



ORGANIZING OUR ARTIST FEES FOR A MOVEMENT

WITH OTHERWORLDLY GIANTS

Our culture at large is designed to deplete, undermine & under-charge our most revolutionary artists, teachers, healers, scholars and modern-day wisdom keepers. Our culture deliberately makes it difficult for independent artists & companies to find the full funding we need to pay ourselves and each other well.

Our culture teaches us to ignore the existence of huge chunks of our workload, especially when you work with Ancestors, the Unseen Realms, Earth-Honouring Ceremony and deeply re-membered healing technologies.

The first thing we do as a movement is understand our underlying goals, values & principles:

- (a) we want to build a culture that accounts for the full breadth of our labour
- (b) we invest in a culture where we feel excited and happy to build more support, more generosity, and more resources to share
- (c) we move away from encouraging each other to work for less than what we truly need to support ourselves or build a healthy movement
- (d) we invest in skill building & innovative money moving strategies to bring more wealth and resources into our communities – ie building collective strategy where individuals can *have more, pay each other more, live well & be well resourced to do our most important work*

as a movement we are:

- building more resources for financial healing, literacy and organization
- re-balancing legacies of unpaid, underpaid, exploitative labour
- offering reciprocity to the parts of the creative process/healing journey that have gone chronically unfunded *AND reciprocating the Ancestors who are Guardians of these parts of life*
- participating in a divestment movement from colonial/capitalist industries AND ways of thinking
- investing in our inner Earth Steward Ancestors who understand mutuality, reciprocity & revolution
- building more spiritual, artistic & financial sovereignty
- bringing back our ancient village roots of exchanging, growing and sharing wealth
- setting new precedence and industry standards for the *Planetary Artist in Residence*

Our current research project: **the ancestral roots of public funding** builds a strategy for us to do this collectively. Collective strategies can be boiled down to core principles we apply to our own Artist Fees.

Here are some of my examples:

THINGS I CONSIDER WHEN ORGANIZING MY OWN ARTIST FEES

A Self-Determined Living and Thriving Wage

In a recent podcast I said, “*[I don't charge for what I'm worth, I charge for the worth of a movement.](#)*”

What I do is priceless. What I offer my community is an extension of my healing journey. An overflow & afterglow of my Ancestral gifts & medicine. An expression of my love story with the Universe, and my heartfelt commitment to my planet. What I offer costs nothing. And it costs everything.

I've chosen liberation for myself, my Ancestors, and my planet when it was unpopular, misunderstood & dangerous; when it meant enduring extreme backlash and violence. I've lost friends, family, community, opportunities, and loved ones over this life path. I have thoroughly shattered for this life path.

And I'd do it all again.

In other words – this work has cost me everything. *And I've done it freely.*

When I choose a living and thriving wage, nobody can tell me that my hourly rate is “too high” or “not worth it.” Every choice I've made for the last 41 years (and counting) has been worth it. Nobody can take that away from me.

In lieu of choosing an hourly rate based on my worth, I choose based on an internal evaluation system. Is this number supportive to the amount of energy, effort and labour I have invested in this life path? Am I holding myself hostage to a number that lives within the bounds of an exploitative industry or mindset?

BODY WISDOM: When I consider a number to charge for my services, I hold that number in my body. My body will make it very clear whether or not it feels supportive.

NUMEROLOGY RECIPROCITY: All numbers carry energy and medicine. I consider numbers Primordial Ancestors. They are Alive, they have an essence – they do not belong to a colonial/capitalist financial system. I choose numbers based on the medicine and energy I want to give/receive to a project or season of time.

You can download our PDF on Numerology Reciprocity to check out our nifty numerology interpretation chart. [You can find it here on our SPIDERWOMAN KICKSTARTER page.](#)

Accommodating the Full Scope of Work

My Artist Fees must account for the full scope of work that I contribute to a project including:

Support for travel, accommodation and daily necessities. Travel and Accommodation can be provided separately by the host, or included in my Artist Fee.

