

Dear Community Partner,

You are invited to collaborate on an exciting opportunity to build a more inclusive and connected community. We are looking to form a partnership to bring the 501c3 “Speaking Down Barriers” to Muskegon County to help equip leaders in our own community to facilitate open, honest dialogue in hopes that we as a community will experience difference not as “...a source of division, [but as] a source of our collective strength.” Speaking Down Barriers is a nonprofit from Spartanburg, South Carolina whose vision is to “transform our life together across our differences by facilitating community dialogue, training, performances, and consultation.”

In Muskegon, we are calling this “Community Gathering Initiative.” We will be holding an event on March 15<sup>th</sup> where facilitators guide a community conversation to create shared learning and meaning, exploring issues of diversity and inclusion in a new way through art and the spoken word. We are bringing Speaking Down Barriers consultants to Muskegon the week of March 12, 2018 to help equip local spoken word poets and facilitators to carry out this powerful process here in our own community.

This would include:

- Days 1-3: 20 (1) hour listening sessions with community members
- Day 4: “Community Gathering” with spoken word and community conversation in the evening for 150 people
- Day 5: Training with up to 8 facilitators to carry on process bi-monthly in our community

***We are asking for committed partners to collaborate with us. This could mean help in planning the week’s events, help with promotion, and/or providing financial contributions.***

**Opportunities for Collaboration:**

- Participation on planning committee
- Attendance at March 15 event
- Assistance with marketing/promotion
- Monetary contribution, if able, to help fund this initiative (please see sponsorship opportunities on the next page)

Feel free to pass this invitation along to other interested agencies/individuals. Thank you for your support and dedication to building a more inclusive and connected community.

## **Speaking Down Barriers Sponsorship Opportunities**

Our hope is for this process to be very inclusive and collaborative—the more partners, the better. Opportunities for partnership:

### **BRONZE LEVEL:**

- ☐ \$250+ suggested contribution AND/OR
- ☐ Participation on planning committee and volunteering at community gathering AND/OR
- ☐ In kind donations

### **SILVER LEVEL:**

- ☐ \$500+ suggested contribution

### **GOLD LEVEL:**

- \$1,000+ suggested contribution

### **PLATINUM LEVEL:**

- \$2,500+ suggested contribution

**If suggested contribution dollar amount is a barrier, please give what you can.**

Every partner will be listed on the event brochure, email blasts, social media posts, radio spots, and any other advertising for the event. This is not owned by an entity or agency but rather a collaborative community planning process. Sponsorship level will be highlighted on the event brochure.

**YES!** We want to partner in the following way(s)- Check all that apply:

- ☐ Participation on planning committee
- ☐ Assistance with marketing/promotion
- ☐ Monetary contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help fund this initiative
- ☐ Ongoing support/planning once regular events are in place in Muskegon County

Point Person Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form and make checks payable to: Muskegon County, 376 E. Apple Ave, Muskegon MI 49442 with “Speaking Down Barriers” in the subject line.

Email [acesmuskegon@healthwest.net](mailto:acesmuskegon@healthwest.net) or call 231-332-3812 with questions or ideas or to join the planning committee!