CREATIVE NOMAD

We have space for you!

Projector Guide for Renters

Creative Nomad Studios | Updated October 19, 2026

Your projector rental covers the projector and the items listed in this guide only. If you think you may not be able to manage the technology yourself, speak to your event contact (the person who has been helping you with your booking, currently Steph or Jen) about a quote for a tech person to run your sound and projection.

What you're working with

Our projector is an Epson Pro EX7260. The projector and screen are already set up and aligned, so all you do is plug in your laptop with the HDMI cable we provide. Please don't move or bump the projector. Its skew setting is matched to the screen from its exact position, and if it moves the picture will no longer line up. Build your slides in 16:9 widescreen and they will fill the screen width.

Feature	What it means for you
Native resolution: 1280 × 800	Your laptop's display will be scaled to this. Very high-resolution images won't look sharper than this.
Native shape: 16:10 (also displays 16:9 and 4:3)	16:9 slides fill the width with a thin band top and bottom. 4:3 slides leave wide bars at the sides.
Brightness: 3,600 lumens	Bright enough for a room with some light, but dimming the lights near the screen always improves contrast.
Built-in speaker: 2 W mono	Quiet and tinny, and not suitable for an audience. See Sound below.

Connecting your device

Connect by HDMI cable only. It is the one connection we support, because it is the one that works reliably every time.

What we provide

- One HDMI cable
- One USB-C to HDMI adapter, for Mac laptops and other laptops with a USB-C port

Which laptops are covered

Your laptop has	What to do
A full-size HDMI port	Plug our HDMI cable straight in.
USB-C only (most Macs from 2016 on, many newer Windows laptops)	Use our USB-C adapter, then plug the HDMI cable into it.
Mini DisplayPort or Thunderbolt 2 (older Macs)	Bring your own adapter to HDMI. Ours won't fit.

Not every USB-C port carries video. If our adapter gives no picture, try another USB-C port on your laptop.

Bring your charger. Running a presentation drains a battery fast, and a laptop that goes to sleep or low-power mode mid-event will drop the signal.

Before your event

Do a test run on the actual projector before guests arrive. Most problems take two minutes to fix in an empty room and twenty in front of an audience.

- Tell us when you book if your presentation has sound
- Save your presentation on the laptop itself, not only in the cloud or a shared link
- Download any videos into the presentation or onto the laptop
- Bring your laptop charger and any adapter your laptop needs (see above)
- Turn off notifications, screen savers and sleep settings
- Close email, chat and other apps you don't want on the big screen
- Click through every slide on the projector, including videos and sound
- Bring a backup copy on a USB stick or a second device

Formatting your slides and slideshows

Use 16:9 widescreen, large text and strong contrast. A projector shows less detail and weaker colour than your laptop screen, so design for the back row.

Slide size

- Set slides to 16:9 widescreen. This is the default in current PowerPoint, Keynote, Google Slides and Canva.
- Avoid 4:3 ("standard") unless your deck already uses it. It works, but leaves black bars at the sides.
- Keep important text and faces away from the very edges of each slide.

Text

- Body text 24 pt or larger; titles 36 pt or larger.
- Choose plain, solid fonts. Thin, script and light-weight fonts fade out when projected.
- Keep to a few lines per slide. If people need to read a paragraph, give it to them as a handout.

Colour and contrast

- Dark text on a light background, or white text on a dark background. Both work; low contrast does not.

- Avoid pale grey text, yellow on white, and red on green or blue.
- Dark or moody photos look darker on a projector. Brighten them slightly before you use them.
- Text placed over a busy photo needs a solid or semi-solid box behind it.

Photos and photo slideshows (weddings, celebrations, memorials)

- Bring your slideshow in one of two forms, saved on your laptop: a single folder of photos only (no videos or other files), or a single slideshow already made into a video file that can play on a loop.
- Don't mix photos and videos in one folder. In a mixed folder the photos play until they reach the first video, and then the slideshow stops.
- Landscape photos fill the screen. Portrait (vertical) photos show with wide black bars at the sides.
- Photos of about 1920 pixels wide are plenty. Larger files only slow the slideshow down.
- Watch the whole slideshow through once on our projector before the event.

Video

- Bring the source video file on your laptop. This always works best. Putting a backup copy on YouTube is a great idea, since it can be played from there if needed.
- MP4 is the safest file type for both Mac and Windows.
- Play each video once during your test run to confirm picture and sound.

Sound

If your presentation or slideshow has any sound (video, music or narration), tell us when you book. We'll set up the room sound system, and you connect your laptop to it by Bluetooth.

- If you don't tell us, sound only plays through the projector's built-in speaker (2 W mono), which is quiet and tinny. Your guests won't be able to hear or understand it.
- During your test run, pair your laptop with the room system and play a clip to check the volume.
- If you hear nothing, check that your laptop's sound output is set to the room system and that it isn't muted.

Troubleshooting

Most problems are fixed by reseating the cable or changing one display setting on your laptop.

Problem	Try this
"No signal" on screen	Unplug and firmly reconnect the HDMI cable at both ends, and the adapter if you use one. Press Source Search on the projector remote. Wake your laptop.
Still no picture on a USB-C laptop	Try a different USB-C port. Not every port carries video.
Screen is black but the projector is on	Press A/V Mute on the remote. It may have been switched on.
You see your desktop but not the slideshow	Your laptop is set to "extend". Either drag the slideshow window onto the projector, or switch to mirroring (below).

Problem	Try this
You want the audience and your laptop to show the same thing	Mac: System Settings > Displays, then choose Mirror. Windows: press Windows key + P, then choose Duplicate.
You want speaker notes on your laptop only	Use “extend” (Windows key + P > Extend; on a Mac, turn mirroring off), then start PowerPoint or Keynote in Presenter View.
Picture is cut off or fuzzy	Fuzzy: turn the focus ring on the projector until the image is sharp. It sits beside the zoom ring; leave the zoom ring alone, as it changes the picture size set to fit the screen. Cut off: in your display settings, set the projector resolution to 1280 × 800, or let the laptop choose its recommended setting.
Picture looks crooked or doesn’t fit the screen	If the projector has been bumped or moved, gently move it back until the picture lines up with the screen. Don’t change its settings; they are preset to match the screen.
No sound	See Sound above.

What we do and don’t support

We set up the system for you to connect directly by HDMI. It is the most reliable, trouble-free connection, and we test it before you arrive to make sure it is working.

Be prepared to troubleshoot your own technology. Our on-site staff (at staffed events) can’t troubleshoot it for you.

If you’d like a tech person to manage your sound and projection, let your event contact know and they can give you a quote.

We don’t support

- Wireless connections. No screen mirroring, AirPlay, Chromecast, Epson’s phone app or on-screen QR code. Wireless drops and lags; HDMI doesn’t.
- Other cable types. The projector has older inputs (such as VGA), but we don’t provide cables for them or support them.
- A streamed video as your only copy. Play from the source file on your laptop, with YouTube as your backup.
- Running the presentation from a phone. Use a laptop.
- Adapters other than our USB-C to HDMI.

Help on the day

If the projector or our HDMI connection stops working, contact CNS right away. For your own laptop, files or settings, the Troubleshooting section above covers the most common fixes.

- Staffed event: speak to a CNS staff member on site.
- Unstaffed rental: text 705-481-0176.