy must change; it is already changing. The questions we face now are who will shape those changes, and how they will be done.

That is why this year's theme is a call to action. **Renew. Reform. Rebuild.** is a rallying point for academic insiders who love their universities and want to do more than talk about the problems they face. HxA's members have never been mere disruptors — we are principled reformers committed to taking practical steps to rebuild an academy grounded in open inquiry. Over three days, we will convene scholars, educators, and academic leaders to ask: What does a healthier academy look like, and what can we do right now to get there? What are we building toward, and what must we be willing to leave behind? And how do we build together in a moment that tempts us toward faction or retreat?

Attendees can look forward to three days of insightful discussions, thought-provoking panels and workshops, and inspiring plenary speakers. But the conference is about more than presentations and panels. It's also a unique opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals who are committed to creating cultures of open inquiry on our campuses. Whether you are a seasoned academic or a student just beginning your journey, you will find ample opportunities to network, share ideas, and collaborate with peers from diverse disciplines and backgrounds.

We welcome submissions across three types of work: original research and data analysis, teaching and pedagogical practice, and theoretical frameworks and original ideas — presented through whichever track format best fits your work.

# Submission Tracks

All concurrent sessions will run for 80 minutes. All presentations, no matter what track, should be related to HxA's mission or the conference theme.

| TRACK                                | Interactive Workshop<br><i>5 SPOTS AVAILABLE</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Panel Discussion<br><i>~5 SPOTS AVAILABLE</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Symposium Session<br><i>(GROUP PRESENTATION)</i><br><i>~5 SPOTS AVAILABLE</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b><i>New:</i></b> Showcase Exhibit<br><i>(INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATION)</i><br><i>45 SPOTS AVAILABLE</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| FORMAT                               | 80 minute interactive workshop (must have significant interactive component)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 80 minute panel discussion (50 minute discussion + 30 minute audience Q&A)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Three 25 minute presentations (each 20 minute presentation + 5 min Q&A) with symposia introduction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Single presenter, high-top table exhibit at the Inquiry+Innovation Showcase — a new presentation format designed for two hours of substantive peer-to-peer conversation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| NUMBER OF PRESENTERS                 | 1-3 facilitators                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 2-3 panelists + 1 moderator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 3 presenters + 1 moderator (if needed)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 1 presenter                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| TRACK DETAILS                        | <p>Workshops should be designed to provide attendees with practical advice, tools, and experiences to facilitate professional development.</p> <p>Workshops must be built around active participant engagement such as small-group work, hands-on exercises, skill practice, or guided problem-solving that will equip them with skills that can be implemented in their academic and professional roles. When submitting, proposals should specify the planned activities, approximate time allocation between presentation and participant engagement, and key learning outcomes.</p> <p>Workshop rooms will be equipped with a computer, microphone, and screen to display powerpoint and other visual materials. Rooms will also have tables for attendees to work at collaboratively with other attendees.</p> <p>Workshop facilitators are responsible for time-keeping</p> | <p>Panel discussions will feature 3-4 presenters sitting in chairs having a discussion on a topic related to the conference theme or HxA's mission.</p> <p>We strongly recommend one of the four presenters serves as the moderator of the session to pose questions to panelists, keep the conversation on topic, and facilitate Q&amp;A from the audience.</p> <p>Panel presenters will each be provided with a chair and microphone.</p> <p>No computers or presentations will be shown for panel discussions.</p> <p>Panel discussion organizers are responsible for moderating and time-keeping</p> | <p>All talks are required to choose the category for which their presentation is best aligned:</p> <p><b>Research:</b> presenting original data and analysis from surveys, experiments, or other methods</p> <p><b>Teaching:</b> matters of pedagogical practices, curricula, student engagement in the classroom, course design, or other pedagogical practices and insights.</p> <p><b>Theory and ideas:</b> analysis of available data, persuasive arguments, theoretical frameworks, or original ideas.</p> <p>Symposia submissions should explain the overarching theme of the symposium and how each presentation contributes to the theme.</p> <p>Presenters will have a computer, microphone, and screen to display powerpoint and other visual materials.</p> <p>Symposium session organizers are responsible for facilitation and time-keeping</p> | <p>On the evening of April 13, the rooftop bar and lounge of Boston's Revere Hotel becomes a living exhibition of the ideas, research, and pedagogical innovations driving open inquiry across the academy. The 2-hour <i>Inquiry+Innovation Showcase (NEW for 2027)</i> features individual table exhibits where attendees present their work concurrently and directly to fellow attendees.</p> <p>All presentations are required to choose the category for which their presentation is best aligned:</p> <p><b>Research:</b> presenting original data and analysis from surveys, experiments, or other methods.</p> <p><b>Teaching:</b> matters of pedagogical practices, curricula, student engagement in the classroom, course design, or other pedagogical practices and insights.</p> <p><b>Theory and ideas:</b> analysis of available data, persuasive arguments, theoretical frameworks, or original ideas.</p> <p>Presenters will have a high-top table to display any visual materials during the <i>Inquiry+Innovation Showcase</i> reception. All presenters must display a visual — on a personal laptop, small display board, paper handouts, QR codes, or anything else that conveys key information and draws attendees into your exhibit.</p> <p><i>No outlets or AV provided; please arrive with devices charged.</i></p> |
| NECESSARY INFORMATION FOR SUBMISSION | <p>The Workshop organizer will submit the following on behalf of all the workshop facilitators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop Title</li> <li>Workshop summary including learning outcomes and explanation of interactive components</li> <li>Names and affiliation of each facilitator</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>The Panel organizer will submit the following on behalf of all presenters in the session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Panel Title</li> <li>Panel Abstract</li> <li>Names and affiliation of each panelist and who is the designated moderator</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>The Symposia organizer will submit the following on behalf of all presenters in the session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Symposia Title</li> <li>Symposia Abstract</li> <li>Names and affiliation of each presenter</li> <li>Titles for each talk</li> <li>Brief abstract for each talk</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>The single presenter will submit the following for their own presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation Title</li> <li>Presentation Abstract</li> <li>Name and affiliation of presenter</li> </ul> <p>Attendees will receive a printed program listing all presenters by table and category — with titles and abstracts — so they arrive at your table already oriented to your work.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

