

DHI conNextions

Speaker Application Process and Proposal Guidelines

Important Upcoming Dates

- Call for Speakers Closes: May 1, 2026
- Speakers Selected and Notified: June 1, 2026

Application Process

Proposals are evaluated by our Advisory Board, Conference team, and Show Management. If selected, you will be notified by our Conference team and given next steps and additional information to help you prepare your presentation, including speaker agreement, PowerPoint templates, and an Educational Handout guide if needed.

Session Proposal Guidelines

Session Format:

Tracks: We are accepting 2026 session proposals that are structured within these tracks:

- Architect + Performance Track
- Codes + Compliance Track
- Specialized Facilities Track
- Business + Delivery Track
- Other – Specify Track

Choose from the following topics:

Architect + Performance Track:

- Architectural Openings 101: What Every Architect Should Know
- Writing Better Hardware Sets
- Submittals & Shop Drawings: What Architects Should Review
- The Performance of Openings Performance
- Retrofit vs Replace: ROI of Opening Upgrades
- Resiliency: Wind, Flood & Extreme Conditions

Codes + Compliance Track

- 2024–2027 Code Changes Impacting Door Openings
- Accessibility Hot Spots in Door Assemblies
- Fire Door Assemblies: Inspection & Field Modifications
- Credential Trends & Mobile Access Control
- Commissioning Electrified Openings
- Smart Locks & Connected Openings

Specialized Facilities Track

- Fail Safe vs Fail Secure Hardware Design
- Common Integration Failures Between Hardware & Security Systems
- Healthcare Door Assemblies: Navigating Competing Codes
- Designing the Electrified Opening

- Behavioral Health Openings: Safety + Ligature Resistance
- School Security & Classroom Door Design

Business + Delivery Track

- RFI-Proofing the Openings Package
- Substitutions Without Losing Design Intent
- Supply Chain Reality: Designing with Real Lead Times
- The Future Workforce in Architectural Openings
- Becoming a Trusted Partner
- Owner Standards as a Growth Strategy

*Note: If you are submitting a different track or topic – select other and be sure to provide Track and Title.

Description: The description provided should be used as a guide for the development of your educational course and be a minimum of 3-4 sentences. Please be concise and specific to the industry, including what attendees will learn and take away from your presentation. Please write as you would have it appear in the conference program agenda, in the third-person, present tense.

3 Key Learning Objectives: Please include a measurable verb (e.g., describe, design, assess, apply, explain, analyze, evaluate, estimate). A good rule to follow is to start all your learning objectives with a sentence such as: “This session will help participants...”

Please identify if the session is: Non-Technical (NT) or Technical (T)

Key Session Proposal Requirements

Before submitting your session, please remember the following:

- To ensure that we are delivering only informative and educational experiences in our Conference programming, DHI conNextions does not allow the promotion of products and services in any of the Conference sessions. Please refrain from including any marketing/advertising related to your business in your submission.
- Contests and promotions in exchange for products and services are not allowed. This includes, but is not limited to text, cell, phone, Facebook (or other social platforms or email) before, after or during your presentation.
- It is extremely important to come prepared for your session or workshop. For the best audience participation and understanding, DHI conNextions recommends a complete PowerPoint presentation and/or educational handout be included that supports the theme being discussed.
- Use spell check to correct spelling and grammatical errors. Please DO NOT submit your proposal in all CAPS. **Suggestion:** Create a proposal in a Word document, spell check, then cut and paste it into the proposal form.
- By submitting this form, you agree to conduct your presentation in a structured, informative manner.

To ensure we keep to important event deadlines, we are unable to accept any submissions made after the **Call for Speakers close date: May 1, 2026.**

Speaker Commitments

A PowerPoint slide deck template will be provided to selected speakers and must be used to ensure DHI conNextions presentations are uniform.

Speakers are expected to meet all deadlines for submission of materials and information related to their sessions and/or workshops, as outlined in the Speaker Information Kit. Failure to submit materials may result in re-evaluating the participation at the conference.

DHI conNextions retains the right to modify titles, descriptions and bios during copy editing for marketing purposes, taking care not to alter the intended meaning.

If selected, DHI conNextions speakers must announce that their educational handout and post-presentation evaluations can be found on the conference app. Further directions, scripts, and templates will be provided to assist with this.

Speaker Benefits

For speaking at this year's DHI conNextions, a complimentary room for a one-night stay at the host hotel, Hyatt Regency Chicago, will be provided for each session a speaker is presenting at.

For inquiries related to our Call for Speakers, please contact the DHI conNextions' Content Director, Events & Programming:

Jessica Lombardo
(800) 538-5544 ext. 1247

jlombardo@iron.markets