

2016

Community Representatives Resource Guide

Information, guidance, and support for
community representatives.



PEDAGOGY AND THEATRE
OF THE OPPRESSED

Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed, Inc.
2016



Community Representative Resource Guide

This guide will help Community Representatives support the work of PTO and its goals of promoting the use of PO, TO, and related techniques to transform education and fight oppression.

1. PTO Mission Statement:

Pedagogy & Theatre of the Oppressed (PTO) supports people whose work challenges oppressive systems by promoting critical thinking and social justice through liberatory theatre and popular education.

Our approaches stem from the theories and practices of Paulo Freire and Augusto Boal. We foster collaborative connections to share, develop, promote, and document liberatory theatre, popular education, and other revolutionary actions. PTO serves as a resource for oppressed peoples and their allies in diverse communities, contexts, and traditions around the world.

2. Rationale for the Community Representative Project

Throughout its 22-year history, PTO has supported the work of PO and TO practitioners worldwide by bringing artists, educators, and social activists together each year at an annual conference. During these years the number and scope of PO and TO activities has increased exponentially at the same time that travel, scheduling, and financial restrictions have limited people's ability to attend a yearly gathering.

The CR Project was developed out of the need to offer PTO constituents more frequent and geographically accessible opportunities to share with and learn from each other. It is the intention of the project to have Community Representatives be the local eyes and ears of our international community, to keep the membership informed about the variety of events in their areas (both geographical and topical), and to spearhead additional programming as possible.

3. Community Representatives Project goals:

- a. ***To give the members of PTO the opportunity to learn about, participate in, and/or organize PO, TO, and related events throughout the year.*** While the annual conference will remain a central event sponsored by the Organization, PTO activity will be enhanced and increased through these efforts.
- b. ***To assist PTO members in developing networks which support anti-oppression activities and offer PO, TO, and related tools to further transformative work.*** The formation of knowledgeable communities – whether defined by geography, area of interest, issue, working situation, identity, activity – would be fostered by these networks, and would support the work of theatre-makers, educators, and activists to challenge oppressive systems using techniques developed by and/or based on those of Augusto Boal and Paulo Freire.
- c. ***To create a sustainable organization that supports the mission of PTO and increases its membership by providing information and activities of value to constituents.*** PTO will thereby grow as a site for sharing, documenting and promoting critical examination, continued development and application of TO, PO, and related transformative practices and theories.
- d. ***To promote partnerships with organizations that can result in mutual benefit, in the promotion of social justice, or both.***



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4. Community Representative Project structure

- e. **Subcommittee:** CRs will collectively serve as a committee of the organization. CRs volunteer to serve and remain in their positions as long as they desire and are active.
- f. **Networking:** A major goal of the project is to develop networks to increase opportunities. CRs are encouraged to contact each other to share information or jointly plan events. The PTO web page will provide space to do this.
- g. **Board Liaison:** CRs will report to the Board Liaison who functions as committee chair, is appointed by the Board, and is a current or past board member. The Liaison will facilitate dissemination of CR-supplied information, bring CR requests for event support to the Board, and otherwise support the activities of CRs.
- h. **Project and CR Evaluation:** Over the next 2-3 years, the Board will evaluate the CR Project to see if it succeeds in disseminating information, in the development and support of local events, and in an increase in membership. During that period, individual CRs will be considered successful if they communicate relevant information to the Board in a timely manner, and if they are involved in supporting a PO or TO related event.

5. Job Description, requirements, and suggested activities

Community Representative tasks will fall into 3 areas: Reporting, Representing, and Organizing.

i. Reporting

- i. Gather and disseminate information about goings-on in your area.
- ii. Forward announcements of events in your area to your network. The PTO web site houses forms for inclusion in the calendar and requesting co-sponsorship. (See Appendix A: Reporting – calendar submission.)

j. Represent PTO in your area

- i. Cultivate connections with those active in your area and, when you hear about work being done, invite those doing it to become part of the network and of PTO. (See Appendix B: Networking – sample emails.)
- ii. Be a conduit for those in your area wishing to connect with PTO either by answering questions directly or by putting them in contact with the PTO Liaison. (See Appendix C: FAQ list.)
- iii. Bring PTO membership information to events you attend and promote PTO in person when possible. (A printable flier is in Appendix D: Flier.)

k. Facilitate PTO co-sponsorship of regional or topical community events:

- i. Assist in organizing and/or promoting events in your area as possible, such as local regional conferences, PO & TO focused symposia, seminars, institutes and workshops, topic symposia, action planning, performance development, festivals, etc (See Appendix E: Co-sponsorship)
- ii. NOTE: Assisting can range from simply informing your network and PTO, to arranging for a presenter, to spearheading an independent or co-hosted regional conference. Your level of participation will depend on the type of event, organizing group desires, and your own situation.



