2027 AHP Annual International Conference
October 19-21, 2027 | Austin
Request for Poster Proposals
Submission Guide

Poster Proposal Period: November 23, 2026 – January 21, 2027

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in contributing to the 2027 AHP International Conference Poster Series.

New in 2027, the Poster Series offers healthcare philanthropy professionals a different way to share ideas and learn from one another. Rather than delivering a traditional breakout session, selected participants will create a visual poster highlighting a project, practice, innovation, research finding, or case study and discuss their work directly with conference attendees.

Posters are ideal for ideas that can be **seen, understood, and discussed quickly**. Your project does not need to be large, groundbreaking, or complete. Sometimes the most useful ideas are practical improvements that solved a real problem, tested a new approach, generated an unexpected result, or taught a valuable lesson.

Whether you are an experienced conference presenter or have never presented at AHP before, we encourage you to consider sharing your work.

About the Poster Series

Peer learning is one of the AHP International Conference's greatest strengths. In feedback from the 2026 conference, participants repeatedly highlighted the value of learning directly from colleagues, hearing real-world examples, exchanging ideas, and connecting with others doing similar work.

The Poster Series is designed to expand those opportunities by showcasing **more ideas and more voices without adding more concurrent breakout sessions**.

Selected posters will be displayed in a dedicated conference area throughout designated hours. AHP will also schedule one or more **Poster Sessions**, when poster presenters will be stationed with their posters to talk with attendees, answer questions, and exchange ideas.

Think of the experience as **a visual case study plus a conversation**, not a research paper hanging on a wall.

What Makes a Strong Poster?

A strong poster tells a focused story. It should help an attendee understand, within a few minutes:

1. **What problem or opportunity did you address?**
2. **What did you do?**
3. **What happened?**
4. **What did you learn?**
5. **What could another healthcare philanthropy professional take from your experience?**

AHP is particularly interested in posters that:

- Share a real healthcare philanthropy initiative or experience
- Present an innovative or improved approach to a common challenge
- Use data, results, or evidence where available
- Honestly address lessons learned, including things that did not work
- Offer an idea that others could adapt or replicate
- Make a complex idea easier to understand visually
- Represent different organization sizes, types, communities, roles, and career stages
- Highlight work that may not require a full 60-minute education session but deserves to be shared

You do not need extraordinary results to have a strong poster. A useful project from a three-person community hospital foundation may be just as valuable as an initiative from a large health system. What matters is whether you can clearly explain the challenge, approach, results, and lessons for others.

Types of Poster Proposals

Poster proposals may address any area of healthcare philanthropy. Applicants should identify which of the types listed below best describes their poster.

1. Practice in Action: Show how your organization addressed a specific problem or opportunity.
Example: How a five-person foundation redesigned its major-gift portfolio process.

2. Innovation or Experiment: Share something new your organization tried and what happened.
Example: Testing AI-assisted donor communications within an existing annual giving program.

3. Research or Data Insight: Present original analysis, benchmarking, research, or findings with implications for healthcare philanthropy.
Example: What five years of employee giving data revealed about participation and retention.

4. Tool or Process Improvement: Share a practical workflow, framework, system, or tool that improved the work.
Example: Reducing gift-processing turnaround from five days to 24 hours.

5. Lessons Learned: Explore an initiative that did not unfold as expected and what others can learn from the experience.
Example: What we would do differently after our first grateful patient pilot.

AHP encourages proposals about **work in progress**, provided there are meaningful lessons to share. The goal is to create honest peer exchange, not a gallery of perfect success stories.

Selection Process & Criteria

Poster proposals will be reviewed by AHP members, volunteer leaders, and/or staff.
AHP seeks to create a collection of posters representing a broad range of ideas, functions, organization types, career levels, and perspectives.

The evaluation criteria and scoring rubric for all poster proposals include five areas:

▪ **Relevance to Healthcare Philanthropy (20%)**: The proposed subject is specifically relevant to healthcare philanthropy professionals, as opposed to a more general submission about philanthropy.
▪ **Practical Applicability and Transferability (20%)**: The poster offers a useful lesson, strategy, insight, finding, or approach that attendees can take back to their work. Attendees can understand how the lesson might inform or be adapted to their own organizations.
▪ **Evidence and Credibility (20%)**: Where appropriate, the poster includes results, data, observations, or other evidence that demonstrates what happened.

