

# **Women & Girls of Color Fund Community Feedback**



*Several Women and Girls of Color Fund grantees collected feedback directly from their community members, staff, and volunteers. The following community members feedback highlight how grantee organizations led by women and non-binary leaders of color are serving their communities in unique, liberatory ways.*

**Community members shared three words that describe how Women and Girls of Color Fund grantee organizations have impacted them.**





**Community members shared images that represented grantees and shared feedback on what felt different about working with the grantee organization compared to other similar organizations and how they have supported their community in unique ways.**



**"What feels different is how clear it is that The Learning Council really does care about giving back to the community. So many informative workshops, community meals, markets – bringing the community together."**



**"I felt with SRTFE I had more of a voice and choice in my community and felt like I had more opportunities compared to [other] opportunities. They allow us to acknowledge those in our community who don't get the recognition they deserve and allow the community to connect with one another on different levels."**



**"They are really rooted in the heart and have an immense amount of care for our community and especially for minority groups/individuals. They bring diverse and inclusive educational opportunities to a rural/conservative community. They bring a farmers market to the community impacting the local economy, making healthy foods accessible to everyone and connecting people with farmers. They offer nourishing meals by donation which makes good food accessible to low-income people/families."**



**"Open to suggestions, women in leadership, all welcome. Access to food, community building, advocacy, youth empowerment, education for everyone."**



**"AiS is incredibly intersectional. There is no pressure to conform to a particular worldview/ operational model and it invites folk of all different backgrounds to engage authentically. AiS is self-empowering. They provide resources and toolkits that are virtually non-existent in my area. I run a queer regional poetry slam. AiS has been instrumental in helping us develop community safety protocols that are cognizant of the unique threats marginalized folk experience in our area. They also empower our own community members to keep each other safe! They also provide shame-free and inviting tabling for harm reduction and safe sex materials."**





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We are *Passionate People* doing *Powerful Work* *To create Proven Impact*

"A community within a greater community. We are a convener – bringing together community members from all different organizations and business to tackle our most pressing issues. Collaborating and partnering to ensure the greatest impact. Avoiding duality in programming and efforts to maximize our impact. We address basic human needs – the health and wellness of each human – in a barrier-free, welcoming, supportive, and trusting way. Our community trusts our Foundation and our programs."



"The immediate response to community food needs when COVID hit was extremely impactful and supportive. Moving to Sheridan was a huge change for my family. We were able to find friends, resources, jobs, and support when we found Sheridan Rising Together For Equity. I am so appreciative of Nelly and the leadership that she has provided our organization to continue this important work through a pandemic and devastating financial blows."



"The picture is from an event SRTFE put together to bring community members, city council and school board members together – first time this was done in Sheridan and it was a great event. It was something that was missing, the communication and connection between those three groups of people. It's really about people of the community, for the people of the community. They have been able to take the time to really connect with the community and learn about the root causes of the issues affecting our community. They have also opened our eyes to new opportunities for us to be involved in the city and educate us on how to do it."





"It is a really close group and it feels like family. Everyone is so nice and cares about each other and ultimately feels so good to work for an organization that cares about the community we live in as well. It has supported the community in many ways such as providing food for the community and wellness resources across the community too. It also helps with the homeless program which can be hard for many. The organization helps in many ways!"



"The photo is from the fermentation celebration this past year. It was one of the best days of 2022. We had so much fun, learned a lot, shared a special day with community, and are always left looking forward to the next opportunity to participate in TLC offerings. I hope to continue to see this organization grow and be supported to do their work here in Delta county. We really need them and are much better off because of them and their immense offerings and gifts to the community. TLC creates such warm, inclusive safe spaces very in alignment with the interests and needs of the community. It makes for very uplifting learning environments. When I feel down, I always know going to their space will give me energy and bring me back to community whether for a workshop or meal. As far as their offerings – they are unlike anything else I've experienced. I'm an avid lifelong learner and their broad offerings give so much to so many. Accessibility is a huge reason I appreciate what they do. I am continually inspired and uplifted by TLC. Having them here is a true gift. They work so hard out of the good of their hearts and pour everything into their mission. Just love 'em!"



"A big sense of community and meaningful assignments. Taking a stand for inequality and spreading kindness."



"I appreciate how TLC is committed to organic and local ingredients in all their endeavors and really stick to it more than any other organization I have worked with in the past. Offering fully organic, unquestionable meals that are healthy is a huge plus in our community."





**Community members shared additional feedback related to what felt different about working with grantee organizations compared to other similar organizations and how grantees have supported their community in unique ways. The following themes emerged from responses.**

## 1 Grantees' efforts are truly driven by and for local communities.

Community members shared feedback related to the true grassroots feeling and efforts by grantees, including feedback on feeling like they had a voice and choice, the community trust built by grantees and the deep connections between grantees and their communities.

**“** The grassroots feel of this organization gives me a sense of pride seeing how much of this work is done by local community members giving their time and talent to continue the work of creating equity for our community.”

