

SOWING IN PLACE

Project Proposal Form

For anyone in the network who wants to bring something new into the ecosystem

This form takes about 20 minutes.

You can fill it out, email it, or read it aloud to a steward.

Before you fill this out:

You don't need a fully formed idea. You need a real need, a person or two who care about it, and some sense of how it connects to South Park or the communities we're rooted in.

** = required field*

Accountability note: You will not be asked to write reports. You choose how your project is witnessed.

01 · ABOUT YOU

* Your name

* Neighborhood(s) you're rooted in or connected to — e.g. South Park, Rainier Beach, White Center, Tukwila...

* How are you already connected to Sowing in Place, or how did you hear about us?

Is anyone else co-proposing or co-stewarding this with you? — Names, neighborhoods, roles — even if loose and informal

02 · THE PROJECT

* What do you want to do? — Describe it the way you would to a neighbor, not a funder

*** Who is this for?** — *Be specific — not 'the community' but which people, in what situation*

*** What is missing, broken, or unseen that this would change?**

What would success look like after one year? — *Don't aim for perfect — aim for real*

03 · ROOTS & RELATIONSHIPS

*** Which Sowing in Place values does this connect to?** *(check all that apply)*

- Servant leadership
- Intergenerational connection
- Oral history & memory-keeping
- Restorative practice
- Food & material care
- Freedom Schools tradition
- Something else: _____

Who in the community already knows and trusts you? — *Doesn't have to be official — neighbors, elders, families, organizers*

Has anyone in the Sowing in Place network already seen or encouraged this idea? — *Name them if you can*

Is there a space, organization, or partner this project would live alongside? — e.g. a local restaurant, a school, a mosque, a community kitchen

04 · HOW YOU'LL STAY ACCOUNTABLE

You will not be asked to write a grant report.

Instead, you choose how your work gets witnessed. A steward will help translate what they observe into a simple one-pager for funders. Your job is to do the work and stay in relationship with the community — not to document it.

*** How would you prefer your project's impact to be witnessed?** *(check all that apply)*

- Photos / short narratives I share as I go A gathering or meal where community speaks to the work
 Oral update to a steward (you talk, they take notes) Community members who can speak to the impact directly
 Something else: _____

Who in the community would you trust to speak honestly about whether this work is landing? — *These become your community witnesses — people who can say what they saw*

*** How often are you willing to check in with a steward?** — *Monthly? Seasonally? At each milestone? What's realistic for you?*

Is there anything that would make accountability feel burdensome or unsafe for you? — *We want to design around this, not ignore it*

05 · WHAT YOU NEED FROM SOWING IN PLACE

*** What kind of support are you asking for?** *(check all that apply)*

- Connection to the network Fiscal sponsorship / accounting support Space or logistics
 Co-facilitation or training Documentation / storytelling support Funding help

Something else: _____

*** What are you bringing to this? What will you be responsible for?** — *Time, relationships, skills, presence — not just credentials*

What would make this unsustainable or cause you to step back? — *Honest answers here help us support you better*

When would you want to start? — *Even a rough season is helpful*

06 · ONE LAST THING

*** Anything you want us to know that doesn't fit the questions above?** — *This is the most important question. Use all the space you need.*

What happens next:

A steward will reach out within two weeks — not for an interview, for a conversation. Together you'll decide if and how this fits, and agree on a witnessing approach that works for you. Most proposals that are serious and rooted get a response. Not all get launched — but all get a real conversation.

Thank you for trusting us with this idea.