Accepted presentations are listed in the conference program with title, abstract, and presenter affiliation. Presenters receive formal notice of acceptance, and all Showcase presentations are recognized as accepted conference presentations for professional and institutional purposes. Space is limited.





## More about the *Inquiry+Innovation Showcase*

The *Inquiry+Innovation Showcase* is the headline reception event of the HxA 2027 Conference — and it's unlike anything we've done before. Over two hours, attendees move freely through the space, stopping to engage with presenters whose work spans original research, classroom practice, and theoretical frameworks, showcasing the full range of what HxA members are building right now.

For presenters, the *Inquiry+Innovation Showcase* offers a receptive, expert audience of peers — faculty, administrators, and researchers from across disciplines — in a setting designed for genuine conversation rather than one-way delivery. You'll have a high-top table, your materials, and two hours to discuss your best work deeply and constructively with colleagues who care about your work.

For attendees, it's one of the best networking and learning opportunities of the conference, structured loosely enough that conversations can go wherever they need to go, with an open bar and heavy passed hors d'oeuvres to fuel connection and conversation — not to mention the sweeping views from the rooftop of the Boston Back Bay. The *Inquiry+Innovation Showcase* will take place as the culminating event on the second evening of the conference.

Come for the ideas. Stay for the views.

## Submission Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated by an interdisciplinary team of HxA staff on the following criteria:

- Relevancy to the 2027 conference theme or **HxA mission**, with a focus on higher education contexts and institutions





- Basis in scholarship, philosophical argumentation, or empirical evidence, *or* professional experiences that illustrate successes, failures, or novel methods
- Applicability beyond the conference
- The presenter's academic expertise or professional experience

## The HxA Audience

HxA 2027 marks a shift in how we gather. Rather than the large-scale format of years past, this is a smaller room, built for deep engagement and real conversation. Our members and supporters will include faculty across every discipline and rank, deans, chairs, and administrative staff, students, and professionals from higher-ed-adjacent organizations, many of them looking for practical advice, honest stories of what's worked and what hasn't, and inspiration for their own work.

Because that room will still hold people from across the higher ed landscape, presentations should be built for broad accessibility — clear, free of jargon, free of insider references — so everyone in that room can engage directly with the ideas.

## How to Submit Your Abstract

Heterodox Academy will collect and review conference programming proposals through the submission form below. Abstract submissions close on **Monday, August 31 at 11:59 p.m. ET**. You will receive confirmation once your proposal is received. During the review process, we may reach out for additional information or clarifications, which does not necessarily indicate acceptance. Your timely response is greatly appreciated. You will be notified about your proposal via email **no later than October 15, 2026**.

[SUBMIT HERE](#)