My Current Accessibility Needs:

Disabled Magic: I am currently recovering from a loss of physical strength & mobility. I move slow, I can't carry heavy things for long periods of time, and I need spacious, supportive travel time. Disabled Artists and our access requests are not a hinderance, they are a benefit. We don't need to be pitied or "wow'd" at. We bring invaluable wisdom that entire communities benefit from. We hold people accountable to respecting the needs and limits of the body.

IF YOU'RE TRANS: consider your current needs as accessibility needs. Trans people can experience a lot of violence on public transportation – your Artist Fee can account for taxis or dedicated drivers. If you have Trans artists on your project, consider asking them what they need and adding an extra access budget for them.

Griever's Fee + Survivor's Fee: I am currently grieving major losses and recovering from complex trauma/abuse. It takes me an enormous amount of effort to work through these impacts every day, before I do anything else. Grievers and Survivors shouldn't have to prove/explain their trauma or share horrific private details of their situation in order to get extra support. Building a Griever + Survivor fee into your Artist Fee means you're offering a part of your income back into the daily work it takes to move through these experiences – without having to disclose information you're not comfortable sharing.

Border Crossing / Cross Border Collaboration: While I am currently based in Tkaronto (Toronto), the majority of my Artist Collaborators are based in the US, and this has been the case for many years. I am also preparing to travel more in the US and eventually relocate. Over the last several years, I have mostly received payment in Canadian dollars, while also spending a significant amount of USD in order to collaborate across the border. This has taken a toll on me. I charge in US dollars now as an accessibility need and in preparation to travel more. I will offer a Canadian dollar package to collaborators in Canada when I can, and ask that if you can afford to meet my rate in USD, please do.

ASL-ENG & Access Fund: It's important to me to create space in my budget to collaborate and learn with Deaf Artists. When I choose my Artist Fee, I consider that some money needs to go toward the accessibility needs of my community members, especially those who are so often left out. Organizing for accessibility is a collective responsibility. When you pay me an Artist Fee, you are paying into our shared commitment and responsibility toward making our work accessible to Deaf/disabled communities.

Invisible Labour:

My Artist Fee accounts for the depth of wisdom, expertise, training and lived experience I have developed as an every-day Ceremonialist, Wisdom Keeper, Altar Carrier, and Energy Healer/Energetic Surgeon. When I host an event, I'm not just a host. When I teach a class, I'm not just teaching. When I offer a performance, I'm not just performing. There are layers of work I'm doing that isn't seen, but that is certainly experienced and felt.

For example, When I host, teach or perform, I am also calling in Ancestors and Guardians to protect the sacred intentions of the space. I'm helping Ancestors and spiritual energies move and heal. I am activating energy healing through my voice, words, movement and stillness. I'm offering spiritual grounding. I'm actively cleansing the unseen realms. I'm weaving movements on the Ancestral Plane.

Many artists do energy healing without realizing what they're doing. However, I have invested years of money, training and life experience into learning how to do this safely, responsibly and intentionally. My Artist Fee accounts for the part of my income that must be given back to the Ancestors and parts of myself that perform this "invisible" labour.

Prep Time and Integration Time:

When you're booking an Artist, please account for the hours they'll devote to Prep and Integration. When I offer my services to a project, I always take extra time to sit in study & meditation with my workload – on both the 'before' and 'after' of a project. This not only makes it possible for me to offer a high quality service, it's what I need to feel well prepared and present. Please don't expect that artists can do a phenomenal job, especially with heavy subject matter, without preparing at all. And please do not book someone for a certain set of hours and then add on several more hours of unpaid prep time because you realize that you actually need that extra support. Plan for this from the get-go.

As an Arts-Worker – don't erase this part of work you do when considering your own workload.

