

# WIPCE Conference Host Selection Criteria and Procedures

The WIPCE International Council has considered and ratified the following selection criteria to ensure the WIPCE Conference is conducted and aligned to the Vision and Mission Statement as confirmed below:

## **Vision Statement**

*The World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education (WIPCE) celebrates the sharing, promoting of, and advocacy for Indigenous-based initiatives through holistic educational efforts to maintain our unique cultures and enhance our world views and life ways.*

*"The Answers Are Within Us.*

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of WIPCE is to design, organize and host an international conference every three years to provide a venue for Indigenous communities and educators to share our knowledge, resources and educational frameworks. Further, we assert our rights and freedoms to create and maintain our own educational systems and institutions, and nurture friendships and networks to strengthen the educational journey and well-being of Indigenous peoples' globally.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

The WIPCE movement began in 1987 when its Founder, Dr Verna Kirkness organized a conference for Indigenous educators to convene in a traditional longhouse in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada to discuss and share their experiences, knowledge, hopes and dreams for their native communities. Indigenous educators and leaders have continued to meet every three years in a different location around the world since then, except for a brief period during the COVID period. The triennial WIPCE gatherings are led by Indigenous people, for Indigenous people from around the world to share and learn from each other for our collective benefit. WIPCE honors those who have successfully achieved higher education degrees in the Western academy as well as traditional knowledge holders in our communities who maintain our histories and culture and pass them to future generations. WIPCE Conferences have been held in Vancouver B.C, Turangawaewae Aotearoa, Wollongong Australia, Albuquerque New Mexico, Hilo Hawai'i, Calgary Canada, Kirikiriroa Aotearoa, Melbourne Australia, Cusco Peru, Honolulu Hawai'i, Toronto Canada, Adelaide Australia and will be held in Tamaki

Makaurau Auckland Aotearoa in 2025. In 2008, the WIPCE International Council was formed by former conference organizers to ensure the integrity and sustainability of the WIPCE movement. The WIPCE International Council is responsible for the bid process and will make the selection for future WIPCE locations. WIPCE International Council will continue to work with the WIPCE Host Committee to ensure the highest quality experience for WIPCE participants.

## 2. WIPCE CONFERENCE FEATURES

There are certain traditions which are expected to continue and must be included in a bid to host a WIPCE Conference. They include:

- 2.1. The Host organizing committee must be an educational institution or community organization whose focus is indigenous knowledge and education. A successful bid will demonstrate community and institutional support, co-sponsorship and significant Indigenous leadership.
- 2.2. WIPCE Conferences must include the following:
  - Opening Ceremony and Welcome by native tribes, landowners or culture groups, including gift-giving ceremonies
  - Parade of Nations
  - Programs for community and conference elders, including a lounge or hospitality area
  - Programs for youth, including a gathering space, activities
  - Presentations, panels, keynotes which include representation from Indigenous nations attending as well as the host country
  - Specific programming for the Coolangatta Statement on Indigenous Education
  - Meals, either included in the cost or available for purchase at reasonable prices
  - WIPCE Village and Marketplace for attendees to gather and network
  - Cultural presentations
  - Excursion visits to cultural and historic sites in the area
  - Formal Closing Ceremonies
  - WIPCE International Council Fee - \$20US must be included in the cost of each registration. This fee is due to the WIPCE International Council within 90 days following the conference.
  - WIPCE International Council Representation - The Host Committee must include travel costs for three members of the WIPCE International Council to visit and meet with organizers and committees, particularly the academic committee and logistics committee members. There should be at least two meetings - one in the first year to formally transfer the WIPCE event to the host committee and the second approximately one year in advance of the event.
  - Website - WIPCE International Council owns a website which will be used to maintain presentations and information from each conference. The Host Committee will work with WIPCE International Council members and staff to ensure the longevity of the presentations and information for future WIPCE

Conferences. The front page of the website will be dedicated to the WIPCE 2028 Conference.

- WIFI Access - It is important that Wifi access be available for conference participants. A Knowledge Cafe or similar room with computer access is essential during the conference.

3. Conference Costs: Every effort should be made to keep the cost of participation as reasonable as possible. WIPCE conferences are not a “for profit” venture. While every effort must be made to cover the costs of the conference, organizing committees should not seek to unduly make a profit in the process of hosting a WIPCE Conference.