▪ **Originality (20%)**: The poster presents a new idea, a fresh approach, an interesting application, or a useful perspective on an existing practice.
▪ **Overall Quality (20%)**: The proposal demonstrates sufficient thought and substance to create an engaging poster and conversation.

Poster Presenter Expectations

If your proposal is accepted, you agree to:

- Develop a poster following AHP's required template and specifications
- Participate in AHP's poster-development and review process
- Submit your final poster by the published deadline
- Make requested edits before production
- Register for the 2027 AHP International Conference
- Attend your assigned Poster Session
- Remain with your poster during the assigned presentation period
- Be prepared to give a concise overview of your work and answer questions
- Remove or safeguard confidential patient, donor, employee, or organizational information
- Respect copyright and intellectual-property requirements
- Keep the presentation educational and free from commercial promotion

AHP will provide accepted presenters with a poster template, design specifications, examples, and guidance.

Presenting Your Poster

The Poster Series is intended to encourage conversation. Presenters should be prepared with a **two- to three-minute overview** that answers:

- What problem were you trying to solve?
- What did you do?
- What was the result?
- What did you learn?
- What should someone viewing the poster remember?

After that, let the conversation develop naturally. Presenters do **not** need to prepare a separate slide presentation. AHP expects to designate specific times in the conference agenda for participants to explore posters and meet presenters.

Poster Design

AHP will provide accepted presenters with a standardized poster template. Each poster should contain:

1. **Title**
2. **Presenter name(s) and organization**
3. **The Challenge**
4. **What We Did**
5. **What Happened**
6. **What We Learned**
7. **What You Can Try**
8. **Supporting data or visual evidence**, when appropriate
9. **Presenter contact information or QR code**, optional

Posters should prioritize visual communication. Graphs, diagrams, photographs, short lists, illustrations, timelines, and simple data displays are encouraged. It should be easy for a reader to understand the central idea.

Commercial Bias

AHP affiliate members, consultants, vendors, sponsors, and exhibitors are welcome to submit poster proposals, provided the content is educational and relevant to healthcare philanthropy. Posters may not function as advertisements. Posters that primarily promote a product, paid service, company, consultant, proprietary methodology, or technology platform will not be accepted.

If a commercial product was used in the project, it may be identified factually when necessary to understand the case. However, the poster should focus on the **problem, strategy, implementation, results, and transferable lessons**, not the product.

Registration and Expenses

All accepted poster presenters must register for the 2027 AHP International Conference by the published deadline. A discounted registration rate will be available. In the event of exceptions (such as Exhibitor personnel or award winners) registration may be handled differently. Presenters who are not taking part in any other part of the conference beyond their

presentation must register but are not charged a fee. Poster presenters are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses.

Please refrain from registering for the AHP International Conference until proposal notifications have been sent. There is no need to register while your proposal is under consideration. If your proposal is selected, you will be eligible for the discounted speaker registration rate. If your proposal is not selected, AHP will honor the Early Bird registration rate for you after notifications are sent.

Timeline

- Poster RFP Opens: November 23, 2026 (Access the proposal form here)
- Poster Proposal Deadline: January 21, 2027
- Proposal Review: February-April 2027
- Invitations Extended: May 2027
- Presenter Agreement Due: By June 10, 2027
- Draft Poster Content Due: July 30, 2027
- AHP Feedback Returned: August 2027
- Final Print-Ready Poster Due: September 16, 2027
- Save the Conference Dates: October 19-21, 2027

Questions?

Email education@ahp.org with any questions about the submission process or the 2027 conference.

Sample submission form begins on the next page.

2027 AHP Annual International Conference

Request for Poster Proposals

Sample Submission Form

To prepare for completing the required online form, use this sample to gather proposal details and complete content leader information for each presenter/co-presenter in advance.

