

Movement, Money, and Spirit - Solidarity Circle Description

Many of us are called to the work of redistributing resources and funding movements for social justice by love. For some of us the spiritual tradition we come from calls on us to give and to repair the world. For others a sense of purpose may stem from a needed ancestral reckoning. Yet conversations about spirit, faith, ancestors and our relationship to the earth itself are not always centered in philanthropy or social justice circles.

The movements we seek to flank are themselves deeply sacred, opening towards post-capitalist and post-colonial futures. Over the past few years some of this future hunger has been translated within philanthropy to a call for healing justice. Healing justice then became a category for grant-making, sometimes viewed as needed mostly by people directly impacted by historical injustice. We feel the call for healing justice is much bigger and concerns all of us. As we enter an era of systems collapse, we need all our resources, spiritual, intellectual and material.

We are guided by questions:

- How do we meet the social movements we are in relationship with on the sacred ground that inspires and informs their work?
- How can we fortify our own spiritual foundations to stand in our power, dignity, and grace as donors and activists seeking right-relationship to the earth and to one another?

In this circle we will try to do two things:

1. Make visible the water we swim in. IE the assumptions, patterns of thinking, and behaviors that we have all internalized from capitalism and colonialism with particular attention to scarcity, competition, control, separation and the dominance of "rational" thinking as the only acceptable means for understanding the world.
2. Create space to practice new possibilities and new (old) ways of being and knowing. Reminding us that we were all once indigenous to some place. Recalling our ancestors' journeys and how they have shaped us. Relearning and practicing abundance, mutuality, trust, forgiveness, connection/reconnection to the earth and welcoming spirit into our work and lives.

During our meetings we'll be in large and small group conversation, use short writing prompts, way-finding readings, art-making, connection with the natural world, and ritual and prayer (as personally defined by each participant). This is a non-denominational space, influenced by multiple spiritual traditions, and especially influenced by Indigenous ways of knowing. We begin by recognizing that each of us already has a relationship to the sacred, no matter how we define that and no matter how alive or latent it is within us.

Who is this circle for?

Individual & Institutional members of Solidaire open to:

1. Listen to the profound calling of these changing times
2. Speak to how our own transformation can help us be wiser stewards of resources.
3. Reimagine how money is held, shared, and flows.
4. Share how your spiritual tradition shapes your giving or stewardship of resources.
5. Explore a spiritual path even if you have no particular faith
6. Support the sacred—which includes but is not limited to—support for wisdom carriers and healers, those engaged in sacred land return, repair and reparation of past harm, water protection and care for the earth.
7. Feel a deeper sense of joy, possibility and connection in all our work.

Timeline:

Wed afternoon from 1ET - 3ET beginning on January 17th - 8 sessions total (January 17, Feb 7, Feb 28, March 20th, April 10th, May 1, May 22, June 12).

Facilitator Bios:

Alexie Torres' Bio:

My name means “Defender of Humankind” and that has been my destiny path. I was raised in the South Bronx during one of the darkest times in NYC’s history, but I longed for others to see beyond that story to the beauty and sanctity of my community. In 1994, I founded Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice where I organized with young people and community residents on issues from policing, to education and environmental justice. A cornerstone of my work was the reclamation of the Bronx River which was highly industrialized and inaccessible to my community. I co-founded the Bronx River Alliance, which today continues the work of protecting the river. I served the Obama administration as an appointee to the President’s Advisory Council for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships and was also a 2014 Harvard University Loeb Fellow. I have spent the last decade in philanthropy serving as Executive Director of various family foundations. I believe that the work of social justice is a holy calling and have recently launched The Soul of the Movement Fund to support the work of healers and wisdom carriers in social movements. This vision to defend what is sacred in the struggle for justice is what led me to [Jubilee Gift](#) where I serve as Co-Creator and Managing Director. Jubilee Gift joins together with wealth holders, entrepreneurs, and wisdom keepers, to break from the economic and financial models we have known, to transmute financial capital into a



flow that enables everyone's gifts, and to build the spiritual ballast we are going to need as the world radically changes shape.

Laura Flynn Bio:



I am a writer, teacher and resource mobilizer living in Minneapolis with my husband and 15-year old twins. I grew up in San Francisco, where during the course of my life my father amassed a sizable real estate fortune. As a young person I wanted nothing to do with that. I was drawn into movements of international solidarity in opposition to US imperialism. I lived and worked in Haiti from 1994-2000, deeply embedded in Haiti's movement for democracy and dignity, rooted in the Theology of Liberation. I was witness to some very intense history. These experiences perhaps more than any other shape my outlook on the world. After leaving Haiti I stepped back from movement work and came to Minnesota to pursue an MFA in creative writing. I published a

book, *Swallow the Ocean*, about my childhood, and spent 10 years teaching in the MFA creative writing program at Hamline University. I joined the Solidaire Network in 2016, and it was in this community that I learned to leverage the wealth and relationships I have to move money to social movements and grassroots power-building organizations in the United States. I'm on the board of the Solidaire Network and helped found the Movement Voter Project where I worked for seven years. I am currently a strategic advisor to a project called Win the Midwest, which seeks to build multi-racial governing coalitions across the Midwest.

Over the past 3 years, I've been participating in a conversation with Jubilee Gift, which is how Alexie and I connected. That conversation helped me integrate what felt like divergent threads in my life. I've been remembering the way that justice and spirit are deeply entwined. I've been reflecting about how historically the most powerful social movements we've known have been rooted in a spiritual tradition. I am conscious of the fact that no amount of money or brilliant strategic planning will be enough in the face of the multiple crises we are in. In times of deep burnout and despair I have refilled my own well through beloved community, prayers at the river, listening at the base of trees, asking the earth for help. I'm excited and a little nervous to bring my full self to this circle.

Circle Advisor:

Malachi Garza

Malachi (he/they/them) is currently the Strategy & Innovation Director at Solidaire. In this role, Malachi works to implement many aspects of our 2023-2033 strategic direction including growing and strengthening Solidaire Action, sharpening our narrative change work, deepening sector-wide collaborations and furthering our vision for building progressive power. Before coming to Solidaire, Malachi served as the Senior Strategist and National Network Director at the W. Haywood Burns Institute building community-based alternatives to juvenile justice systems across the United States. Malachi serves on the boards of SONG Power, Auburn Theological Seminary, and GLSEN. Malachi is a Rosenberg Foundation Leading Edge Fellow and a founder of the widely acclaimed Brown Boi Project. Malachi's work in popular education, community organizing, and institutions spans over 20 years.

