DELEGATIONS OVERVIEW

Thank you for your interest in bringing a delegation to Equity Summit 2018.

Inside you will find information about:

  - Overview
  - History and Relevance
  - Context for 2018
  - The 2018 Summit

- All about delegations at *Equity Summit 2018*
  - What they are
  - How to form them
  - History about delegations at the last summit
  - Support available from PolicyLink

- FAQ
- Contact information

EQUITY SUMMIT VISION

*Equity Summit 2018: Our Power. Our Future. Our Nation.* is a call to activists, organizers, and leaders to step into our power, activate our imaginations, and set the national agenda. That agenda will build on what’s been learned about advancing equity and justice and push to achieve the scale required for all to reach our full potential.

Collectively, we know what works. We recognize that the antidote to fear, hate, and twisted nostalgia is to dismantle structural racism, design systems of inclusion, and accept that our fates are intertwined.

Join us in Chicago April 11 – 13 as we explore the complexity and urgency of building a multiracial coalition at this pivotal moment for our nation. Solidarity with the emerging people of color majority is essential to redress past harms, embrace inclusion, build an equitable economy, and model true democracy. At the Summit, we will focus on practice and policy, politics and power—the ingredients needed for transformative change.

The equity movement is stronger than ever, bolstered by our combined resistance to assaults on hard-earned victories and nuanced by our deeper understanding of intersectionality and the interconnectedness of issues. It’s time for us to come together, identify our strategies and goals, and realize our vision.

Overview

In response to overwhelming demand from equity leaders across the nation, PolicyLink will convene Equity Summit 2018: Our Power. Our Future. Our Nation. April 11 through 13, 2018, in Chicago, Illinois. Assembling 3,000 equity leaders, the Summit will be strategically designed to address the key opportunities and challenges for the equity movement at a time when the fundamental values of inclusion are being questioned. The equity movement must lead on three urgent and interrelated fronts: 1) advancing and accelerating the impact of longstanding equity initiatives to deliver results at scale, 2) resisting inequitable policies at the federal, state, and local levels, and 3) defining the next frontiers of innovation for the equity movement to shape the narrative, culture and policy conversations of the future.

The Summit will serve as the national venue for an in-depth exploration of the groundbreaking achievements, strategies, lasting policies, and new opportunities that connect low-income/low-wealth communities to resources and opportunities. Summit participants will include a diverse group of leaders and advocates from the non-profit, public policy, philanthropy, business, and academic arenas that share a commitment to full economic and racial inclusion based on the belief that everyone should have the opportunity to participate and prosper in society.

Recent events have highlighted the harmful and divisive effects of a nation’s prioritization of its coastal cities at the expense of the rest of the nation. Chicago embodies many of the opportunities and challenges faced by the nation as a whole today. Chicago, with its legacy of diversity and economic strength, is the ideal location to assemble the latest generation of equity champions from the nonprofit, government, business, environment, academic, and labor sectors. These groups are being united under a common belief that an all-in nation is required to maintain its competitive advantage in the global economy. Equity Summit 2018 will be designed to equip these leaders with the skills they need to advance equitable public policies, connect them with new networks in the national movement for equity, and forge regional, state and national alliances capable of implementing an ambitious and comprehensive agenda to secure America’s future.

History and Relevance

Launched in partnership with the Funders’ Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, the PolicyLink Summit was founded as the first national convening to position equity, the environment, and the economy on equal footing. In turn, the Summits have garnered a reputation as the touchstones of the rapidly growing equity movement. The five prior national summits defined the leading edge of practice, policy, and research for the fields of equitable development, regional equity and smart growth, and health equity. Each one has provided the equity field with a tangible intellectual boost to advance policy and practice over the last fifteen years.

• Los Angeles (2002 with 650 attendees) – A National Framing of Regional Equity
• Philadelphia (2005 with 1,200 attendees) – An Equitable Development Approach
• New Orleans (2008 with 1,800 attendees) – A Policy Agenda for Infrastructure Equity and An Equitable Framework for Climate Change
• Detroit (2011 with over 2,500 attendees) – The Equity is the Superior Growth Model Framework
• Los Angeles (2015 with 3,000 attendees) – All-In Cities Initiative and the Equity Manifesto

Context for 2018

With the nation one generation away from being a people of color majority, it has found itself deeply divided and uncertain about the future, with the well-being and safety of its most vulnerable communities in jeopardy. Out of this complexity and acrimony, equity—just and fair inclusion into a
society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential—holds the promise to reset the nation’s values in diversity, fairness, and shared prosperity. Zero-sum economics and racial discrimination not only undermine the nation’s moral compass, they undermine the economy. The equity movement has the potential to empower the nation to change course, but to do so, its leaders must share and leverage their collective knowledge, strategies, resources, and energy to catalyze and launch a shared policy agenda and new narrative for the nation. The PolicyLink Equity Summits are the forums where this consensus is forged, and where leaders across sectors can engage in in-depth exploration of the groundbreaking achievements, innovative strategies, lasting policies, and new opportunities that address equity across sectors.