The Hollywood Industry has instilled this idea in all of us that after a big contract/experience you are suddenly "unemployed." We're taught to rush to the next thing without properly integrating what we've been through. This is a deeply colonial and violent tactic. In the Ancestor Healing journey, the end-of-life phase is the most important stretch of time – and it is a workload, in and of itself. Here is where we have time to process, reflect and share about our experience. This is where we do essential closure and completion rituals. Accounting for Integration time in your budget is a Revolutionary Rockstar Move.

Advocacy, Repair and Re-Balancing Fee

I represent a class of workers who *are currently and have been historically* exploited, misunderstood, ostracized and targeted by colonization: Healers, Ceremonialists, Spiritualists – especially those who are queer, trans, racialized, disabled, survivors.

A section of my Artist Fee is a dedicated offering for the Ancestors and parts of myself who are healing from these legacies. When you pay my Artist Fee, you are also contributing to a collective re-balancing. You are supporting essential service work that keeps the planet alive, and that our global community depends on.

Sustainability, Activism and Public Funding

A section of my Artist Fee is sent back into my current community organizing work, research, and seed foundation: THE SPIDERWOMAN NETWORK. I am a representative of a Storyteller's Guild whose purpose is to build *a gathering place for artists who create in a foundation of Ancestor Veneration and Earth-Honouring Ceremony*. Here, we find innovative ways to live & work sustainability, share resources and support. Our work is going toward building a movement, system & culture for **village raised artists grants**. When you hire me, you are supporting the development of this work.

The Ancestral Roots of Public Funding:

A huge facet of my work should be publicly funded. I create libraries, apothecaries and open classrooms.

But colonial, corporate entities should not be trusted with the power and responsibility to give public funding where needed. I think we can agree that they've lost that right and privilege. When you hire me, you are supporting my research, advocacy and leadership in this area: a vision and mission to *bring the power and responsibility of public funding back to sovereign, consenting village members and away from colonial and corporate entities.*

LandBack Fee

I organize my overall budget to ensure there is space to offer financial reciprocity back to Black, Indigenous, Afro-Indigenous, caste-oppressed teachers, elders and LandBack promises that I have a mutually consensual relationship with. Like accessibility, LandBack is a collective responsibility. When you offer me an Artist Fee, you are paying into our shared desires and commitments to LandBack. Organizing my Artist Fee to account for this budget also means that I am well supported to offer pro bono services in special moments, [like participating in this fundraiser for a Free Palestine](#) organized by my friends Sze-Yang Lam & Trixi Jones.

WE ARE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE!

I'm Shaunga. Queer. Bengali. Multi-Gendered. Not Your Average Weirdo.



- **Book a Private Consultation or Mini-Workshop** (for individuals or small teams)
[Visit this link for our booking page](#)
 - **Book a Personalized Ancestor-Guided Workshop** (for your group)
 - **Hire us as a HOST + CEREMONIALIST** (for your event, performance showcase or gathering)
 - **Book us as a PRIVATE STORYTELLING CHEF or WISDOM-KEEPER-IN-RESIDENCE**
We provide an irresistible SHAUNGA STAR storytelling menu aka adventure through an altar exclusively curated for your group retreat or ceremonial space.
- Hire us as a Dedicated Artist** (for your project)
Divinatory Dramaturg, Ancestor Intimacy Coordinator, Director, Actor/Voice Actor, Performance Ceremonialist, and more

Bring us to your location for a Live Concert aka “BONE CLOSING CEREMONY”

Includes Audience Talk Back and Collective Energetic Activism

Bring us to your location for a CEREMONIAL EXTRAVAGANZA on a mutually chosen theme. A package can include:

- closed group ancestral artist retreat with local collaborators
- live concert + collective energetic activism + talk back
- specialized workshop or artist circle for your community
- **co-producer model available**

More about our traveling “BONE CLOSING CEREMONY”

We Bring Magical Reality TV for the Revolution to you. This is our *Live Multiverse Memoir* aka our one-person-show: a combination of personal storytelling, ancestral channeling, future world prophecy, past life healing, energetic activism & deep study of Ancestral Time vs capitalist/colonial time.

