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*Image Description: A red background with fire embers reads: Re-Igniting the SPARK, Symspoium 2024 with the SPARC logo in the bottom left corner.*

# Symposium 2024 Workshop Proposal Call Out!

## Re-Igniting the Spark
## Call for Proposals: Workshops

Réseau SPARC Network is excited to announce the 2024 Symposium!!

Taking place from **May 23-26, 2024** in the **Town of Minto**, Symposium 2024 will focus on "**Re-Igniting the Spark**" of rural and remote performing arts.

*SPARC* (Supporting Performing Arts in Rural & Remote Communities) is a network of artists, creators, presenters, producers, and community animators whose purpose is to ignite and help sustain performing arts in rural and remote communities across Ontario.

The SPARC Symposium is a biennial gathering which brings together SPARC members as well as other artists, creators, presenters, producers, community animators and funders involved in the performing arts, from rural and remote communities across Ontario. The symposium provides an opportunity for peer- to-peer knowledge sharing, networking, and laying the groundwork for future collaborations.

The intent of the SPARC Symposium is to attract a broad spectrum of rural and remote performing arts creators, producers, presenters, arts practitioners and community animators from a wide mix of art forms (dance, media arts, theatre, music, circus, storytelling, puppetry and more!) with a variety of skill sets. The goal is to expand, enhance, and improve upon the collective and collaborative experience.

The Symposium is structured in a way that allows for exchange, discussion and informal networking; it encourages peer to peer knowledge sharing in workshop sessions and facilitated group activities; and there is a focus on participant engagement throughout. It is important to us that the SPARC Symposium provides attendees with a wide range of tools and information that will SPARK the performing arts in their own communities.

### What are we looking for?

- Workshops/presentations to take place over two and a half days of Symposium
- Workshops will be one hour long; please leave time for discussion within your one hour time limit
- Workshops can include elements of your artistic practice, or be presentation style, or even hands on!
- Workshops should inspire your fellow attendees - Symposium is a peer to peer event
- Share success stories
- Share challenges and how you overcame them
- Share ideas that address the changing landscape of the performing arts
- Share areas of expertise
- Share creative ways that you have brought the arts back to your community since COVID
- Share anything that you think others will benefit from knowing

***Think outside the box!***

### Workshop prompts:

While we don't have a "theme" per se this year, we would like to focus on what we (as rural and remote artists, creators, presenters, community animators) do best - Igniting passion, change, joy, thoughts, careers, ideas - the arts! Workshops should discuss/address the unique challenges and thrills of creating within our communities. With that in mind, we have created the following list of prompts that may help guide you in your workshop proposal submission (your workshop should not be limited to only these ideas - think outside of the box!):

- Re-igniting the Spark
- Re-Igniting the Arts
- Environmental - for, about, and within, the environment (site specific art and/
- or art for climate change)
- Changing the landscape - creating rural and remote performing art that is reflective of rural and remote communities; diversification and inclusion of all in rural and remote arts
- Making art - out of nothing at all
- Funding - where does the money come from?
- Creative Collaborations
- Building Back Better- what are you doing differently, or are hoping to do differently, making your art in a post-pandemic world?
- Back to basics - informative looks at the less-exciting "need to knows" of arts admin, besides funding (think box office, marketing, volunteer management, dealing with agents, putting in an offer, securing rights, how to put on a show etc.)
- Social Media - the how's and the why's - best ways to reach your audience
- CanCon - where to find Canadian content and how to promote/program it

## What to include in your proposal:

- Name, position, organization (if applicable), address, phone and e-mail
- A statement of how your community is rural
- Title of the session
- Proposed format (ie. powerpoint presentation, movement based, storytelling etc.)
- A sentence explaining how the proposed topic relates to the 2024 Symposium — Re-Igniting the Spark
- A description of the session (max 500 words) that describes how you will use your experience to explore the topic. This should be suitable for inclusion in the Symposium program (may be edited for style and clarity by SPARC staff)
- Your best guess at what three things in your presentation participants are most likely to find useful
- Brief biographical sketch (100 words maximum) of the lead speaker, and names, e-mail address and equally brief bios of co-presenters
- A list of audio-visual equipment needed (speakers are asked to bring their own laptops and any other supplies required)

## What not to include in your proposal:

A sales pitch for any company, product, or project. Feel free to promote yourself, your company, your show, etc, but make sure the focus of your workshop is on sharing knowledge with colleagues, not customers

## The SPARC Symposium Program committee will select submissions using the following criteria:

- Clear, specific, informative content that supports Symposium goals
- An approach to the subject material that is engaging
- Achieving a balance among the presentations as a whole
- Reflecting the diversity and richness of performing arts practice in rural and remote communities

- All decisions made by the SPARC Symposium Committee are final

## What will you receive:

- $300 for a 1 hour presentation
- The cost of Symposium registration will be waived
- Limited subsidies towards travel and accommodation available upon acceptance of submission

## Submission deadline:

September 15th, 2023

## Notification date:

November 1, 2023 - all applicants will be notified by this date

## How to submit:

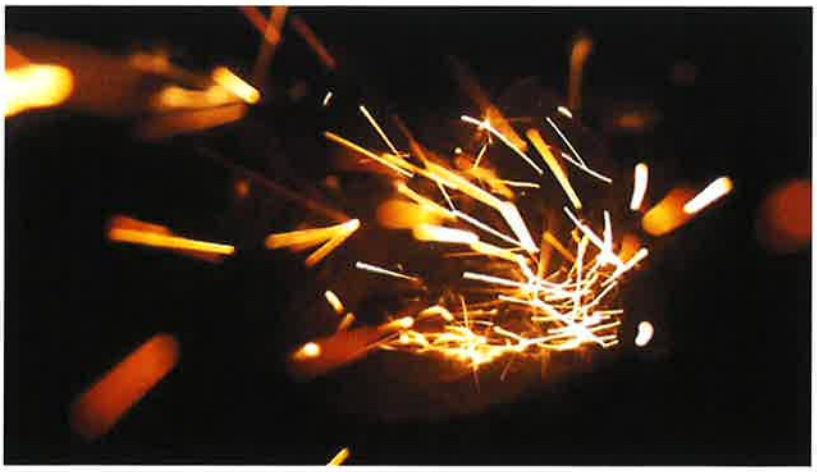
Submissions should be emailed to Rachel Marks, Executive Director, at rachel@sparcperformingarts.com in Word, Pages or PDF format.

Video and audio clips should be referenced in your proposal and should be uploaded here (this is a shared folder, it is recommended that you create a sub-folder with your name on it for clarity) or your own YouTube account with links and timings clearly noted in your submission.

*All workshop sessions will be recorded and uploaded to the SPARC website and YouTube channel post-Symposium.*

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Rachel - rachel@sparcperformingarts.com

## Now let's turn these embers into sparks!



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**SPARC would like to thank our funders for their continued support:**

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