Bordercrossings Exhibition and Atelier
Call For Proposals to Host

NAREA is pleased to announce a first call for proposals to host Reggio Emilia’s Bordercrossings: Encounters with Living Things/Digital Landscapes exhibition and atelier.

The exhibition is a collection of works by the children and adults of the municipal infant-toddler centers and preschools of Reggio Emilia. It features research of children and adults, their ways of creating meaning and modifying communication, and how the exchange of knowledge is supported through the production of metaphors, utopias, and imaginings for possible futures. It advances insight into the relation between children and the world, producing unexpected visibilities, original theories, and previously unseen contexts that welcome the seemingly paradoxical word pair of digital nature. The exhibition is accompanied by an atelier for investigation and experimentation, appointed with technological tools, instruments, and organic materials. Combining the exhibition with an atelier is an interactive strategy that expresses theory and practice as inseparable and indispensable to the quality of educational experience.

EXHIBITION

• A legal entity in your community signs a contract with NAREA outlining responsibilities.
• Host pays $28,000 usage fee for 5 ½ months, although the display period may be shorter, if needed.
• The minimum size of venue is ~1,500 square feet with electrical service; however, large, aesthetically interesting atriums, galleries, or museum spaces are ideal.
• The exhibition includes multi-media materials, including (6) 24” Smart LED TVs/stands.
• Installation takes approximately 10 hours. Grommeted panels may be hung with fishing line attached to ceiling, or on hooks attached to walls.
• Host community manages unpacking, installing, dismantling, and packing the exhibition.
• Host community covers shipping costs to the subsequent venue, insurance, and security.
• The exhibition will move from place to place, generally in the months of January and July.

ATELIER

• Atriums, galleries, museums, or large open spaces work well for the atelier.
• Host community resources and designs an accompanying atelier, with the guidance and support of Reggio Children and NAREA.
• NAREA will provide a list of materials to purchase or borrow for the atelier (~$10,000).
• Host-purchased technological tools, instruments, and accessory materials remain the property of host.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

• The use of the exhibition/atelier is intended to benefit local and/or regional communities.
• One Bordercrossings exhibit host per year will collaborate with NAREA to offer a NAREA conference.
• To enable small communities to host Bordercrossings, one host per year will not offer a NAREA conference.
• Where applicable, host agrees to collaborate with NAREA and Reggio Children on the planning and organization of a NAREA conference, which will feature the presence of Reggio Emilia representatives. A no-cost or low-cost conference venue with a capacity of at least 250 is ideal.
• NAREA is available to offer recommendations on exhibition installation and atelier design.
• NAREA and Reggio Children organize required professional learning annually for host working groups.
• NAREA offers optional professional learning for the host group prior to receiving the exhibition.
Proposal Guidelines

Briefly Respond to the Following

SUMMARY QUESTION
1. Why does your community wish to host the Bordercrossings exhibition/atelier?

INTRODUCTION
1. What is the legal entity requesting the exhibition? Who will sign the contract?
2. What type (i.e., school, nonprofit) organization is requesting the exhibition?
3. Are funds in place for hosting the exhibition?
4. Please list 1st/2nd/3rd choice, including preference for February–July or August–January.
   » 2025–2026 | 2026–2027 | 2027–2028 | 2028–2029 | 2029–2030

COLLABORATION
1. Describe the presence of existing community collaboration between educators, schools, organizations, and businesses that will support this hosting project.
2. What is the composition of the working group managing responsibilities for hosting the exhibition?
3. Describe schools in your community that might serve as a context for professional development initiatives related to the exhibition, including brief background information about the school(s).

VENUE
1. List the venue(s) being considered and the reasons why.
2. What is the square footage of the spaces being considered?
3. What on-site resources are available? Are there costs associated with on-site resources?
4. What would be the recommended venue for the NAREA conference?

USE
1. How do you plan to use the exhibition and atelier in your community?

CONFERENCE
1. Would your community host a NAREA conference?
2. How could the presence of Reggio Emilia representatives contribute to your community?

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SELECTION AS HOST
1. Preference to communities with collaborative working groups from multiple, local organizations.
2. Preference to communities with histories of innovative initiatives, interest in Reggio Emilia's education project, previous accomplishments, and financial capacity.
3. Preference to communities affording geographic diversity for the exhibit’s journey.

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL PROPOSALS TO NAREA@REGGIOALLIANCE.ORG