The field has called for Equity Summit 2018 because leaders are hungry for the counsel of equity-focused colleagues as they commit to tackling economic and racial inequality at the city, state and federal levels. Equity Summit 2018 will allow grassroots organizers, lawmakers, mayors, foundation leadership, artists and poets, movement builders, public intellectuals, business leaders, and local activists and residents to incubate and refine the policies and narratives that will steer the nation to build healthy communities of opportunity, an equitable economy, and a just society.

**The 2018 Summit**

Three themes are being explored to capture the Summit programming, content, presenters, and audience.

**Persist.** Ensuring that the very communities that were locked out of the nation’s greatest wealth-building opportunities of the 20th century and are now being targeted by draconian policies are included in today’s urban renaissance is critical not only for those communities, but for the future of our entire economy. As the equity movement responds quickly and decisively to exclusionary, discriminatory policies and discourse at the national level, the legacy work of the movement must press forward. The need for quality education, justice reform, good jobs, safe communities, and economic opportunity continues, and the policy advocacy and development that achieves these outcomes must be sustained and scaled. Summit sessions will focus on the elevation and discussion of proven strategies and model policies that provide pathways to opportunity through policy reform for the 100 million people in America living in or near poverty so that they can achieve economic security, live in or connect to communities of opportunity, and actively participate in civic and democratic processes.

**Resist.** PolicyLink, in partnership with organizing networks, local leaders, and national advocates, is committed to defend and advance hard-fought gains to design an equitable economy, build healthy communities of opportunity, and create a just and fair society. Summit sessions will focus on contemporary actions to resist any and all attacks on our fundamental rights and value and the fundamental wrongs of large scale persecution. Sessions will also focus on actions to defend against attempts to harm or infringe on the rights of vulnerable people/groups, defend and protect equity champions and equity gains in law and policy. In turn, Summit programming will address the burning questions of equity advocates in all sectors: How can government, philanthropy, nonprofits and businesses best support on-the-ground organizing and local equity movements? What strategies are working in local communities, cities and states to resist erosion of equitable polices?

**Innovate.** As technological innovations accelerate the stakes of the equity movement, leaders can no longer afford to sit out the conversations that are shaping the future of our economy and lifestyles. Autonomous cars promise to revolutionize transportation and safety and policy conversations are just as likely to take place on Twitter as in government buildings. How can equity leaders participate in this development and add a lens of equity and inclusion to innovation? What are the ways in which we can ensure that local communities are all benefiting from the innovation-driven prosperity of cities and
regions? How can equity leaders participate at the headwaters of innovation? How do we create space for diverse actors in these fields?

The Summit will address these themes and many more over three days of engaging keynotes, plenaries, forums, institutes, workshops, caucuses and impromptu gatherings and celebrations. PolicyLink is committed to Summit programming that reflects the needs of the equity movement, and, to this end, will collect topics for engagement from community leaders across the nation, and from equity-focused leaders in all sectors.

II. All about delegations at Equity Summit 2018

What is a delegation?

To enhance the Summit experience, PolicyLink encourages attendees to come as part of a delegation—a group of equity leaders connected by issue area, geography, approach to the work, or another bonding characteristic.

Delegations are peer groups of people from a common community of practice or a geographic region and are formed prior to Equity Summit 2018 with the purpose of creating networks of multidisciplinary, diverse organizations to actively engage at the Summit.

Delegations range in size from 10 to 100 people. Delegates are encouraged to attend the Summit as members of learning communities who embrace the principles of equity. Delegations strategize about how to arrange themselves to leverage the offerings from the various sessions, network with other experts, expand the groundwork for working together post-Summit, and work with PolicyLink to promote equity going forward.

Delegation members will take part in issue-based sessions on topics including, but not limited to, health, regional planning, infrastructure, inclusive economy, equitable economic and community development, financial security, housing, and education. During formal and informal sessions, delegation members will consider how to translate their understanding of equity into their own local, state, and national policy campaigns.

How do I form a delegation?

1. **Think about the best formation for your delegation**: issue area, geography, approach to the work, or another bonding characteristic?
   If you aren't sure, or want to know who else in your area may want to team up to form a delegation, reach out to the Summit team and ask!

