

Email Subject: FORGE Forward 2007 Conference Intensives Request for Proposals

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT INFORMATION: FORGE FORWARD 2007 Conference  
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Calling all trainers and organizers on transgender/SOFFA (Significant Others, Friends, Family, and Allies) topics: the request for proposals for FORGE Forward 2007 Conference Intensives has been issued, and is available at <http://www.forge-forward.org/conference/intensives/basicinfo.php>. The proposal deadline is May 31, 2006.

Beginning on the evening of Friday, March 30 through Sunday, April 1, 2007, FORGE (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression) will sponsor the first national FTM+ (female-to-male spectrum) and SOFFA (Significant Others, Friends, Family, and Allies) conference to be held in the Midwest (Milwaukee, Wisconsin). This Conference, which is expected to draw more than 500 attendees from across the country, will feature seven tracks of programming, nationally-known keynoters and entertainers, and much, much more.

FORGE has set aside Thursday, March 29 and Friday, March 30 for eight full-day Intensives. The Intensives are designed to provide in-depth training on topics of particular interest to FTMs+/SOFFAs, professionals who provide services to individuals in the transgender community, and/or other key audiences. We expect these Intensives to draw a mix of conference attendees and individuals who may only attend one particular Intensive. The Intensives will be advertised both through the general conference publicity and through targeted advertising directed specifically at the audiences most likely to be interested in the particular Intensive topic.

FORGE Forward 2007 is seeking trainers/organizers to design and run Intensives on the following four topics:

- HIV and safer sex for transfolk and/or providers
- Sexual violence healing for the trans/SOFFA community
- Intensive for service providers and therapists
- Exploring the expansiveness of femme

In addition, we have four slots open for presenter-generated Intensive topics. This Request for Proposals (RFP) is designed to be used by those who wish to organize an Intensive on either one of the pre-designated topics or a topic chosen by the applicant.

Applicants are asked to design a day that includes a mixture of presentations, small-group exercises, discussions, and other activities designed to present the material in a variety of engaging ways. Intensives can be presented by one person or by a group of individuals presenting in tandem or sequentially.

Although there are no formal judging criteria, we are looking for Intensive proposals that:

- Are likely to be of interest to a range of participants based on the topic, the credentials of the presenter/s, the style of presentation/s to be used, and any other unique features we can advertise to possible attendees.
- Show the presenter/s have experience designing and conducting engaging workshops on the topic and can sustain attendees' interest for a full day.
- Honor the diversity of the trans/SOFFA community (through the diversity of the presenters themselves, specific diversity discussions, diverse case studies, or through other means).
- Indicate the presenter/s are willing and able to work with FORGE to reach potential audiences and pursue funding possibilities.

To propose an Intensive, please address the 13 questions listed at: <http://www.forge-forward.org/conference/intensives/rfp.php>. Please submit your proposal by email ([intensives@forge-forward.org](mailto:intensives@forge-forward.org)) or mail (FORGE, P.O. Box 1272 , Milwaukee , WI 53201 ) by May 31, 2006. (Note that if you mail a proposal, it would be helpful to tell us by email or phone - 414-559-2123 - that you have done so.) We will notify applicants whether their Intensive was selected by June 15, 2006.

The FORGE Forward 2007 Conference's philosophy is inclusion-focused. We value individuality, diversity, and complexity -- believing that together, all of us make a stronger, more supportive and vibrant community.

For more information, contact  
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