

Announcements

ISLRR is now accepting bids for *Vision 2027 – The 16th International Conference on Low Vision Research & Rehabilitation*

BID DEADLINE: March 31st 2025

BIDDING INFORMATION

The Organizers

The International Conference on Low Vision Research & Rehabilitation is entrusted only to:

A) An agency or consortium thereof that provide services to visually impaired people

AND/OR

B) An academic program (or a group of programs) that prepare professionals to work with visually impaired people (ie., Dept. of Ophthalmology, Optometry, Rehabilitation, Education, etc.)

The organizers will be responsible for engaging and interacting with a professional conference organizer (PCO) and for the scientific content and overall execution of the conference. Any contracts relating to conference organization will be signed between the PCO and the local organizing committee (LOC).

ISLRR will provide support by identifying potential sponsors and advertising the conference to ISLRR members. ISLRR will also provide funding for 6-10 attendees through a scholarship program. ISLRR may provide a seed funding loan of up to USD\$20,000 to help cover early stage costs. Any loan would also involve a profit sharing agreement. Any loan arrangements will be made directly with the LOC.

It is important to emphasize the need for the local organizers to be very knowledgeable about Low Vision – from both a research and rehabilitation perspective for this type of conference. The local organizers will need to contact experts in the field to perform various tasks such as serve on the International Scientific Committee, review abstract submissions, moderate sessions, etc. Once these individuals are identified, ISLRR will offer assistance when required but the responsibility of organizing the program remains with the local team.

The Bid Book

Typically, the final bid should include:

Letters of invitation and support: These letters can be from dignitaries and politicians at various levels of government, local agencies that provide services not only for visually impaired people but which can state the importance of having such a conference in the bidding city, local academic programs that express an awareness of the conference & their opinion of its usefulness, etc.

Congress organization: Begin by identifying the team. The ISLRR board will need to know the names of those making up the Local Organizing Committee – especially the president or co-presidents who will take overall responsibility for the conference. The bid would also need to include the name(s) of the Chair(s) of the International Scientific Committee (ISC). The Chair(s) should, by the time of bid submission, have a preliminary list of people (international) who have agreed to serve on the ISC.

Proposed Scientific Program: By the final bid submission, a conference theme should be chosen and an approximate idea of the program structure should be presented. If possible, one or two keynote speakers may be proposed. It would be good to include a half-day of visits to local agencies, schools, etc. A venue for an evening social event should also be included.

Preliminary Budget: Assumes an attendance of 500 people; the bid should include a developed projection using that number to include: total revenue (registration + exhibits + sponsorships/grants + miscellaneous income). Similarly, the bid would include a similar projection for expenses (convention center, equipment, printing, postage, promotional expenses, keynote speaker costs, etc). Insurance for disruptions or cancellation of the conference should be included. The budget should include a reduced registration fee for ISLRR members. It is possible the conference attendance may exceed 500 and increase to 1000. A contingency plan for increased attendance should be included.

Note: The successful local organizing committee will be required to develop a detailed budget and submit it to the ISLRR Board for approval at least nine months before the conference. The detailed budget should include all anticipated income and expenses, including the allocation of any seed funding provided by ISLRR.

Convention Center: This section would include details about where the conference would be held including floor plan, capacity, etc. A list of major events that have taken place at the convention center over the past few years can be included.

Accommodations: Information about hotel facilities, preferably with a reasonable price range would be included in this section.

Destination: Justification of the bidding city as a desired destination. This should include a listing/description of local attractions that may be of interest to the participants outside the context of the conference. Additionally, points of interest further afield should be described. Often, conference attendees who travel halfway around the world to attend a meeting prefer to arrive a week early or extend their stay beyond the ending of the conference to enjoy discovering a new city/country. Information on visa requirements for international travellers can be included.

To submit a bid, request a meeting or for further information please contact president@islrr.org