

Grounded Giving Circle - Solidarity Circle Description

The Grounded Giving Circle is a 4-month learning cohort to help Solidaire members ground their giving through political education, personal reflection and growth, and a community of support. Whether you feel new to social justice giving, or you're looking to recommit and refocus your intentions, this circle is for anyone who wants to take a fresh look at their giving practices, personal giving values, and the political frameworks that undergird social justice philanthropy.

The Grounded Giving Circle is co-led by Mijo Lee and Rye Young, two social justice philanthropy professionals who have collaborated on this Grounded Giving curriculum for the last three years. The work started as an idea that three donors (including two Solidaire board members, Beth and Sam Jacobs) hatched up as COVID-19 was creating an economic crisis for so many while high-net-wealth folks were earning tremendous sums in the stock market. Many newer donors were aware of the injustice of this growing gap but didn't know how to begin to address it. Many more active donors were already giving responsively to social justice organizations that aligned with their values, but didn't have the analysis to deeply understand or explain why they were funding what they were funding.

In this context we developed a curriculum focused on an analysis of inequity and its root causes, and a deep understanding of the strategies communities use to solve these problems. In a time when many of us feel like we're pulled from one crisis to another, we need to find internal and external grounding to commit and stick to a long-term vision for change. Throughout the program, you'll receive political education trainings, small group spaces led by your peers, and individualized support from Mijo and Rye. Topics will include:

- Root causes of economic inequity
- Why and how to fund organizing and power-building, and how to align donor practices with community strategies
- Developing self awareness of our patterns and potential as donors
- What is a giving plan and how to use one to be a more grounded donor

Timeline:

This circle will meet for ten sessions total - Thursdays, 12:30-2 PT / 3:30-5 ET, . Seven of the sessions will be full group sessions led by Mijo & Rye, three of the sessions will be peer-to-peer small group conversations. The circle meets on the following dates:

- February 1 - 12:30-2 PT / 3:30-5 ET
- February 8 - 12:30-2 PT / 3:30-5 ET
- February 22 - 12:30-2 PT / 3:30-5 ET
- March 7 - 12:30-2 PT / 3:30-5 ET
- March 21 - 12:30-2 PT / 3:30-5 ET
- April 4th - 12:30-2 PT / 3:30-5 ET
- April 18th - 12:30-2 PT / 3:30-5 ET

- May 2nd - 12:30-2 PT / 3:30-5 ET
- May 16th - 12:30-2 PT / 3:30-5 ET
- May 30th - 12:30-2 PT / 3:30-5 ET

Participants are expected to sign up for the full slate of sessions (though it's okay if you have to miss 1 or 2 session), as we're using a cohort model and want to build consistency with each other. There is no cost for joining this circle for Solidaire members.

Facilitator Bios:

Mijo Lee

Mijo (pronounced "Mee-Joe") Lee is a Solidaire member and donor organizer with a deep commitment to movement building.

As executive director of the [Willow Fund](#), Mijo advises and manages Solidaire member Rachel Gelman's giving. As a [philanthropic consultant](#), she works with individual donors, giving circles, small family foundations, and public foundations on giving strategy, research, and curriculum development and facilitation for funder and donor education. Previously, Mijo spent 9 years in leadership of Social Justice Fund NW, which funds grassroots community organizing in the Northwest. Mijo is also proud to serve on the advisory council of the Emergent Fund, which funds at the intersection of rapid response and movement building.



Mijo is a mixed race Korean, queer, middle-class, single mom. She lives in Seattle, where she enjoys baking, speculative fiction, learning Korean, and bad but passionate karaoke.

Rye Young



Rye Young is the Director of the Sprocket Foundation and the head of Rye Young Consulting, LLC. Rye Young Consulting works with individual donors and philanthropic institutions to align their values with their practices and to invest boldly and strategically in social justice movements. Rye was immersed in social justice philanthropy during his ten years at Third Wave Fund (formerly Third Wave Foundation) where he started as an intern in 2008 and eventually served as its Executive Director from 2014-2018. Under his leadership, Third Wave Fund bounced back from the brink of closure to what it is today: a thriving and sustainable institution that resources and supports feminist, queer, and trans organizations led by young people of color, as well as the only youth-led fund in the U.S. Rye serves on the boards of Funders for LGBTQ Issues,

the Freeman Foundation, and Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity (URGE). He got his start in political organizing in New York City with Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ). Rye received his B.A. from Bard College with a degree in Arabic Language, Culture, and Literature and attended the Institute of Culinary Education.