

Call for Participation Symposium on Healthier Cities & Communities

Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto
October 24th, 2013

**What burning issues arise in your attempts to build healthier cities and communities? What resources and collaborations would support you in understanding and creating healthier communities?
Join us in exchanging knowledge, strengthening collaboration and seeking solutions for creating stronger and healthier communities across Ontario.**

A new thematic area, Healthier Cities & Communities, at the **Dalla Lana School of Public Health (University of Toronto)** will hold a one-day symposium to learn about and celebrate community action, education, and research, oriented to improving health and well-being in cities and communities, locally and beyond. The keynote speaker (evening of the 23rd) is Trevor Hancock, a scholar and advocate on healthier cities for over 20 years. We are seeking to have a mix of presentations on exciting research and practice, and open space time for discussion .

We want to hear from you, and we invite you to participate.. Through the symposium, you will have the opportunity to:

- identify and address 'burning questions' arising from your work and mutual interests in solutions-focused research and practice for healthier cities and communities around specific topic areas such as food/urban agriculture, active transportation, collaboration, managing complexity, health and the built environment, etc
- interact with and learn from others engaged in work aimed at improving urban and community health
- shape the development, priorities and focus of the Healthier Cities and Communities thematic concentration in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health
- join or initiate new 'constellations' of focused interest on specific topics and/or burning questions (subgroups driven by the interest and enthusiasm of members)

We invite you to participate and share with us what you are working on and what excites you in the work you are doing to better understand and contribute to building healthier cities and communities. We are currently requesting proposals for participation in the symposium in the form of presentations. Participation guidelines are detailed below and we look forward to reviewing your presentation proposal.

What would you like to present or share?

Presentations can cover a range of topics within the area of healthier cities and communities. Topics will explore issues within the wide range of social, political, environmental, and other determinants of health and ways in which these find expression in different communities, contexts and cultures. Our interest is primarily in innovative solutions-focused research and practice for improving urban & community health that could excite and inspire others. We also place high value on presentations that have the potential to catalyze new collaborations and leverage and build upon the great work that is already being done.

We encourage you to engage your audience during your presentation and to create space for groups to bring their own knowledge and experience to contribute to the discussion.

You are encouraged to submit proposals in any of the following presentation formats:

Traditional Presentations

- “What’s your thing?” one-minute, one-slide presentation
 - This format provides an opportunity for a brief one-minute presentation to share your “brand” and foster discussion and connections
 - Think about answering these key questions in one minute: What’s the problem you’re addressing? What’s your solution? What have you done so far? What are your next steps?
- 10 minute presentation
 - A more traditional 10 minute presentation option (could also be modeled after a TED talk format)
- Panel Discussion
 - 30-60 minute panel discussion that showcases various perspectives on a particular topic or burning question
- Workshop
 - 30-60 minute skill-building, interactive workshop
 - Please specify space and technology requirements

Visual Presentations

- Film, photo, 3D models or games
 - Creative, stand-alone representations of your work are welcome; submit a film, photo or series of photos, 3D model, or game
 - Please specify space, time, and technology requirements
- Poster
 - A standard 3x4.5 foot poster presentation

Yes, you!

- We welcome broad participation: proposals from community agencies, researchers, teachers, students, etc. from diverse sectors and fields
- *We encourage and will prioritize submissions from community and students.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION go to our new symposium website at:

<http://HealthierCitiesSymposium2013.wordpress.com/>

How to let us know what you'd like to present or share:

- Please submit a brief proposal that includes:
 - Your organization name, mandate and website link
 - Names of the presenters with brief bios (max 50 words each)
 - Your presentation's working title
 - A brief description of your work (100 words max)
 - What problem is being addressed?
 - How are you addressing it?
 - A brief description of how you will engage the audience (50 words max)
 - 3-5 keywords that represent key themes of your presentation
 - Presentation time, space and equipment requirements
- Submissions can describe completed projects or work in progress
- Submissions can include discussions with the audience around 'hot topics'

- Submission will be reviewed based on:
 - relevance/fit with the Healthier Cities & Communities focus
 - clarity of proposal
 - audience engagement level

Please send submissions (in Word or PDF format) and/or questions to Rebecca Cheff, by email at rebecca.cheff@mail.utoronto.ca

Deadline for submission is August 12th, 2013

We welcome you to share this call out with friends and colleagues.

Organizers:

The Dalla Lana School of Public Health's emerging Healthy Cities/Communities Initiative seeks to foster solutions-focused research and education, in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, for the purpose of improving urban and community health, locally and beyond. For us, healthy cities and communities are characterized by processes, systems and assets that favour collective well-being: equity, sustainability, social connectedness, resilience, to name a few.

The development of the DLSPH Healthy Cities/Communities theme area is being initially co-led by Patricia O'Campo, (Professor DLSPH and Director of the Centre for Research on Inner City Health) and Blake Poland (Associate Professor DLSPH and Director, Collaborative Program in Community Development) with the contributions of a diverse Planning Committee and wide input.

