

Opera Conference 2027

Community-Proposed Session Selection Rubric

Scored Criteria

Reviewers score each criterion from 1 to 4 with 1 being weak and 4 being exceptional.

Criterion	Weight	What reviewers are assessing
1. Actionability	25	Attendees will leave knowing how to do something, not only that it was done.
2. Alignment with 2027 focus areas	15	Clear connection to Audience Development and Product-Market Fit or Public Relevance and Civic Value.
3. Transferability	15	Approach can be adapted by companies of different sizes, ecosystems, and communities.
4. Session design and participation	15	Design fits the chosen purpose and actively engages participants.
5. Clarity of challenge	10	A specific, well-defined, timely problem facing the field.
6. Evidence and candor	10	Claims are supported by data, results, or honest lessons, including what did not work.
7. Perspectives and cross-functional relevance	10	Presenters bring a range of perspectives, and the session serves people across roles.

What Strong Looks Like by Session Purpose

The same criteria apply to every proposal, but strong proposals look somewhat different depending on their purpose.

	Borrow	Discover	Solve
Core promise	Something proven that attendees can adapt.	Something new attendees have not considered.	A shared problem attendees work on together.
Strong proposals	Walk through the specific mechanics: budgets, timelines, staffing, partners, and missteps.	Bring practices or perspectives from outside opera or at the leading edge of the field, and explore how they might translate.	Define a focused problem, give substantial working time, and end with a draft solution, plan, or tool.
Weaker Proposals	A showcase of success without the "how".	Novelty without a clear link to field challenges, or ideas framed as ready-made solutions.	A discussion labeled as a workshop, or a problem too broad to make progress on in the time available.

After individual scoring, the Conference Planning Team will meet to review proposals together. The team then builds the program from the strongest proposals and ensures the program works as a whole.