

United Association for Labor Education 2023 Conference - Call for Proposals
University of Massachusetts Lowell, June 13-16, 2023

Labour Education Saves Democracy!

The United Association for Labor Education (UALE), a community of educators dedicated to promoting education as an essential tool for empowering workers, leadership development, and equity in the workplace, welcomes your proposals for our 2023 conference at the University of Massachusetts Lowell from June 13-16, 2023.

The United Association for Labor Education is an organization of labor educators which promises progress, growth, and hope for the labor movement. Together we work to promote education as an essential tool in the process of union transformation, to make labor education accessible to all working people to develop new leadership, and to strengthen the field of labor education in order to meet the ever-changing needs of unions and workers.

We encourage proposals from union and worker center educators; worker activists; and academics including faculty, staff, graduate students, and adjunct faculty. We especially encourage submissions from people of marginalized genders; Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; LGBTQ people; and disabled people/people with disabilities.

Theme:

This year's theme is "Labour Education Saves Democracy!" The conference planning committee is seeking proposals that will explore whether and how labour education can foster democratic practices at both the political and the organizational levels. We recognize that people of marginalized identities have not had equal access to democratic practices in our unions or our political systems, as well as the particular threats that white supremacy, capitalism, and settler colonialism pose to democratic systems. Presentations might seek to answer some or all of the following questions, though potential attendees should not feel limited by this list:

- How can we address growing political misinformation and polarisation among workers?
- What do accessible, democratic education spaces look like?
- What are strategies to address systems of oppression within the labour movement?
- How does the labour movement intersect with and interact with other movements for liberation (for example, Black Lives Matter, Land Back, abolitionist movements, immigrants' rights movements, disability justice, etc.)?
- How do our unions and workers' organizations function as schools for democracy? How can we think of union-building and labour education as a democratic practice?
- How can labour education contribute to an understanding of shared or horizontal leadership models and equitable mentorship programs?
- What does democratic union leadership look like, and how can labour educators foster the skills of small-d democracy in leadership development work?
- How can we foster a new and diverse generation of labour educators?

We welcome proposals that include:

- traditional paper panel (3 people);
- curriculum demonstrations/teaching techniques workshop;
- roundtable discussion (5-6 people);
- performance art;
- film showing; &
- posters.

All sessions/roundtables must designate a chair/commentator or moderator separate from the panelists. While we will consider individual paper submissions, we strongly encourage you to organize a full panel. To assist in finding additional panelists or facilitators, we recommend submitting a query to the UALE listserv (ualelist@list.uale.org) or else indicating in your submission that you would be open to connecting with a co-facilitator.

Submissions should be sent as a PDF, google doc, or .docx to ualeconference@gmail.com. Please include your preferred format (see above), language (English or Spanish), name, institution (if applicable), email address, and phone number, as well as the names and affiliation of all panel members/co-presenters. If you would like to be considered for the popular education track, you should also indicate that in your submission.

Submissions will be accepted between December 1, 2022 and February 13, 2023. We plan to announce acceptance of submissions in early March 2023. If you have any questions, please email ualeconference@gmail.com.