



Trans USA 2026

National Trans Access Conference Guide

April 10-12 (Milwaukee, WI)



National Trans Access Conference

Session Proposal Submission Guide

Thank you for your interest in contributing to the **National Trans Access Conference**, part of **Trans USA 2026**, taking place April 10–12 in at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

This inaugural conference is centered on the theme **Black Nite Rising**, honoring the legacy of Milwaukee’s historic 1961 Black Nite Uprising while celebrating the first all-Black Trans USA national court under the banner of **Melanin Magic**. Our goal is to create a welcoming and accessible space where transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diverse people can gather for leadership development, skill-building, advocacy, and community healing.

We warmly invite proposals from community members, advocates, organizers, professionals, artists, and educators who are interested in speaking, presenting, or facilitating workshops and panel discussions. We especially encourage proposals from **Black transgender leaders, first-time presenters, and individuals from communities historically underrepresented in conference spaces**.

Submission Instructions

1. To submit your proposal, you must first **register** for the conference here:
<https://transaccess.rsvpify.com> .
2. Answer “**Yes**” when asked if you are interested in speaking, presenting, etc.
3. You’ll then be prompted to **enter the following information** regarding your proposed session.

Tip: There's no need to worry about making every answer sound perfect or overly "academic". We aim to provide a wide variety of programming and perspectives for an audience that will be just as diverse. We are interested in lived experience, real-world skills, and opportunities for genuine growth, strategizing, and connection.

Session Details

When completing the online form, you’ll be prompted to enter the following information:

1. Session Title

Provide a concise and engaging title for your proposed session.

2. Session Description (<250 words)

Describe the topic, purpose, and format of your session. When relevant, please explain how your session relates to the mission of the conference and/or the theme **Black Nite Rising / Melanin Magic**. We understand that not all sessions will align with the theme given the diversity of experiences in our community, and we welcome all types of sessions!

3. Session Format

You'll be asked to select from among the following:

- Workshop / Skills Training
- Panel Discussion
- Lecture / Presentation
- Facilitated Conversation
- Community Dialogue
- Other (please describe)

4. Intended Audience

You'll be asked to select from among the following. You may select more than one.

- Community members new to advocacy
- Experienced organizers or advocates
- Students or emerging leaders
- Professionals or service providers
- General audience

5. Key Takeaways

You'll be asked to list 2–4 key outcomes, goals, or takeaways participants can expect from your session.

6. Presenter Information

You'll be asked to include the following for each presenter:

- Name
- Organization or affiliation (if applicable)
- Short Bio and Headshot (all uploaded in a single file)

7. Session Logistics and Needs

You'll be asked to select/enter the following:

- Preferred session length (45, 60, or 90 minutes)
- A/V Needs (e.g., projector screen)
- Accessibility Needs

While we will do our best to accommodate all requests, please note that not all technical or logistical needs may be possible to meet, as this is the launch year of the conference and resources are limited.

Speaker Participation Note

As this is the launch year of the National Trans Access Conference, our organizing team is working with a small, largely volunteer-led budget. At this time, we are unfortunately unable to guarantee funding for travel, lodging, or speaker honoraria.

We deeply value the time, knowledge, and lived experience that speakers bring to this space, and establishing the resources to support equitable speaker compensation is a priority we are actively working toward as the conference grows.

Should additional or last-minute funding become available, we are committed to compensating speakers as equitably as possible, with priority given to BIPOC, disabled, and other historically marginalized leaders whose voices are essential to this work.

Team TUSA Challenge

New this year, the Team TUSA Challenge is a 1-month peer-to-peer campaign that can **help raise funds for teams to attend Trans USA 2026** and the National Trans Access Conference, or to support those doing so. Proceeds will be used to support the Trans USA Registration Scholarship fund and the continuation of free conference programming.

Teams will receive prizes based on the amount raised, beginning at \$500. At the highest level, teams can earn 2 Founder's Club Memberships and 3 nights of hotel (1 room), essentially covering the bulk of the cost of the entire experience for 2 individuals!

Join the challenge today at <https://tinyurl.com/TUSA26CHALLENGE>

Additional Ways to Participate

In addition to presenting sessions, we welcome individuals who are interested in:

- Volunteering during the conference
 - Participating in panel discussions or assisting with session facilitation
 - Hosting resource tables at the vendor fair
 - Supporting the conference as a sponsor or community partner
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Speaker/Volunteer Incentive

Speakers and individuals who volunteer at least **4 hours** during the conference will receive free general admission to the national pageant.

These individuals are also eligible for **50% off a Founder's Club Pass** (regular \$350), which includes food and extensive open bar time at all five catered events, a full-page advertisement in our national souvenir book, and more.

To view all FC perks, visit our ticket portal or conference registration site below:

Pageant Ticket Portal: <https://tinyurl.com/TUSA26TICKETS>

Conference Registration Form: <https://transaccess.rsvpify.com>

Our Vision

The National Trans Access Conference is rooted in Trans USA's mission to cultivate transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diverse leaders while expanding access to opportunity, education, and community connection. By centering accessibility, leadership development, and community care, we aim to build spaces where our community can gather not only to learn, but also to support one another and imagine new possibilities together.