Before beginning, please create the submitting account using the primary presenter's name and email address. This information will automatically populate into the submission.

STEP 1. PRESENTER INFORMATION

1. Primary Presenter's Information
   AHP will communicate with you for all notifications related to the proposed session.
   a. Name (auto-populated)
   b. Email address (auto-populated)
   c. Credentials
   a. Job Title
   b. Organization
   c. Email address
   d. City
   e. State/Province
   f. Country
   g. Biography

2. Co-presenters (if applicable. Maximum of 1 co-presenter; 2 total presenters)

3. Organization Information
   a. Organization Type (select one)
      i. Independent/community hospital or health center
      ii. Rural or critical access hospital
      iii. Regional or multi-hospital health system
      iv. Academic medical center
      v. Children's hospital
      vi. Specialty hospital/health organization
      vii. Hospice, palliative care, or long-term care
      viii. Healthcare-related nonprofit/charitable organization
   b. Number of philanthropy staff

4. Additional Point of Contact
    a. Name
    b. Email address

Invitation to Self-Identify

In principle and in practice, AHP values and seeks diversity and inclusive practices within the healthcare philanthropy industry. AHP aims to maximize the power of learning programs by promoting involvement, innovation, and expanded access to leadership opportunities among program presenters, faculty, and content leaders that maximize engagement across the entire spectrum of participants in the healthcare philanthropy profession.

The following demographic questions are designed for you, the lead presenter, to self-identify. To opt out of any question, select "Prefer not to say".

AGE

- Under 25
- 25 – 34
- 35 – 44
- 45 – 54
- 55 – 64
- 65 – 74
- 75+
- Prefer not to say (opt out)

GENDER

- Female
- Male
- Transgender male
- Transgender female
- Non-Binary
- Genderqueer
- Self-identification: _____
- Prefer not to say (opt out)

RACE/ETHNICITY (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

- African American/Black
- Arab
- Asian American/Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino)
- Hispanic/Latino
- Indigenous (e.g. Native American, First Nations, Inuit, Métis)
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- South Asian (e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)

- Southeast Asian (e.g. Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai)
- West Asian (e.g., Iranian, Afghan)
- White/Caucasian
- Self-identification: _____
- Prefer not to say (opt out)

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS
AHP welcomes presenters of all ability levels. To discuss accessibility and accommodations needed to participate fully in this event, please self-identify below:

- I do not need special accommodations.
- I am requesting special accommodations. Please provide details regarding your needs: _____

STEP 2. POSTER PROPOSAL

1. Poster Title *(Limit 10 words)*
   Please submit a concise title that clearly communicates your poster's focus.
   IMPORTANT: Do not include presenter, company/organization or product names anywhere in the title.

2. Poster Type *(select one)*
   a. Practice in Action
   b. Innovation or Experiment
   c. Research or Data Insight
   d. Tool or Process Improvement
   e. Lessons Learned

3. Primary Topic
   Please provide the primary topic of your poster presentation.

4. The Challenge *(Limited to 150 words)*
   What problem, opportunity, or question prompted the work? Describe the situation and why it mattered.

5. What You Did *(Limited to 150 words)*
   What approach did you take? Briefly describe the strategy, initiative, process, intervention, experiment, or research.

6. What Happened *(Limited to 150 words)*

What were the results? Share quantitative and/or qualitative outcomes when available. Results do not have to be positive. Unexpected or unsuccessful outcomes can provide valuable learning.

7. What Did You Learn *(Limited to 150 words)*
   What are the two or three most important lessons from the experience?

8. What Can Others Apply *(Limited to 150 words)*
   What could another healthcare philanthropy professional reasonably take from this work and try at their own organization?

9. Evidence
   What evidence supports your conclusions? *Select all that apply.*

- Fundraising results
- Participation/engagement data
- Financial data
- Survey data
- Operational metrics
- Donor or stakeholder feedback
- Formal research
- Case observations
- Pilot/test results
- Other: _____

[Optional] If needed, briefly explain your evidence.

