

Guidance for Rebels, Renegades and Pioneers Track at AFP ICON

(Courtesy of Ligia Peña, M.Sc., CFRE MInstF)

Thank you for your interest in the Rebels, Renegades and Pioneers track at the 2020 AFP ICON.

Since the initiation of the Rebels track in 2016, the sessions have been curated by an ad hoc group of volunteers who serve on the ICON Education Advisory Committee. For the past four years, this small committee has worked very hard to create interesting and cage rattling sessions.

For the 2020 AFP ICON, we are calling on the members of the nonprofit sector to help the committee to crowdsource possible topics and speakers. We are looking for proposals/speakers that represent the spirit of what is a Rebel, a Renegade or a Pioneer.

If you have a topic or speakers you feel fit the Rebels mould, please submit a proposal. Every suggestion will be carefully evaluated against the track's carefully constructed criteria.

Speaking of rules, topics/themes and speakers must abide by the following:

- Topics must challenge the status quo. The more “radical” and controversial the better!
- Topics must ask cage-rattling questions or address things that are radically impacting or changing the sector
- Topics can address a current social issue
- Absolutely not the all-too-typical podium, PowerPoint presentation
- Audience engagement is gold - at least 50% of the time must be audience engagement, e.g., small group work, back and forth between the audience and presenter(s)

Most importantly, a RRP session IS NOT:

- Traditional education sessions, i.e.: ‘how to ...’
- Necessarily limited to subjects within the nonprofit sector
- Podium-style lecturing (you’ll get booed off the stage!)
- Doesn’t necessarily need to answer the question, it can ask even more questions to deepen an understanding of the issue

For inspiration, here are the titles of the sessions since the creation of the track:

(2016)

- Rebels with Causes – Fundraising as the Driver for Social Change
- Small Change – Why Business Won’t Change the World
- You can't be truly a profession without academic research." Or is fundraising somehow the exception?
- Pioneering CEO's From Overhead to Impact
- Privilege, Power, and Justice: An Awkward Conversation

(2017)

- Game Changers: How to Disrupt the Status Quo in Your Organization
- Is Your Business Model Broken? The TRUTH About Fundraising and Capitalization
- Fundraising as/for Social Change

- Amplifying Philanthropy and Disruption
- Demolish This Fundraising Thing and Basically Start Over
- Age Is Just a Number: Managing Intergenerational Teams
- The Moment We've Been Preparing For: It's Still All About Relationships

(2018)

- Has the Nonprofit Sector Lost Its Moral High Ground?
- Is Fundraising A Profession? And Does It Matter If It Isn't?
- Sexual Harassment and Bullying - Is the Nonprofit Sector Safe for All?
- Philanthropists, Power, Democracy - Is This the End of Philanthropy?
- Gender Equity - Facts, Stories and Not Much Progress Anymore
- How Do You Know What You Know About Fundraising?
- What Right Do You Have to Tell Us How Much to Spend on Fundraising?
- Inclusion in the Age of Diversity: A Conversation about Recruitment, Retention and Race in the Social Sector

(2019)

- You Didn't Say That ? – Challenging Fundraising Discussions
- Getting Value from Your Top Talent – Does Money Equal Worth ?
- Let's Talk about the Elephant in the Room : Mental Health and the Nonprofit Sector
- Migration at the Borders : Managing the Crisis
- Managing the Revolution (aka The Revolution will be Project Managed)
- From Making Waves to Creating A Tsunami of Change
- Inclusion in the Age of Diversity, Part II : Beyond Recruitment

One last thought:

Rebels, Renegades, and Pioneers must be much more than a conference track. Promoting rebellion, encouraging renegades, and welcoming pioneers is essential for any society and any field.