



Concurrent Lightning Talk Presenter Information Growing School Gardens Summit - 2024

What is a Lightning Talk? A Lightning Talk is a concise, inspiring oral presentation. Lightning Talks last no more than 5 minutes. The best Lightning Talks tell a simple story in an approachable way, ideally without a lot of reading. Slides are completely optional. The best slides for Lightning Talks are simple and visual, with minimal use of text. As you can imagine, there is very little time to discuss details in a Lightning Talk. Instead, Lightning Talks focus on the big picture!

Concurrent Lightning Talk Story Hour Details:

- **Date and Time:** Saturday, March 16, 6pm - Find [your session on Sched](#).
- **Context:** There will be 6 rooms for Lightning Talks, and about 4 Lightning Talk presenters in each room. We will request that you and all attendees in your room remain in the session room for the whole hour, rather than jumping from room to room.
- **Audience:** We expect about 90 audience members for each concurrent Lightning Talk session.
- **Arrival:** Please arrive at your Concurrent Lightning Talk room half an hour early, **at 5:30pm**, to meet with your room MC and other co-presenters.
- **Flow:**
 - 5:30pm - Get set up with MC and other speakers
 - 6:00pm - Lightning Talk Dinner Hour begins, with family-style snacks on table. During this time, folks will hear 4 Lightning Talks, strung together by an MC.
 - 6:30pm on - Buffet Dinner
 - *Optional:* During dinner, the MC could facilitate conversation, for example with table talk cards, pair shares, or the like.
 - *No firm end time; Next on the agenda is 8pm DIY Networking*
- **Session MC:** There will be an MC and a second helper who will be facilitating the session and will set the order of the presentations. Please be prepared to present in any order.
 - The MC will keep the sessions flowing and may provide networking / Q & A opportunities in between the 5-minute talks.
 - The MC will also be providing you with timing cues to help you stay within the five minutes.
- **Audio/Visual Details:**
 - Your presentation will be uploaded on your MC's computer ahead of time.

- We will have a handheld microphone and a remote control to forward slides available.
- There will be tech support available.
- Slides are completely optional. Should you choose to use slides, we recommend they be very visual and have very little text. See a few nice examples of Lightning Talk slides from last year below.

Preparation:

- **Practice, Practice, Practice** to ensure your talk is under 5 minutes and shares a great message.
- **Submit Your Slide Deck:** Please submit your slide deck for your Concurrent Lighting Talk to Erika Karner (ErikaKarner@sprouts.com) **by Friday, February 23, 2024.**
 - Slides are completely optional.
 - If using slides ...
 - Keep them simple, visual and short: the power is in your storytelling. Below are some examples of slides from last year's lightning talks.
 - Email your presentation as a Google Slide Deck or PowerPoint. Your session will then be uploaded to your MC's computer.
 - If sharing a very short video is essential to your presentation, please communicate with Erika to make sure she has everything needed to ensure success. You may have to download and send the video or correctly embed it in Google slides.



Useful Tips for Lightning Talks and Storytelling:

<https://themoth.org/share-your-story/storytelling-tips-tricks> - Storytelling Tips and Tricks from "The Moth"

<https://cisils.web.unc.edu/what-is-a-lightning-talk/> - Lightning Talk Tips and Tricks

A Few of Many Wonderful Lightning Talks from the Last Summit:

[Sasha Solano. Edible Schoolyard New Orleans](#)

[Djamilla Moore. Grow Portland](#)

[Honi Alexander, Galveston's Own Farmers' Market](#)