USGBC EQUITY SUMMIT

Call for Proposals Guide

In May 2020, USGBC convened its inaugural Equity Summit. This was the first step in the yearlong listening and learning tour focused on the voices of our members and stakeholders and is built around demonstrating social equity in:

- Governance (systems and structures internally and externally)
- Affordability/economic empowerment
- Equitable access

This fall, we will convene again to listen to USGBC members, sustainability advocates, key social and environmental justice leaders and economic and community development experts. Participants will share how their work acts on equity by creating better lives for people through green buildings, cities, and communities.

The two-day summit will consist of listening to community members’ presentations on how to deliver on USGBC’s promise of better buildings, equal better lives by demonstrating equity through sustainable, lasting governance, affordability, and equal accessibility to benefits. USGBC will select three presenters who will present their ideas at Greenbuild 2020 and interview them for a spotlight in a USGBC Equity report.

The information gathered throughout this process will lay the foundation and highlight priorities for USGBC’s social equity road map. Social equity is imperative to create healthy and thriving communities. It must be deeply embedded into how we hold ourselves accountable as an organization.

All complete proposals must be submitted by Monday, August 17, 2020 at 5:00 pm Eastern Time.

TIMELINE

- July 16: Call for proposals opens
- August 17: Call for proposals submission deadline
- Fall 2020: Equity Summit
HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

These will be 10-minute presentations with time for discussion/Q&A. Your proposal should share how your vision or work fosters equity by creating better lives for people and moves the needle for green buildings, cities, and communities. Each presentation should answer the following questions:

- What does social equity mean to you and the people you serve?
- Why is social equity in USGBC different from social equity in other orgs?
- Identify solutions and path forward: incremental, evolutionary, disruptive
  - How should equity be demonstrated in governance systems and structures (inside or external to USGBC/GBCI)?
  - How should equity be demonstrated in the affordability of green building/cities/communities’ and the empowerment of people through the green economy?
  - How should equity be demonstrated through access to the resources and expertise so all people can benefit from green buildings/cities/communities?
- Who is missing from this conversation?

Submit Your Proposal

Sixty proposals were submitted for the May 2020 Equity Summit! While all were reviewed, only a limited number were able to present due to time constraints on the first summit. We encourage those who were not selected to present at the first event to resubmit for an opportunity to present at the next event.

SESSION TOPIC

This summit lets USGBC hear from you about how we can hold ourselves and our work accountable on social equity. Social equity is one of the four key pillars for USGBC’s second generation: sustainability, resilience, equity and health.

We have organized this summit through panels to connect social equity to building/cities/communities across four areas: 1) governance (this could be internal to an organization, direct output of projects, or external institutions and systems within a community) 2) affordability and economic empowerment, and 3) equal access for all.

Our goal is to produce a roadmap that creates something disruptive and innovative. To meet this moment, we must challenge ourselves and our community to rethink our approach in order to tangibly demonstrate improvement across the key element of social equity in order to achieve disruption in the market.

SELECTION PROCESS

An equity panel will be appointed to facilitate your presentation within key topic areas. Three presenters will be selected to present their ideas at Greenbuild 2020. They will also be interviewed for a spotlight in a USGBC Equity Report.
Additional Items

- 10-minute max presentation time followed by Q&A

- Presenters will have full ownership of their content, however as a submitter you give permission for USGBC to utilize the content and recording from the summit in various media formats.