Wherever possible, consideration should be given to ensure that elders, students and local community members can participate.

4. WIPCE Experience: WIPCE Conferences are a unique experience. It is highly recommended that a group that intends to bid to host a WIPCE attend a conference to experience its Indigenous nature and foundation. WIPCE is grounded in Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing and being.

### 3. WIPCE CONFERENCE HOST SELECTION CRITERIA

In assessing a bid to host a WIPCE Conference the selection panel will consider the following criteria.

Please answer each question in four sentences or less. Please list the question and your answer right under the question. All bids shall be submitted electronically via email and received by the WIPCE International Council 2 months prior to the WIPCE conference. **The Bid Document should be forwarded to the WIPCE International Secretary, Aroha Te Kanawa via email to [aroha@tekanawa.co.nz](mailto:aroha@tekanawa.co.nz) due by 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025, NZ.**

The WIPCE Council will invite prospective hosts to present at the WIPCE 2025 Conference that will be held in Auckland New Zealand from 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November. The WIPCE International Secretary will notify the key contact person as outlined on the bid of the time and venue to support the bid.

This will likely take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November from 6pm onwards. Notification will be sent to confirm the day, time and venue of presentation.

#### 3.1 CONFERENCE LOGISTICS:

Host Organising Communities/Organizations will consider the following:

- a .Is the proposed host a Indigenous organization? Please provide a description of the organisation and its commitment to Indigenous education, culture, language and ways of knowing and being.
- b. Has the proposed host had previous experience in organising and hosting a large Indigenous conference/event? Please provide details

### 3.2 CONFERENCE COORDINATOR AND CONFERENCE HOST ORGANISING COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

- a. Who will be the lead Coordinator of WIPCE? What kind of experience does this person have in planning an event like WIPCE?
- b. What is the structure of the conference organising committee?

### 3.3 PROPOSED CONFERENCE VENUE

WIPCE Conference attendance ranges from 3,000-5,000 participants.

Please provide a complete description of the proposed venue and conference structure.

- a. What is the proposed venue for the conference? Please provide details of location and description of the proposed venue.
- b. How is the proposed venue conducive to Indigenous knowledge sharing and net-working? Please provide details.
- c. What is the maximum number of delegates the venue can accommodate?
- d. Does the venue provide free Wi-Fi access for the duration of the conference?

### 3.4 PROPOSED CONFERENCE DATES:

What are your proposed dates for the conference? WIPCE Conferences are usually held between August – November every three years.

### 3.5 DESCRIPTION OF ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS AND TRANSPORTATION AVAILABILITY:

- a. Will there be a range of affordable hotels and other accommodation outlets?
- b. Are hotels and other accommodation outlets relatively close to the host venue?
- c. Will transportation options be available to and from the conference venue? Please provide details

### 3.6 COMMUNITY BENEFIT & CULTURAL CELEBRATION

- a. How will hosting WIPCE benefit Indigenous peoples and communities?
- b. Each WIPCE host is responsible for showcasing its own culture and traditions. Please provide a description of the host cultural group.
- c. Will the venue provide opportunities for Indigenous games and talking circles? Please provide a description.
- d. Please describe how Indigenous culture will be embedded in the conference.

### 3.7 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE

- a. What is the anticipated conference registration fee?
- b. Does the registration fee cover meals? Or, will there be substantial meal options available at the conference? Please describe.

### 3.8 START-UP FUNDING

Does the host organisation have plans to raise start-up funding to commence the planning for hosting WIPCE? Please provide details.

### 3.9 IT AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Please describe the technology capabilities and technical support that will be available for conference presenters and attendees.

### 3.10 WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED TO HOST A WIPCE CONFERENCE

In a few paragraphs, please tell us why you would like to host WIPCE.

## 4. CONFIRMATION OF CONFERENCE HOST

The WIPCE International Council will conduct the interviews and determine the next Host Committee for WIPCE 2028. The decision of the next WIPCE location will be announced at the Closing Ceremony. The successful Host Committee representative will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with WIPCE International Council.

## 5. CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on submitting a bid to host WIPCE 2028, please contact Ms. Aroha Te Kanawa, WIPCE International Council Secretary - [aroha@tekanawa.co.nz](mailto:aroha@tekanawa.co.nz)