

## HOWLROUND CHALLENGE FACT SHEET

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead

A revolution that is based on the people exercising their creativity in the midst of devastation is one of the great historical contributions of humankind.

—Grace Lee Boggs

As the dust settled after the 2016 US Presidential election, we here at HowlRound began discussing what our response could be to the overt discord and divisiveness that has become the new normal in our country. We did not want to accept this reality passively. As stewards and facilitators of a knowledge commons we considered how to invite the theatre community into this discussion with us, and decided to offer what resources we have to the conversation. The HowlRound Challenge is our response and our offering to you in hopes that together we can move from rhetoric to action, and create new and innovative ways to have real-world impact on our current political and cultural climate.

The HowlRound Challenge is an intentional intervention meant to resist divisiveness in our communities, to resist discord, to resist isolation, to resist passivity, to resist our temptation to go on with business as usual. Through the HowlRound Challenge, we will produce and host up to five in-person convenings in Boston, from September 2017 to June 2019 that will incubate ideas and seed action to make a better theatre and a better world.

### **What is a convening, anyways?**

HowlRound defines convenings as gatherings of people united by a common interest and/or identity with the purpose of furthering a conversation and organizing an action. Since our founding, HowlRound has hosted twenty convenings bringing together a total of over 600 theatremakers, on a wide range of topics including: ensemble theatremaking, the intersection between the non-profit and commercial theatre, the arts and the military, aesthetics of Latinx theatremaking, the opportunities and challenges facing trans theatre artists, to name a few. Convenings have brought as few as eight people and as many as 200 attendees together, and have run from one afternoon to four straight full days of programming. You can learn more about our past and upcoming convenings here:

[www.howlround.com/convenings](http://www.howlround.com/convenings)

### **What we're offering:**

We want to bring you and up to thirty of your co-conspirators to Boston to plan your next action and get to work. We'll cover travel, housing, meals, supplies, and documentation via HowlRound platforms as appropriate. We'll work with you to design every facet of your gathering according to the needs and specificities of your inquiry. Following your convening, HowlRound staff will be available to support the continued actions of the group through ongoing discussion and access to our platforms.

### **Who can apply:**

A theatremaker or theatremakers with an urgent issue to explore that requires an in-person meeting, *and* the energy, time, and will to put words to action. Please note that you will need to be available for planning sessions prior to the convening. We will work around your schedule, but know that this is not an insignificant time commitment.

### **Decision Making Process**

HowlRound Staff will review all proposals according to the following criteria:

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- Alignment with HowlRound Values
  - Generosity and abundance
  - Community and collaboration
  - Counter-cultural ideas
  - Diverse aesthetics
  - Visibility and accessibility
  - Global connection
  - Timely discourse
- Relevance
  - How relevant is this convening to the current moment? Does it address a pressing issue in our field?
  - Is it additive to the current landscape (i.e. is it filling a gap) and/or is it building off of other work in an intelligent and non-duplicative way?
- Creativity
  - How is the proposal innovative? How does it exhibit new ways of thinking or problem solving, or build on past learning in a new way? How is it pushing the field forward?
- Feasibility
  - Is the lead applicant well versed in the topic and players who will be involved? Do they have capacity to co-create a convening with HowlRound? What is their experience organizing people, and what other kinds of support for work of this nature, if any, is already secured?

### **Deadline**

Proposals are due by 5pm Eastern Standard Time on Friday, May 26, 2017. Email your completed proposal to [challenge@howlround.com](mailto:challenge@howlround.com). Please title your email: Your Name: Proposed Convening Title (i.e. Jane Doe: Arts and the Military).

Finalists will be contacted for interviews no later than June 21, 2017. Final decisions will be made by July 28, 2017.

### **Information Sessions**

HowlRound will host two information sessions to answer applicant questions:

Tuesday, May 9 2:30-3:30pm Eastern Standard Time

Monday, May 22 2:30-3:30pm Eastern Standard Time

Call in information: (857) 216-6700

Access Code: 295731

You can also email questions at any time to [challenge@howlround.com](mailto:challenge@howlround.com). We're so excited to hear what you're all dreaming up!

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Up to three people can propose an idea together, however please designate a lead applicant to be our primary contact throughout the application process.

### LEAD APPLICANT

Name:

Pronouns:

Affiliation (if any):

Email:

Phone number:

Skype Handle:

Website (optional):

Location:

Biography:

### CO-APPLICANT (optional):

Name:

Pronouns:

Affiliation (if any):

Email:

Phone number:

Skype Handle:

Website (optional):

Location:

Biography:

## HOWLROUND CHALLENGE CONVENING PROPOSAL APPLICATION

### **CO-APPLICANT** (optional):

Name:

Pronouns:

Affiliation (if any):

Email:

Phone number:

Skype Handle:

Website (optional):

Location:

Biography:

### **CONVENING INFORMATION**

**Title/Theme of Convening (one sentence or less):**

**Short description of what you have in mind (150 words or less):**

**What is your ideal timeframe, between September 2017 and June 2019, for this convening to occur and why?**

**All convenings will be held at Emerson College in Boston unless requested to be held elsewhere.** If another location is necessary, please explain where and why.

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### **CONVENING INFORMATION (CONT.)**

**Travel, lodging, meals, and basic materials will be provided.** List any other specific items you think this convening might require off the bat and approximate dollar value.

**Who should be in the room?** Indicate your ideal number of participants and participant makeup, and names (if known). Please note that we are considering gatherings as small as 10 people and as large as 30. If you are proposing something bigger or radically different than this, make your case known. You can list specific individuals or types of people you want in the room.

**Why are you the right person/people to convene this group of people around this topic?**  
(300 words or less)

## CONVENING INFORMATION (CONT.)

If you are a single applicant, list a few people who could join you on a planning committee for this gathering (indicate committed or non-committed):

List any other institutional partnerships, if applicable (existing or planned):

Why this convening now? What needs is it addressing? What questions is it asking and why does it need an in-person gathering? Why does it demand a space like this rather than what could be found at a national conference, or through other existing infrastructure for theatre conversation and action? *(200 words or less)*

## CONVENING INFORMATION (CONT.)

**What work has already happened addressing this subject, if any? Indicate if you have been a part of this work to date or not. (200 words or less)**

**Why should this convening be produced by and with HowIRound, specifically? How does it align with HowIRound values? (200 words or less)**

## IDEAL OUTCOMES

**What do you hope will be accomplished at this convening? What would success look like? Imagine some actions this group of conveners might take together as a result of the convening. What resources (knowledge, institutional, financial, etc.) does this group bring to bear to help ensure action is possible post convening? (400 words or less)**

## HOWLROUND CHALLENGE CONVENING PROPOSAL APPLICATION

**Is there anything else vital for us to know that's not reflected elsewhere in this application?**

**How did you hear about this opportunity?**

*A reminder that all convenings will be documented via HowlRound platforms, which will likely include both written materials via the HowlRound journal and livestreamed and video recorded sessions via HowlRound TV, and other mutually agreed upon documentation TBD. HowlRound staff will also be present and participatory at all times during the convening.*

**By signing below, I agree to the conditions above and certify the information on this application to be true.**

**Lead Applicant Signature:**

**Date:**