We look forward to reviewing your proposal and to building this inaugural gathering with you.

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact us at admin@transusanationalpageantry.com with any questions!

Sponsorship and Partnership Information

Community sponsorships and donations are the lifeblood of Trans USA. Our organization is run entirely by a small team of dedicated volunteers, and we are committed to establishing partnerships that lead to collective growth, healing, and empowerment.

Click [here](#) to view our current partnership tiers and opportunities.

Ready to partner today? Visit our partner portal at <https://tinyurl.com/TUSA26SPONSOR>

Focused Partnerships

These partnerships are focused on the conference and specific elements, such as safety, mental health, accessibility, technology, individual session/workshop support, etc.

Click [here](#) to learn more about our 2026 focus areas.

Ready for a focused partnership? Visit our portal at <https://tinyurl.com/TUSA26FOCUSPARTNER>

Tentative Weekend Itinerary

Friday, April 10th

Speaker, Staff, Volunteer Meeting 11:00 AM	Wright 4 th Floor, HMCC
Conference Welcome Center 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM	Wright 4 th Floor, HMCC
Sessions 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM	4 th Floor, HMCC
*Welcome Mixer 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Wright 4 th Floor, HMCC

Saturday, April 11th

*Breakfast Buffet w/ Speaker 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM	Mitchell 4 th Floor, HMCC
Sessions 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM	4 th Floor, HMCC
Vendor and Organization Fair 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM	Wright Ballroom 4 th Floor, HMCC
*Family Dinner 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Wright 4 th Floor, HMCC

Sunday, April 12th

*Awards Brunch with Speaker 10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Crystal Ballroom 5 th Floor, HMCC
Pageant Doors 4:30 PM, Event 5:00 PM	Crystal Ballroom 5 th Floor, HMCC
After Party TBD	Villanas Bar

***These events are free to attend.** Meal and open-bar beverage passes, as well as individual drink tickets, are available for **\$25-\$35** per event.

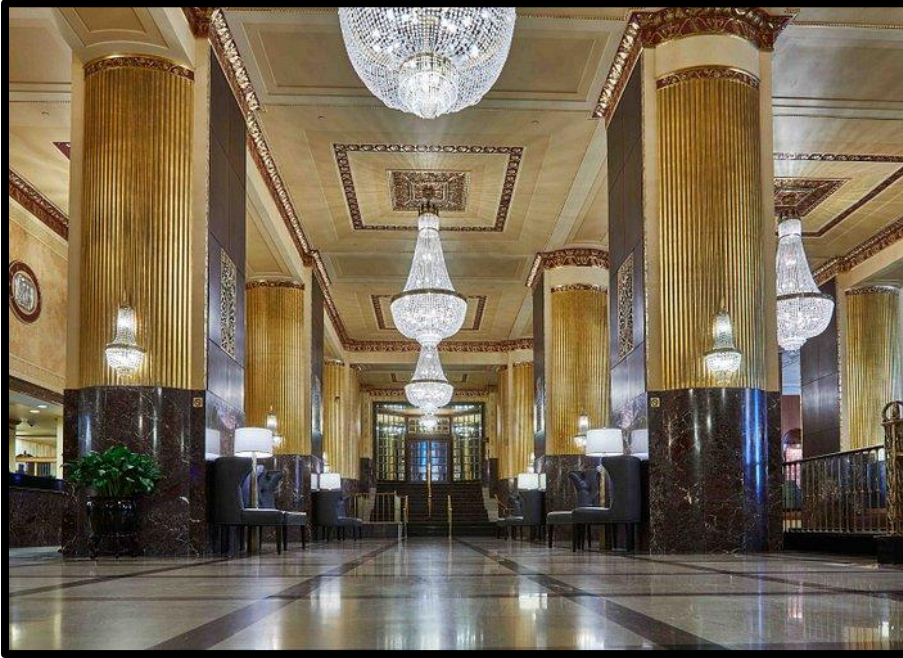
Notes

- Additional session times may be added in the morning/evening. Planning/strategizing meetings for the next conference will also be held on **Monday, April 13, 2026** at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center for those interested in being on the team for the upcoming year.
- As our competition will also be occurring during some of these times (Registration/Interview), adjustments may need to occur based on the needs of our representatives.
- Volunteers may also be needed for staff support/administrative tasks Thursday, April 9, 2026.

Host Hotel Information

Hilton Milwaukee City Center

509 West Wisconsin Ave Milwaukee, WI 53203



Get ready to meet Millie and Sadie!

Group Rate: \$129 per night

- Available Friday, Saturday, Sunday
 - Thursday and Monday can be added. Just let us know at admin@transusanationalpageantry.com!
- To lock in this rate, rooms must be reserved with a card on file by **March 25, 2026**.
- Discounted parking available as well (\$15 per day)

Booking

Please be sure to **reserve** your "contestant room" at the host hotel as soon as possible. **NO PAYMENT IS REQUIRED AT THIS TIME**. Just a card on file that can be changed if needed. **Note**: Even if you reserve your room after the deadline of March 25, **please let us know!** We will be able to move you into our block, though we are unable to guarantee the group rate after this date.

