Funding Agreement
Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois

Thank you for offering to host a fundraiser to support the work of the Transformative Justice Law Project! We are elated to collaborate with you!

As you know, TJLP is a legal organization that operates under three core values: 1) all people have the right to gender self-determination free from surveillance, discrimination, violence, and other harms, 2) a long-term goal of prison abolition to end the mass incarceration of oppressed people in the U.S. and 3) transformative justice models that support strength in people, not the state, as a necessary alternative to the criminal punishment system. In line with the three core values listed above, TJLP also believes that:

- The state is not working for oppressed people, especially gender non-conforming people, people of color, people with disabilities, immigrants, and poor people.
- Transphobia is inherent in almost all legal and social services available in the Chicago area and throughout Illinois.
- There is a historical link between slavery, systems of domination and control, and the U.S. prison system.
- Social welfare is linked to the criminal legal system.
- The prison industrial complex and community policing justifies and reproduces racism while preventing radical organizing among those most affected.
- The criminal legal system doesn’t work when it comes to reducing violence in our communities.
- Transforming oppressive systems at the root problems requires radical community-building, which includes collaboration between TJLP and other organizations to support our clients, raise funds, etc.

Using these values to guide us through decision-making reflects our dedication to moving away from the product of organizing being the goal of our activism and our legal work. Instead, by staying true to our values, our goal is to honor our process. Because we are committed to prioritizing our process, we strive to:

- Recognize, acknowledge and confront our privileges.
- Develop our collective knowledge while educating one another.
- Use frameworks of abolition, transformative justice, and anti-oppression.
- Make our lives and this project sustainable by both cherishing individual self-care and intentionally growing our project only when growth is best for us, not because it's what we’re expected to do by outside forces.
- Celebrate the link between the work we do and our spirituality.
- Be transparent about our structure.
- Embrace being called out and criticized.
- Be flexible.
- And practice harm reduction within our Law Project and with our clients by treating affirming legal services as a form of harm reduction.
In line with our values, we are intentional about the funding we accept. We recognize that fundraisers communicate messages publicly about our values so, in order to make sure our fundraisers are accessible to the communities we work with and further our larger goals and values, we’d like to make sure the fundraiser you’re planning will do the following:

Operate from an anti-oppression framework, meaning actively challenge and be open to engaging in critical dialogue about ideologies, institutions, and individuals that marginalize, silence, criminalize, and commit violence against people of color, transgender people, queer people, people with disabilities, poor people, immigrants, women, etc. In particular, we want to highlight that your anti-oppression framework should include understanding how policed and criminalized communities are put in danger when spaces are created without them in mind (ie: an unlicensed party with alcohol could immensely harm someone who attends and is currently on probation or parole);

Be in a wheelchair accessible space and have non-gendered bathrooms or, at the very least, one bathroom that is not gendered that has at least one private toilet with a door;

If there is a door fee, offer a sliding scale that slides down to $0.00;

If the space limits access to a community, be transparent about that in all publications (ie: if it is a bar that is 21+, be sure to note that on advertising);

Ensure that staff including bartenders, bouncers, hosts have a basic understanding of how to be sensitive and respectful of transgender people (we have trans ally materials available on our website if needed!);

Check in with our collective regarding any questions or concerns as they arise at info@tjlp.org.

Please sign here to signify that you have read, understand, and support the above values and requirements:

Name (printed): ________________________________

Organization/Affiliation: ________________________________

Signature: ________________________________ Date: ____________