



Network Announcement: Reimagine Grant Awards

Public Announcement to Follow Next Week

To: Staff and Board Chairs, SVP Affiliates
From: Reimagine Grant Review Committee, SVP International

Committee Members

Emiko Atherton, Executive Director, SVP Seattle*
Megan Carvajal, Director of Consulting Services, Mission Capital*
Michael Van Leesten, Director - Organization Development and Stakeholder Engagement, SVP Connecticut
Marcus Walton, CEO, GEO (Grantmakers for Effective Organizations)
John-Peter Wilhite, Director of Community Impact, SVP Tucson*
Athena Youm, Program Assistant, Raikes Foundation
Sudha Nandagopal, CEO, SVP International

Convened and facilitated by Emily Reitman, Director of Expansion and Innovation, SVP International

**committee members recused themselves from scoring or discussing grant applications from their own SVP Affiliates.*

Dear SVP Network,

SVP International launched the Reimagine Grant Fund in June of 2020 to engage the SVP network in supporting racial justice, especially in the US and Canada, and systems change around the world.

Our Nominating Process

SVP International looked to SVP affiliates to provide local insight to this first round of grantmaking. SVP Partners nominating community organizations, projects, and collaboratives to receive funds. Each nominating SVP took time to describe the important work happening in their community, and they also shared an assessment and reflection on their own progress towards applying a racial justice and systems change lens to their work as philanthropists and grantmaking organizations.

As a grant committee of deeply committed social change leaders, racial justice and systems change experts, we came together to evaluate the submissions and inform final funding decisions. As part of reviewing SVP Affiliate submissions, our committee shared insights to help advance SVP's work to be effective agents of systems change and racial justice. As we reflect on the important progress of SVP affiliates, we encourage the SVP Network to move urgently forward by considering the following points and incorporating these strategic focuses into your local work.

Centering Marginalized Voices

We believe that solutions are most effective when they are led by those most impacted by a problem and systems. To move racial justice forward, it's critical to support organizations led by Black, Indigenous, People of Color or other directly affected communities, especially those who have received less resourcing - philanthropic or otherwise due to historic and current inequities.

Strategic Question: How can your local SVP be a model for supporting solutions and leadership from those who have historically not had access to resources due to the systemic inequities?

Sharing Power

While critical, *grantmaking* to racial equity and systems change work is not the same as *doing* that work. It's more important than ever that funding organizations also work to transform our own practices and cultural norms to become actively anti-racist and to center and invest in participation of impacted communities in design and decision making work.

Strategic Question: How is your SVP engaging local philanthropists to examine their own power, and shift giving practices, who sets the agenda, and who makes decisions to share power with those who philanthropy usually leaves out?

Building Bridges

Many SVPs have a focus on learning and developing an early shared analysis around race, power, systems, and justice. This individual learning is important, but *organizational* learning is critical to sharing and shifting power. It's also critical to adopt a "beginner's" and growth mindset and acknowledge that we always have learning to do. When we are part of local and global networks, we can learn together and support each other's growth in ways that expand our potential for impact. The goal is not to achieve "expert" status, but to continue working from a place of humility and ongoing reflection.

Strategic Question: What practices can a local SVP or a collaboration of Partners adopt to vulnerably and transparently share out to community and the sector with reflections, learnings and how these learnings are continuously shaping strategies?

Centering Relationships

For philanthropists to engage with communities and leaders who have historically been left out of investment and decision making roles, trust must be earned over time. Just like any relationship, each of us are capable of inadvertently causing harm from our actions and our words, especially when we find ourselves learning in a new context.

Strategic Question: How can SVP prioritize relationships across power differentials, and take responsibility when mistakes happen or harm is caused as a result of learning?

We are honored to be a part of SVP's journey toward transformative and relational philanthropic practices. We're humbled by the work of the powerful community based grantees in this portfolio; and we're excited for the SVP Network to build and deepen relationships with these organizations, projects and collaboratives.

You can learn about this first portfolio of grantees in the full [Reimagine Grant Award Announcement](#).

Reimagine Grant Award Announcement

With Gratitude,

SVP Reimagine Grant Committee

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