

Holding Our Own's Mission

Holding Our Own's mission is to incite and support feminist social justice in the Capital Region. Holding Our Own envisions a world free from oppression based on race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, class, and ability. Since its founding in 1982, *Holding Our Own* has provided nearly a million dollars in grants and loans to women's organizations and projects, including funds that purchased and supported the Women's Building, a multi-use community center that served the Capital Region for more than 30 years. *Holding Our Own* has a commitment to identifying and undermining the causes of oppression in the Capital District, rather than simply dealing with symptoms.

The foundation supports initiatives that build and strengthen women's communities, develop and promote the leadership of girls, enhance the ability, leadership, and interests of lesbian, trans, and gender nonconforming individuals (GNC) of all races to live more open lives.

The following values guide and inform *Holding Our Own's* board and staff as we make the difficult decisions about which projects to fund. Projects requesting support from *Holding Our Own* should describe in their applications how their proposed programs uphold and/or demonstrate these principles.

Guiding Principles

- ◆ *Holding Our Own* defines feminist social justice as the presence of structures, policies, and practices within a community that empower women, girls, trans, and gender nonconforming (GNC) individuals and recognizes that every person is equally and infinitely precious. Feminist social justice work involves challenging those structures of power and privilege in society that cause harm to and destroy the life chances of individuals, families, and communities.
- ◆ *Holding Our Own* believes that the leadership of those most affected by violence and oppression, particularly women, girls, trans, and GNC individuals, is essential to effectively demanding resources and changing the power structure in our communities, in our society, and across the world.
- ◆ *Holding Our Own* is committed to supporting projects that would not typically be supported by mainstream funding sources, especially those initiatives that are radical, risk-taking and non-traditional.
- ◆ *Holding Our Own* believes collaborations and coalition building across communities are central to successful and sustainable change. We are especially committed to multigenerational efforts.
- ◆ *Holding Our Own* supports cis-men and boys as partners with women, girls, trans, and GNC individuals in combating violence and ending sexism.