10. Visual Potential *(Limited to 150 words)*
    What would attendees see on your poster? Briefly describe the visuals you anticipate using, such as charts, before-and-after comparisons, workflows, photographs, diagrams, results, or timelines.

11. Does the project involve a commercial product or service?
    a. Yes
    b. No

    If yes, identify it and explain how the poster will remain educational, neutral, and applicable to conference attendees who do not use that product or service.

Optional Supporting Material

Applicants may upload **one page** of optional supplementary material, such as:

- A sample chart

- Preliminary data
- A photograph
- An example workflow
- A research abstract

Please do not submit a completed poster at the proposal stage.

STEP 3. PRESENTER AGREEMENT & REVIEW SUBMISSION

1. Applicants confirm that, if selected, they will:
    - Register for the conference
    - Follow the AHP poster template and design guidelines
    - Meet published deadlines
    - Participate in the poster review process
    - Attend their assigned Poster Session
    - Ensure the content does not violate confidentiality or intellectual-property requirements
    - Obtain necessary permissions for data, photographs, or other materials
    - Provide educational rather than promotional content

Submitting Your Proposal

When you are ready to submit your poster proposal, you may do so through this form. Please remember all submissions must be received by January 21, 2027.

Questions?

Email education@ahp.org with any questions about the submission process or the 2027 conference.

Appendix 1: Sample Poster

PRACTICE IN ACTION | PHILANTHROPY OPERATIONS | SMALL / MEDIUM TEAMS

AHP 2027 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE | POSTER SERIES

From Five Days to One: Rethinking Gift Processing

A practical workflow redesign that reduced processing time without adding staff or technology

Jordan Lee, CFRE | Director of Advancement Services | Riverside Community Health Foundation*

*Fictitious organization and illustrative results created solely as an example.

THE CHALLENGE

Gifts were touching three teams and waiting in multiple queues before being posted.

5.0 DAYS
average processing time

24 STEPS
in the common workflow

3 TEAMS
with separate approvals

Why it mattered

- Delayed donor acknowledgments
- Limited visibility for fundraisers
- Rework when information was incomplete

THE WORKFLOW CHANGED

BEFORE

Gift received → Data entered → Fund review → Finance review → Acknowledgment queued → Posted

24 steps • 3 queues • average 5.0 days

AFTER

Gift received → Single intake check → Posted + acknowledged

7 steps • 1 owner • average 1.2 days

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME

BEFORE 5.0 days

AFTER 1.2 days

76% FASTER

WHAT WE DID

We mapped the workflow with gift processing, finance, and donor relations, then redesigned it around one question:

"Which steps protect donor intent or financial control, and which simply reflect habit?"

1. **MAP** — Document every handoff and wait time
2. **CHALLENGE** — Remove duplicate reviews and approvals
3. **STANDARDIZE** — Create one intake checklist and owner
4. **PILOT** — Test for 30 days, then adjust

WHAT HAPPENED

1.2	76%	67%	0
DAYS	**FASTER**	**FEWER**	**NEW**
average processing time	from receipt to posting	handoffs between teams	staff or software required

Illustrative 30-day pilot: 412 gifts processed; all figures are synthetic for demonstration.

WHAT WE LEARNED

01 **The biggest delays were waiting, not data entry.**

02 Finance belonged in the redesign, not just the approval chain.

03 One clear owner mattered more than a new tool.

04 Exceptions needed a separate path instead of slowing every gift.

WHAT YOU CAN TRY

START THIS WEEK

1. **Choose one common gift type.**
2. Measure wait time between every handoff.
3. Ask which approvals add real control.
4. Pilot the shorter path for 30 days.

ONE THING TO REMEMBER

Don't automate a process until you have challenged the process.

The fastest improvement came from eliminating unnecessary waits and clarifying ownership.

ADAPT IT TO YOUR SETTING

Small team
Start with one gift type and one 30-day pilot.

Large system
Map local variation before standardizing across sites.

Limited technology
Use a shared checklist and timestamp log first.

LET'S COMPARE NOTES

Where does your gift process wait? What approval would you test removing first?

jordan.lee@example.org | linkedin.com/in/sample | Poster #P -101

SAMPLE QR