

NCDD is excited to announce that we'll once again be holding our popular "Dialogue & Deliberation Showcase" during the [2023 National Conference on Dialogue & Deliberation](#) (happening October 13-15 in Atlanta) - and we are looking for presenters!

The D&D Showcase is a lively reception and networking event that provides an opportunity for select individuals and organizations in our field to showcase some of the leading ideas, tools, projects, and initiatives in dialogue & deliberation with conference participants all in one space.

We know that these ideas, tools, and initiatives are all designed to help us overcome some of the challenges facing public engagement. **This year, we want to organize those presenting around the challenges their work helps those in the field to overcome.**

The Showcase is a fun way for conference-goers to meet some of the movers-and-shakers in D&D and hear about the projects, programs, and tools that are making waves in our work. We hope this new approach to addressing challenges will ensure people connect with the ideas and people that can help them in their own work.

How the Showcase will work

First, showcase presenters will identify the challenge/s their work or tool helps address. We have suggested several below. If one listed here does not fit, name a new challenge.

- Increasing participation, reaching broad demographics, creating broad opportunities for access
- Improving democracy and renewing civic practices
- Bridging divides and differences
- Engaging students and youth
- Conflict resolution and reconciliation
- Community empowerment
- Supporting diversity and equity

Then presenters will be grouped by challenges and areas will be identified by signage. Showcase presenters display simple "posters" or displays about their work, tools, or projects and bring handouts and business cards to share with participants who are interested in learning more or following up. Showcase presenters will be ready to succinctly express what's important for conference participants to know about their resource, method, research, program, etc. and to elaborate and answer any questions people may have.

During the 90-minute Showcase event, conference participants will stroll around the reception, chatting with presenters, checking out their displays, and picking up handouts. We'll also have finger foods and beverages available as well as a cash bar, adding to the social atmosphere of the session.

The Showcase is a great chance to strike up conversations with leaders in the field and other conference participants who are strolling around the room, perusing the "wares."

You can get a good sense of what the Showcase is like by watching the slideshow below of past Showcase presenters. (insert slideshow below on site)

Becoming a Showcase Presenter

The conference planning team is hard at work planning NCDD 2023, and one of our upcoming steps includes selecting people and organizations who are passionate about sharing tools and programs we know will interest our attendees as presenters during the Showcase. If you are interested in having your tool, project, idea, or work being featured in the Showcase, please submit an application by Monday, August 7th, [via the Google Form linked here](#). Make sure to have information ready, such as: what it is you would like to showcase and identify the challenge/s this work or tool helps to address:

- Increasing participation, reaching broad demographics, creating broad opportunities for access
- Improving democracy and renewing civic practices
- Bridging divides and differences
- Engaging students and youth
- Conflict resolution and reconciliation
- Community empowerment
- Supporting diversity and equity
- Another challenge (please name it)

Offer a brief description of how your work or tool addresses this challenge, and provide any links to where more information can be found, and offer any questions you have.

Please note that these slots are very competitive, and we will be favoring Showcase presentations that are able to clearly articulate how they can help address some of the challenges of the field. So if your work, project, or tool focuses on helping to better bring the work of the dialogue, deliberation, and public engagement into greater visibility and widespread practice – we definitely want to hear from you!

If you are selected as a D&D Showcase presenter, you'll be expected to:

- Register for NCDD 2023 and attend the conference.
- Prepare a quick spiel or “elevator speech” about your Showcase topic that will get people interested in learning more. Practice it until it comes out naturally. We suggest you prepare several introductions of different lengths (30 seconds, 1 minute, etc.) so you can adjust quickly to different circumstances during the Showcase.
- Prepare a simple, visually interesting poster or display and bring it with you to the conference.
- Bring handouts about your program, method, online tool, publication, etc. that include further details.
- Have any laptop-dependent pieces of your Showcase presentation finished, functional, and ready to share (you'll need to bring your own computer).
- Show up for the Showcase session about 20 minutes early so we have time to make sure everyone is set up and has everything they need.

We are looking forward to having another informative and inspirational D&D Showcase this year, so we hope you'll consider applying to be a presenter or urging your colleagues who are doing ground-breaking and critical work in the field to do so. We can't wait to see all of the cutting-edge projects showcased in October!

FOR THE FAQs

I was selected to present at the D&D Showcase. Got any advice for me?

First off, congratulations! Being selected as a D&D Showcase presenter is a high honor for conference participants. Showcase presenters are asked to prepare and bring a simple poster/display and additional informational materials to help people become familiar with the program, tool, concept, or project they're presenting. You can [watch the slideshow here](#) to get a sense of what presenters have done with their displays for past Showcase events.

Advice on poster content: We advise Showcase presenters to keep the content on their posters simple and to the point, as participants don't do much reading during the Showcase. Your poster should NOT consist of large amounts of small type! The major purpose of your poster is to help people discern at a glance what your Showcase topic is about – they should be able to quickly understand your message/topic and determine whether they want to learn more of the details from you or move on to other displays. If you like, your poster could be a visual map that helps you walk participants through the story of your tool, concept, or program. But still, try to keep it visually simple.

Regarding posters themselves: Presenters are welcome, of course, to use whatever kind of poster they like. But we've recommended that past Showcase presenters purchase a bi-fold foam board like [this one at Michaels](#) (\$7), which is 10" by 15" closed, and 20" by 30" open because it fits in most suitcases (you can always cut off an inch or so from the ends if you're just bringing a carry-on and it's snug). If you're a local or willing to ship the board, then you may want to purchase a larger tri-fold foam display board like [this one at Staples](#) (\$9).

Your poster must be finished and ready for presenting in advance of the conference. If you choose a poster board that's too large for your suitcase, you can ship it to yourself at **the hotel**, but it should arrive no later than the morning of Friday, October 13th.

Other considerations: We also recommend that you prepare a physical flier, card, or other handout that participants who stop at your display can take with them when they leave. These materials are a good place to place more detailed information than the poster can hold if you wish, and they are most effective if they have links to more information on your work and details on how to contact you and/or get involved.

In addition to a poster, some past presenters have used a laptop to display a presentation or slideshow that complements their poster and other materials. If you plan to do this, please complete and test your presentation before the Showcase begins. Also, please be sure to have your laptop fully charged before the Showcase begins as we cannot guarantee that your display will be placed near an accessible outlet to plug into. We will not move presenters to accommodate for outlet access. The Showcase will last approximately 90-120 minutes, so we suggest that you use a laptop that is able to run for about as long without plugging in.