**“** The connections are at a deeper level & EVERYTHING is decided based on what the community wants & needs.”

**“** It's grassroots. It is people of the community striving to provide meaningful opportunities, event, classes, etc. for the community.”

**“** TLC is so focused on from-the-ground-up, community-oriented, and community-building activities.”

## 2 Grantees care and have heart.

Community members shared feedback on how grantees care about them, are nice to them and are personal.

**“** They are really rooted in the heart and have an immense amount of care for our community and especially for minority groups/individuals.”

**“** They are joyful and open. I feel welcome and safe to express myself.”

**“** Construyendo has heart and is well organized for the benefit of underserved people in our area.”

**“** What felt different is the communication between people and trust between each other.”

**“** What feels different is] the deep love evident in the program design like including meaningful activities for children, bringing in a variety of resource information and training opportunities that reflect the varied needs and interest of the community, the meals made with quality ingredients, the space rented for the training was comfortable and private creating safety and intimacy, all of this and more creating a container for the women and their families to organize in a holistic way.”

### 3 Grantees bring together community members from diverse backgrounds.

Community members shared feedback related to grantees' efforts to bring community members together to meet the needs, tackle community issues and support each other.

“ The Learning Council opens doors to new experiences in our community. They give people an opportunity to engage and network with each other. Building relationships across differences.”

“ They allow us to acknowledge those in our community who don't get the recognition they deserve and allow the community to connect with one another on different levels.”

“ It has impacted my community because it has help bring people together and get them all involved in events or any activity there would be.”

“ I used to live in a large metropolitan area, and I feel a deeper connection to my community through volunteering here than I did there.”

### 4 Grantees listen and respond to community needs through a variety of programs and services.

Community members shared feedback that grantees provided a space for community members to share their feelings, needs and opinions while also responding to feedback quickly, being flexible and taking action through a variety of programs and services. Programs included providing access to food, health and education opportunities, as well as providing advocacy and youth empowerment.

“ Going above and beyond in supporting people's needs. No matter the request, no matter from who it comes from, EVCF will find creative ways to support our community members. In addition to providing basic needs as food and resources.”

“ EVCF feels like working with family. It's a flexible and understanding organization that will adjust/adapt quickly to their employees and community member's needs.”

“ TLC has a huge range that they are engaging with the community, county and displaced members of our area. From local food sovereignty to African dance to social justice.”

“ The learning council is truly responsive to the community it serves. Classes are offered as needs arise and skills evolve.”

“ [What feels different is] the level of intention and deep listening – both personally and its impact in the community.”

“ Tapping into needs of community by being open and inquisitive and then responding in supportive and sustaining ways.”

“ They care about my thoughts and opinions while staying true to their goals. They don't just sit around talking, they take action.”

“ The scope of what Construyendo offers to its clients also astounds me, including: free access to multiple alternative medicine modalities, translation services and help paying regular medical bills, home visits, contact-free Covid deliveries of medicines and regular household supplies, occasional free food and clothing, educational retreats and workshops that bring in outside experts in multiple fields, mental health services with a licensed practitioner, consultations with an expert in nonviolent communication, collaborations with other organizations who educated our clients on their rights as an immigrant tools for empowerment. I'm probably forgetting something!”

## 5 Grantees focus on equity, inclusion, and intersectionality when engaging with community members.

Community members shared feedback on grantees' recognition, acknowledgement and understanding of marginalized communities, including helping and allowing other community members to recognize marginalized folks. Community members stated that grantees centered those most directly impacted, worked with marginalized communities, provided inclusive and safe spaces and valued and respected those with disabilities, BIPOC and immigrant communities.

**“** Sheridan Rising has done a very impressive job of centering those most directly impacted, being flexible around the needs of residents who want to participate and have a lot of life going on at the same time, and prioritizing language justice.”

**“** Sheridan Rising consistently works to creating institutional change as to create equity in all institutions involved in Sheridan's community.”

**“** AiS is incredibly intersectional. There is no pressure to conform to a particular worldview/operational model and it invites folk of all different backgrounds to engage authentically. AiS is self-empowering. They provide resources and toolkits that are virtually non-existent in my area.”

**“** I come to Construyendo as a consultant / instructor and Construyendo has supported me and other Spanish-speaking wellness practitioners by providing paid opportunities to train Spanish speaking people who are directly serving their communities. As a yoga trainer this is huge because unfortunately in the United States yoga practice and training spaces are largely inaccessible to monolingual Spanish speakers and those facing economic hardships. So, to receive a training invitation like this fulfills and aligns with the entirety of my values of equity, justice, and respect.”

**“** This is a group that actually values Black Women – and non-men in general, for who they are. The organization's dedication to safety in all ways: physical, chemical, emotional, spiritual and mental is refreshing and actually lived out, not just spoken about. This organization does direct action and also facilitates a network of support and safety in a community extremely antagonistic to this work. Action is Safer also lifts up and values queer people and while there are other local groups doing this, Action is Safer is the only one I have found that also values disabled people and recognizes that there are disabled people in all other oppressed groups and so considers access in all things.”