2. **Plan your budget**:
   There are three primary considerations for building a reasonable budget to support your delegation: **travel, lodging, and registration**.
   We estimate that it will cost about $1,250 (travel, hotel, and registration) to bring each delegate to the Summit.

   Travel costs vary depending on your location. Based on need, discounted registrations and other financial support may be available. Please see the Summit website for information about registration and lodging costs. Based on need, registration discounts and other resources can be available for delegations.
3. The PolicyLink Summit team is available to help develop **fund-raising plans** to get your delegation to the Summit. For more information, please contact.

### Past Highlights

#### Delegations at the 2011 Summit
- 1,153 delegates representing 103 delegations
- Delegations came from over 43 states and US territories

#### Delegations at the 2015 Summit
- Approximately 2,000 of the nearly 3,000 participants came as part of a delegations.
- Several of the groups from 2015 have remained in contact for years through various place-based and federal engagements.

### III. Frequently Asked Questions

#### 1) What is a delegation?
Delegations are peer groups of people from a common community of practice or a geographic region. Delegations are formed prior to the Summit with the purpose of creating networks of multidisciplinary, geographically diverse organizations to participate as *learning communities* at the Summit. Summit delegations present opportunities to forge relationships, build networks, and strategize for collective action.

As members of learning communities, delegates are encouraged to pick up and embrace the principles of equity from the various sessions, network with other experts from around the country, set the groundwork for working together in their regions post-Summit, and work with PolicyLink to promote equity going forward.

Delegation members have access to this rich network of practitioners and the opportunity to share experiences, build relationships, and identify partnership opportunities. Delegations are typically formed prior to the Summit to define their goals, meet periodically during the Summit to share experiences, and continue meeting after the event to incorporate the learnings in their work that allow for greater impact and sustainability.

Delegation members will take part in issue-based sessions on topics including, but not limited to, health, regional planning, infrastructure investments, financial security, housing, and education. During formal and informal sessions, delegation members will consider how to translate their understanding of regional equity into local, state, and national policy campaigns.

#### 2) What are examples of sizes and types of delegations?
Delegations range in size from 10 to 100 people. The following are examples of several types of Summit delegations:

a. **Issue-based delegations** are made up of organizations and individuals working together locally or nationally who share a focus on a particular issue such as transportation or education. The Transportation Equity Caucus and the Promise Neighborhoods Institute are good examples of these types of delegations.

b. **Regional delegations** are made up of individuals and organizations in a region that may focus on different issue areas, but understand the value of working together to have a comprehensive equity
network in their region. Examples include formal coalitions such as the Partnership for Southern Equity from Atlanta, Georgia, and the Puget Sound Regional Equity Network representing the Seattle-Tacoma region.

c. **Constituent-based delegations** consist of organizations from around the country who are linked to each other by a shared affiliation.

d. **National delegations** consist of national organizations or affinity groups whose membership has a shared focus.

### 3) How do I build a budget for my delegation?

There are three primary considerations for building a budget to support your delegation: travel, lodging, and registration.

Please see the [Summit website](https://www.policylink.org) for information about registration and lodging costs. Registration discounts are available for delegations.

Additionally, based on need, delegations can receive financial support and/or discounted registration. These supports are matched through local fundraising efforts.

The PolicyLink Summit team is available to help develop fund-raising plans to get your delegation to the Summit. For more information, please contact [equity2018delegations@policylink.org](mailto:equity2018delegations@policylink.org).

### 4) How do delegations benefit delegates, regions, and communities?

Summit attendees benefit from having a learning community with which to share information, navigate programming options, digest the Summit experience, and network with additional Summit attendees.

**Benefits to Delegates:**

a. New and Strengthened Partnerships. The delegation formation process is an opportunity to strengthen bonds around an issue, approach, or geography. For instance, funders may use the Summit as an opportunity to create a learning community among their grantees.

b. Availability of targeted support from PolicyLink staff in advance of and following the Summit.

c. Connection to a growing network of regional equity advocates, policymakers, private sector leaders, foundations, and government officials.

d. Participation in the opening reception and other events.

e. Access to pre-Summit equity institutes, open caucuses, strategy sessions, and site visits in Chicago.

f. Admission to the entire Summit program, all Summit meals, and participation in all workshop and training sessions.

[g. Ability to maximize the benefits of Summit participation and implementation moving forward.]

h. Support with using our [National Equity Atlas](https://www.policylink.org) to develop an equitable growth analysis and equity framing of your state, city or region.

### IV. Contact

Contact [equity2018delegations@policylink.org](mailto:equity2018delegations@policylink.org) with questions.