

Indian People Organizing for Change

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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing this letter on behalf of POOR Magazine and the wonderful project of Homefulness. I have worked with the community of POOR since 2011 when they covered the re-occupation of my Indigenous territory, Sogorea Te. POOR reporters not only told the story using multiple platforms of media, but they came and participated in ceremony during the 109 day occupation to protect and preserve the sacred sites of the Ohlone people, my ancestors. Over the next six years, I worked with Lisa Tiny Grey-Garcia and the Elephant council and members as they began to realize the dream of creating an off the grid alternative to homelessness. POOR invited me to the property that they had acquired through working with individual donors, to offer a prayer for the land and to ask permission to create this beautiful project that would house people that were homeless, in housing crisis, mothers and children that are being gentrified out of their housing. Rather than creating this housing "project" for low income people, POOR has a vision that would create housing that would allow these families to live with one another and share resources, community and love forever. This is a promise made to each other, not with HUD requirements or income requirements, but because every human being deserves to have a place to call home, without fear of being displaced.

This beautiful vision is centered on true interdependence of each member participating in co-creating a manifesto in which to live by, with the understanding that those that come to live on the site would never be homeless again. A place to really root themselves and their families, without the burden of ever having a landlord change ownership, raise rents or put them in the dangerous situation of living on the streets again. It is a village that will live together, work through issues together, organize the larger community together and will raise their children together. Homefulness represents going back in order to go forward. It reminds of us our responsibility to one another as human beings and reciprocity to the land we live on.

I fully support any endeavors to POOR Magazine is doing to complete this project and highly recommend them as an organization for full funding.

Sincerely,

Corrina Gould, Co-Founder