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6. PTO will provide the following to facilitate and support the work of CRs.

- l. An online **directory** listing all PTO members and highlighting Community Representatives.
- m. A **calendar** of PTO co-sponsored and member events, and of PO and TO related activities of interest.
- n. **Publicity** – announcement of co-sponsored events with a description and links for additional information on the web site, in the calendar, via social media, possible email blasts, etc.
- o. PTO promotional **fliers** – available for downloading and printing or, by request, in hard copy.
- p. The **Community Rep Report** – a space on the web site for reports about events. For co-sponsored events, reports will include a brief written description, and may also include text, photos, videos, transcripts of presentations, etc.
- q. **FAQ list** – for fielding questions about PTO.
- r. **Assistance** as appropriate and possible in planning and organizing events

7. Appendices:

- A. Reporting – Calendar Submission.
- B. Networking – sample emails.
- C. FAQs – answers for CRs.
- D. Flier.
- E. Application for co-sponsorship.
- F. Guide to co-sponsoring an event (forthcoming).



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Appendix A: PTO Calendar Submissions

All events listed in the calendar must be open to PTO members and must be in harmony with the principles articulated in the PTO mission statement.

All calendar entries must include:

1. Submitter's name
2. Type of event (from the list below)
3. Sponsoring Organization
4. Name of the event
5. Date(s) of event
6. Location of event
7. Brief (50 words or less) description of event.
8. Link to additional information:

Calendar entry types:

1. PTO – An event organized, co-sponsored, or developed with support of PTO.
2. Member – Independently created events around the world organized by PTO members or affiliates directly or in partnership with other individuals and/or organizations.
3. Constituent – Events not organized PTO, its members, or affiliates but that align with the PTO mission statement (such as festivals, conferences, workshops and institutes, forums, performances, etc. that are open to PTO members and constituents).

Community Representatives can submit items for inclusion in the calendar by filling out the form on the PTO web page. [Calendar Submission Form here.](#)

Questions? Contact communityreps@ptoweb.org .



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Appendix B: Three Sample emails

Sample 1 of 3:

Hello –

I am contacting you as a Community Representative of Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed (PTO). As a CR I have the opportunity to support your work by announcing your activities in the PTO web page calendar or even arranging for PTO co-sponsorship, which includes a report from your event on our web site.

In addition, I would like to facilitate the formation of a network of people in our area who are using liberatory theatre and popular education as tools to support activism in service of social change.

Please contact me if you are planning future events or if you would like to have information about your work shared through PTO.

For more information about PTO, go to www.ptoweb.org. (This is not a request for donations and there will never be any charge for sharing information through the Community Representative program.)

I look forward to hearing from you. In solidarity –



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Sample 2 of 3:

Hello –

I am contacting you as a Community Representative of Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed (PTO). As a CR I have the opportunity to support your work by announcing your activities on the PTO web calendar or even arranging for PTO co-sponsorship, which includes a report from your event on our web site. In addition, I would like to facilitate the formation of a network of people in our area who are using liberatory theatre and popular education as tools to support activism in service of social change.

Throughout its twenty-two year history, PTO has supported the work of PO and TO practitioners worldwide by bringing artists, educators, and social activists together each year at an annual conference. During these years the number and scope of PO and TO activities has increased exponentially at the same time that travel, scheduling, and financial restrictions have limited people's ability to attend a yearly gathering.

The CR Project was born out of the need to offer PTO constituents and allies more frequent and geographically accessible opportunities to share with and learn from each other. It is the intention of the project to have Community Representatives be the local eyes and ears of our international community, to keep the membership informed about the variety of events in their areas (both geographical and topical), to form partnerships with like-minded organizations that can result in the promotion of social and educational justice, and to spearhead additional programming where needed.

Please contact me if you are planning future events or if you would like to have information about your work shared through PTO.

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Sample 3 of 3:

Hello –

I am contacting you as a Community Representative of Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed (PTO). I heard that you are **having an event in month at place and other relevant information (insert appropriate language and information)**. As a Community Representative I have the opportunity to support your work by announcing your activities on the PTO web calendar or even arranging for PTO co-sponsorship, which includes a report about your event on our web site. Please send me some additional information to see if an announcement of your event can be added to our calendar.

In addition, I would like to facilitate the formation of a network of people in our area who are using liberatory theatre and popular education as tools to support activism in service of social change. I would like to talk to you further about your work. Please let me know when we can chat.

