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CHICAGO, IL 60661

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AGENDA  
DANCE COMMUNITY CONVENING

Thursday, December 10, 2020  
3:30–5:00pm

via Zoom

I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Surinder Martignetti, *Community Engagement Consultant*

II. **Setting the Stage**

- a. Guest Panel Introductions and Part I Recap
  - Vershawn Sanders Ward, *Artistic Director and CEO, Red Clay Dance Company*
  - Jaime Delgado, *Clinical Social Worker, The Actors Fund*
  - Anjal Chande, *Founder & Artistic Director, Soham Dance Space*
- b. Breakout Room Format

III. **Small Group Discussions, Report Back**

- a. What does mutual aid look like for our community?
- b. What are ways we can help each other to create a thriving dance ecosystem?
- c. What is SCD's role? How can we build resources and programs to meet your needs?

IV. **Next Steps**– Julia Mayer, *Executive Director*

# MUTUAL AID

- In systems of mutual-aid, people work cooperatively to meet the needs of everyone in the community.
- A common principle of mutual aid is “solidarity, not charity.” Charity creates an inherent imbalance, moving resources from places of abundance to places deemed needy. This is a deficit-based perspective instead of one based on the values and abundance already present within communities.
- Mutual aid is not just a response to a crisis, but instead, can be a more permanent alliance among people united in a common struggle. People offer help or resources like food, space, money, or skills, which are then redistributed to those in need.
- Mutual-aid systems are rooted in reciprocity and agency; the assumption is that we all have needs and we are all capable of helping each other fulfill some of these needs.



## CIRCLE DISCUSSION

Circle discussions are a technique practiced by the Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy. The format encourages dialogue, respect and social discourse. Talking Circles originated with First Nations leaders to ensure that all in the tribal council were heard, and that those who were speaking were not interrupted. It is a flexible model, adaptive to any circle of people who need to discuss topics and make decisions together. (Description adapted from First Nations Pedagogy.)

- The facilitator will establish an order for the group. It is not necessary for the first person on the list to go first. Keep to the same order no matter who begins.
- Each person will receive the “talking stick.” The person with the talking stick, and only that person, has the floor to respond to the prompt.
- When ready, pass the talking stick to the next person. At any point, you may pass if you do not wish to take a turn or have nothing to add.
- The circle will continue in the same order until all members of the group opt to pass.

## GUIDELINES:

- Focus on self-reflection and “I” statements. While you might reflect on something said by another member of the group, do so in reference to yourself. Avoid confronting or challenging others’ contributions.
- Participate from a place of respect and compassion.
- Step up, step back.
- Avoid using the chat as a way to interrupt others while they have the floor.

