

Ignite Healing | Rewrite the Narrative | Create Culture Change

## **Create Culture Change: Sponsorship as Mutual Aid**

We have been taught to frame the idea of sponsorship as a financial exchange. For SACReD, sponsorship of our work, particularly the SACReD Gathering, is about building collaborative, responsive relationships with those committed to countering the harm of Christian Nationalism and building a new world. We hope that even our approach to fundraising is transformational. **We want to share more about our theory of sponsorship and invite you into mutual relationship with SACReD, by sponsoring the** <u>SACReD Gathering, May 7-9, 2024</u>.

One thing we know unequivocally in our movements is that we are the ones we have been waiting for and that collaboration and community care + support are necessary for us to thrive. Financial sponsorship of this work is material, spiritual, and relational support of the people and communities working to (re)claim faithfulness as central to their commitment to building Reproductive Justice.

Certainly, sponsorship has concrete benefits:

- tickets to the SACReD Gathering,
- your organization's logo on printed and digital materials,
- opportunities to promote your work and recruit folks at the Gathering. (Gathering Sponsors will receive the first invitation to table at the conference.)

And sponsorship of the SACReD Gathering allows us to:

- Provide breakfast and lunch for each day of the gathering
- Bring stellar speakers and healers as speakers and leaders
- Center community-care and accessibility resources like Spirit Space, child-care, and COVID-prevention supplies
- Offer discounted and scholarship rates

Beyond the material, sponsorship offers an opportunity to deepen our collective capacity for sharing the load. SACReD prioritizes relational organizing and considers our sponsorships akin to mutual aid, more than the typical charity models often seen in the non-profit sector. When you or your organization commits to supporting SACReD, we are deepening our relational roots to grow powerful, transformational work together.

There is a joke amongst us of multiple marginalities that we just keep passing the same \$5 between each other as part of our commitment to mutual care. While it can be a somber reality to face, it also shows our testament to our collective liberation and knowing that the current systems that are in place will not save nor support us.

No single individual, community, or organization has the capacity to hold all of the work necessary to shift the culture around religion and reproductive access. We are not in competition, as Gwendolyn Brooks reminds us, "we are each other's magnitude and bond." The more we can amplify each other's work the more we demonstrate that we believe in the power of collaboration as a key to building transformation.

The long history of mutual aid reminds us that there are no saviors and that sharing our resources makes our whole collective stronger and more impactful. We know that large, historically white-led organizations are funded at higher levels, more consistently, and with more flexibility on how those funds are used. We also know that those funding patterns have not served those most impacted by oppression and violence, and have not built transformational culture change.

We know that our sponsors will run the gamut, from organizations and individuals who are giving from thin budgets, to those who are giving from financial abundance. Now is the time for us to be bold, creative, and courageous. Specifically, now is the time for those with more resources to divert those resources to support visionary and unprecedented work.

Building new worlds requires that we tap deep into our imagination, taking risks on new ways of being and doing. When we invite you to sponsor the SACReD Gathering, we invite you into the activation of the Divine Imagination within us so that we can learn to be co-conspirators together. **Will you become a sponsor and work to co-create the Beloved Community we know is possible?** 

Sponsorships can be individual, or through your organization or congregation. There are two ways to sponsor through direct donation (under \$500) or through a Community or Corporate sponsorship (\$500-\$20,000+).

## Can we count on you to build with us?

All donations to SACReD between February 14-May 31 will be recorded as contributions to the SACReD Gathering. All donations under \$500 can be made directly through <u>our donation page</u>.

If you would like to support the Gathering at the Community or Corporate Sponsorship Levels, please reach out to Co-Director of Organizational Development, Latishia James: <u>latishia@sacreddignity.org</u>. Reaching out directly ensures that you get access to all Sponsorship benefits.