For more information about PTO, go to www.ptoweb.org. (This is not a request for donations and there will never be any charge for sharing information through the Community Representative program.)

Please contact me if you are planning future events or if you would like to have information about your work shared through PTO.

In solidarity –



Appendix D: Flier Content

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...supports people whose work challenges oppressive systems by promoting critical thinking and social justice through liberatory theatre and popular education.

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to share, develop, promote, and document liberatory theatre, popular education, and other revolutionary actions. PTO serves as a resource for oppressed peoples and their allies in diverse communities, contexts, and traditions around the world.

This organization developed from a series of four conferences held in Omaha, Nebraska from 1995-1998. The conference was based on the ideologies and works of Paulo Freire and Augusto Boal. Using pedagogy and theatre, they each worked with oppressed peoples of the world to develop critical literacies and actions to overcome social systems of oppression.



PEDAGOGY AND THEATRE
OF THE **OPPRESSED**



PEDAGOGY AND THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED

BECOME A MEMBER!



HOW: Click on the “Become a Member” link on our web page.

WHY: Members receive an entry in our on-line directory, access to our calendar of events, opportunities for publication in our peer-reviewed journal, discounts to our annual conference and some co-sponsored events, and support the movement toward social justice through arts and education world wide!

WHO: YOU! Students, teachers, scholars, artists, activists, organizers. People of all ages, places, identities, experiences. If you want to build dialogue and make a more just world, you are invited, you are welcomed – and you are NEEDED!

WHEN: NOW! Why wait for your opportunity to LEARN, SHARE, QUESTION, and CONNECT through interactive techniques developed by Paulo Freire, Augusto Boal, and other people working to fight oppression and create justice.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Go to our web page or email us at info@ptoweeb.org.

info@ptoweeb.org



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**Appendix E:
Application for PTO Co-Sponsorship of a Community/Regional Event.
The link to the actual form is on the PTO web site in the
Community Reps Resource Page**

Applicant's name _____

Sponsoring Organization _____

Name of the Event _____

Date(s) of Event _____

Location of event _____

Brief Description of Event:

In order to receive PTO co-sponsorship, the event must fulfill the following criteria:

1. It is open to the community and/or region _____ **YES** _____ **NO**
 - a. The breadth of the community will vary depending on the nature of the event and topic. For example, a workshop on PO open to teachers in a city or a large school district might be appropriate, but a workshop on PO for the faculty of one school would not be.

2. It provides an opportunity for attendees/participants to increase their skills in and understanding of PO and/or TO. _____ **YES** _____ **NO**
 - a. A "training" institute, workshop, or conference is appropriate, while a performance for the public would not be.
 - b. The entire event must meet this criterion. PTO will not endorse a single session or presentation at a larger conference.

3. It is participatory _____ **YES** _____ **NO**
 - a. The event must focus on developmental work through participatory activity. A lecture about PO or TO would not be appropriate.
 - b. Information about lectures and performances may be submitted for inclusion in the calendar, but not for co-sponsorship.



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4. The person requesting the sponsorship is currently a member of PTO. _____ **YES**
_____ **NO**
a. If **NO**, are you willing to join before the application is considered? _____ **YES**
_____ **NO**
5. Is there is a fee for participation? _____ **YES** _____ **NO**
a. If **YES**, PTO members will receive a discount. _____ **YES** _____ **NO**

If PTO co-sponsors the event, you agree to take the following actions:

1. Send an announcement of the event with a description and links for inclusion on the PTO web page and in the PTO calendar
2. Include a brief description of PTO, its URL and membership registration link, and an indication of the discount for PTO members (if appropriate) with all publicity
3. Distribute PTO-supplied promotional materials (if available) at the event
4. Supply a report to PTO within 3 weeks the event in an appropriate format
 - a. Must include a brief written description, and may also include text, photos, videos, transcripts of presentations, etc. *

I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE

If PTO co-sponsors the event, the organization will take some or all of the following actions: *

1. Announce the event on the PTO web page
2. Enter the event in the PTO calendar
3. E-mail an announcement of the event to PTO members
4. Supply promotional materials as available
5. Provide space for a report about the event in a Community Events section of the web page and/or the Journal

I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE

Contact information:

Name _____

Email address _____

Web page _____

Preferred telephone number _____

Additional telephone number _____

NOTES:

- * Photo and video releases must accompany photos and videos
- * PTO co-sponsorship does not imply any fiduciary obligations. PTO is not liable for the event nor do PTO insurance policies cover the event