Each live performance is unique. We curate our set list in collaboration with the land you're on, its Indigenous/LandBack commitments, and its Astro-Cartography (aka guiding star systems and Celestial Ancestors). We weave together the ritual protocols of our time, current cosmic weather, and our co-creative Ancestral Prayers we hold most dear. Our show can be performed raw and unplugged, or in collaboration with local artists, healers and musicians.

Our stages are sacred sites for Ancestors to move, heal and evolve. Our “BONE CLOSING CEREMONY” is a personal and planetary *sacral chakra healing ceremony* – a completion ritual for the last era of time, blessing our planet for a happy motherhood in the next phase of her life. In this spirit, we guide our audience through *collective energetic activism* that move our commitments forward toward ending eras of domestic/military violence, and removing rape/extraction/supremacy cultures from our collective body.

CO-PRODUCER MODEL OPTION: we not only provide a beautiful series of events, we take you through a specialized training on our current research topic – *the ancestral roots of public funding*.

Together, we co-organize a **money moving workshop** with the aim of generating a LUSCIOUS, VILLAGE ARTIST GRANT. We share this grant amongst our communities and causes we care about, in the spirit of creating a beautiful meal together, sitting around a giant harvest table and sharing our wealth.

Bring us your best WILD CARD

Do you have a brilliant collaboration idea for us? Pitch us an idea that WOWS us.

To Book a 90-minute Private Consultation or Mini-Workshop: [BOOK HERE](#)

For other inquiries, email: mercury@shaungatagore.com

See below for a list of our current packages as of July 2025. Note that our Minimum Artist Fee is reserved for independent artists, small businesses and grassroots collectives. Our price goes up for corporate and academic contracts.

AVAILABLE PACKAGES:

90-MINUTE

Private Consultation or Mini-Workshop

takes place on zoom

Minimum Artist Fee: \$638

HALF DAY (3-4 hrs)

Morning, Afternoon or Evening

Local or Virtual

retreat, workshop, conference, circle, event, field trip, performance

Minimum Artist Fee: \$1500 (\$375-\$500/hr)

FULL DAY (6-8 hrs)

Local or Virtual

retreat, workshop, conference, circle, event, field trip, performance

Minimum Artist Fee: \$3000 (\$375-\$500/hr)

WEEKEND (2-3 full days)

Local or Virtual

retreat, workshop conference, circle, event, field trip, performance

Minimum Artist Fee: \$5000+

FULL WEEK (5-7 full days)

Local or Virtual

Artist Fee TBD by project

EXTENDED CONTRACT (2-week Intensive, Month Long Residency, etc)

Artist Fee TBD by project

For local bookings, our travel, accommodation and per diem can be included in our Artist Fee, or the host can cover these separately.

For inquiries, email: mercury@shaungatagore.com

FILL OUT A SURVEY

If this work speaks to you, but you can't afford these Artist Fees, or if you simply want to get involved and collaborate more, I encourage you to explore our SPIDERWOMAN NETWORK.

This is a Storyteller, Producer and Showrunner's Guild for artists who create with Ancestors and the Spirit World, no matter what phase of development you're in. This is a gathering place to learn, heal, share resources and mutual support. We are currently in our Kickstarter moment and we are taking surveys.

We'd love to get to know who you are, what you're working on, what skills/gifts you have to offer, where you need more support, and what questions you have about creating Art with Ancestors and the Spirit World. We'll take these surveys to see the bigger picture, make suggestions on how to weave together as an organized community and create inspired core programming for our invested members.

We are currently in our KICKSTARTER MOMENT. Everyone who makes an offering of any amount to our [Kickstarter campaign](#) will have the option to fill out a survey.

To learn more about THE SPIDERWOMAN NETWORK:
[VISIT OUR WEBPAGE](#)

To Book a Private Consultation:
[CLICK HERE](#)

For other inquiries and questions, email us:
mercury@shaungatagore.com

so tune in, good listeners

LET'S BE BRAVE. LET'S BE

GIANTS