HOTEL LINK: <https://tinyurl.com/TUSA26HOTEL>

Amenities/Location

The Hilton is a 4-star hotel with top-tier amenities, including an on-site dry cleaner, fitness center, 24-hour business center, multiple on-site options for dining and drinks, etc. The competition venue is located within the host hotel.

Appendix A: Content Call for Trans USA 2026 National Souvenir Book

As we gather in Milwaukee for this historic weekend—honoring the legacy of the 1961 Black Nite Uprising and celebrating the first all-Black Trans USA court with Melanin Magic—we invite community members, organizations, businesses, and allies to be part of our official Souvenir Book.

This publication will serve not only as a program for the weekend’s events, but as a lasting record of a powerful moment in trans history. Reflecting the themes of Black Nite Rising and Melanin Magic, we welcome submissions that uplift community voices, celebrate resilience, share knowledge, and highlight the brilliance and diversity of trans and queer communities across the country.

Examples of highly welcome content include, but are not limited to:

- Messages of encouragement for the community
- Informational pages highlighting your non-profit organization, community group, business, or initiative
- Announcements and promotions for major local, regional, or national LGBTQ+ events
- Creative submissions such as artwork, photography, poetry, prose, essays, and other original work
- Educational content including infographics, articles, advocacy primers, thought pieces, etc.
- Advertisements or announcements for research studies serving relevant communities
- Advertisements for services within the pageant or LGBTQ+ community, including hair, jewelry, photography
- Curated lists of trans-focused resources in your state or region, including organizations, support networks, and contact information
- Advertisements for upcoming conferences, gatherings, or educational events, including highlights of key sessions or speakers
- QR codes for donations, discounts, or coupons are also encouraged!

Purchase pages and extra copies at <https://tinyurl.com/TUSA26BOOK> (Use **CLASSCODE** for 50% off)

Design Specifications and Considerations

Ensure that content is appropriate for **all ages and adheres to the following:**

- JPG, PSD, PDF, PNG, or Illustrator format (Templates available)
- Image resolution of at least 300 dpi and CMYK format
- 1/8” (0.125) inch bleed on all sides

Pricing:

- Full Page (8.5 x 11): **\$100**
- Half Page (5.5 x 8.5 or 8.5 x 5.5): **\$50**
- Quarter Page (5.5 x 4.25): **\$25**

Submission:

- Please submit all content and inquiries to admin@transusanationalpageantry.com by **March 30th**.

Appendix: Trans USA 2026 Media Talking Points

General Info:

- Trans USA is a **501(c)(3)** organization focused on developing transgender, nonbinary, and gender-nonconforming leaders across the nation.
- Trans USA 2026 will pair our national pageant with the launch edition of the **National Trans Access Conference**, happening **April 10–12, 2026 at Hilton Milwaukee City Center in Milwaukee, WI**.
- Celebrates the historic reign of the first all-Black national court for Trans USA.

Why Milwaukee?

- Milwaukee is the birthplace of Trans USA.
- The 2026 theme, “**Black Nite Rising**,” honors the **Black Nite Uprising** of 1961 — one of the earliest documented LGBTQ+ uprisings in U.S. history, eight years before the Stonewall Uprising.
 - Note: Also use this space to discuss your individual event theme for Mx., Miss, Mr. if applicable.

Why This Event Matters Right Now

- Across the country, trans-centered events are being canceled or scaled back due to safety concerns and funding challenges.
- This event creates a **safe, affirming national space** for leadership development, connection, and healing.
- At a time of heightened hostility and legislative attacks, visibility, human connection, access to resources, and community infrastructure are critical.
- We are intentionally building a **space where celebration meets strategy and visibility meets action**.

What Makes Trans USA Different?

- Our representatives are active community leaders.
- Every state or regional representative partners with a local nonprofit in the year leading up to the national event.
- We reject the idea that pageantry is superficial. For us, it’s a leadership pipeline and advocacy platform.
 - Note: You can use this area to talk about the work you’ve done personally, the opportunities you’ve had, and the lives you’ve touched.

Other Information/Fundraising

- We are working toward a **\$100,000 fundraising goal**, with \$25,000 as the minimum threshold to operate responsibly.
 - **Visit Milwaukee** and **The Transgender Law Center** have already through their generous last-minute sponsorship and grant funding, respectively, but we still need more support!
- Funds support:
 - **Accessibility and Inclusion**
 - **Security and Safety Planning**
 - **Free Conference Programming for Community Members**
- We are committed to removing cost barriers and institutional gatekeeping that often exclude trans people from national conferences, advancement opportunities, and important community conversations

Call to Action

- We invite large and small businesses, community educators, organizations, and allies to partner with us as vendors, speakers, sponsors, and volunteers. We can’t do this alone!