

October 9-10, 2026

OTHERING & BELONGING CONFERENCE

Louisville, Kentucky

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION



The 2026 Othering & Belonging Conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky on October 9-10, 2026



Hosted by the **Othering & Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley**, the [Othering & Belonging Conferences](#) are dynamic, uniquely-curated events where we come together to explore the narratives, ideas, and practices we need to build a world based on belonging.

The belonging we are advocating for is foundational and unconditional, it does not have to be earned. It is a belonging that is about more than just having access, it is being able to make demands on the political and economic structures that shape our lives, and to fully participate in co-creating the societies we live in now, and want to leave for future generations.

While a world without othering may seem impossible, the reality is that we are already seeing a global movement for belonging gain momentum, with people and partners all over the world who believe this new world is at least a *possibility*, and that this possibility is one that we can organize around.

The Othering & Belonging Conference is a space where we try to give life to that possibility, and to each other.

Interested in partnering as a sponsor?
Contact Puanani at pforbes@berkeley.edu.

Conference Goals

Attendees leave with inspiration, shared purpose, and actionable ways forward to building **inclusive, pluralistic democracies**

The conference provides a coherent, compelling vision of **belonging without othering**, and the concrete tools and connections to help build it

Clear lessons are gleaned from Kentucky, the US South, and regional **movements and leaders** on struggles and strategies against structural marginalization

Attendees leave with a deeper understanding of **economic and material belonging** and the threat of extreme inequality

Participants are provided with a robust understanding of **how bridging strengthens democracy**, and the conference provides ways to practice it

Ways to deepen **relationships, networks, and partnerships** are embedded throughout, and nurtured in ways that can be sustained beyond the conference

What to Expect at O&B26

An immersive, two-day experience designed to spark joy, catalyze action, sharpen collective work, and build stronger coalitions

Over 1,000 changemakers gathered to engage in collective meaning-making and action toward securing inclusive, pluralistic democracies and building belonging

Hands-on strategy and skills-building workshops

A vibrant ecosystem of people working across arts, research, movements, policy, philanthropy, business, and more, united by common purpose to building more caring, fair, and inclusive societies

Vibrant movement spaces including meditation, yoga, and other kinetic and somatic ways to engage in conference themes

Thematic tracks related to belonging and democracy in action, becoming bridgers, and the role of institutions and systems in our work to build belonging societies

Poster Showcase and scheduled meet-and-greets with poster creators

Belonging book table with local bookseller and book signings

What would you like to experience? Write us and let us know!



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What this conference is about is really issuing both a loving challenge and an urgency for people to understand that we're deeply connected, that it is about building relationships in those places where we normally don't build relationships, and understanding that you are my other me.

- Shakti Butler, 2015 & 2017
Conference Emcee

Sponsorship of the O&B Conference helps support and build a growing, global movement for belonging.

Since our first in 2015, each conference has grown each year in scale and reach, with new partners, participants, and geographies:

- In 2024, we welcomed 2,147 participants in person to Oakland, our highest in-person attendance ever.
- People from 85 countries took part in our 2024 conference via livestream and in-person.
- We hosted our first international conference in Berlin in 2023.
- In 2026 we are hosting our US conference outside of the San Francisco Bay Area for the first time in order to build new relationships and learn from each other across different political, cultural, and historical contexts.
- Financial support allows us to offer scholarships and discounted registrations for those who would otherwise not be able to attend, as well as extend the conference learnings to global audiences via innovative digital technology and platforms

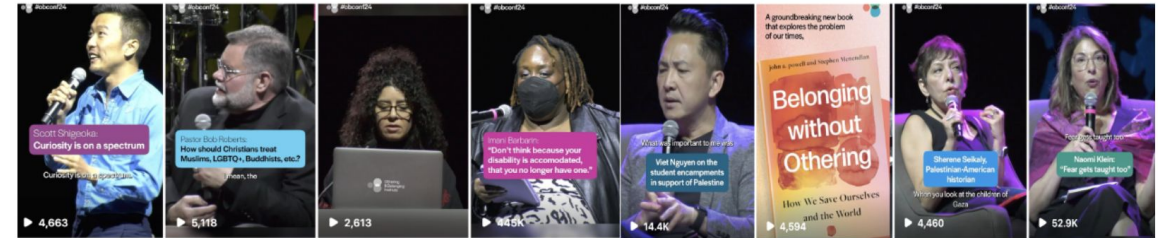


Get a sense of what O&B is all about in [this video](#) recap from our 2024 conference

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Conference sessions are extended through OBI's innovative, wide-reaching communications which prioritize accessibility and transformative public and political education.



Sessions and talks from our conferences are a major driver to our social media platforms—on [OBI's Instagram](#) account, our video reels have been viewed 817,856 times, and counting, a 189.5% increase just since 2023.

OBI's social media platforms have close to 65K followers.

Over 7,000 people tuned into the 2024 conference livestream hosted at [OBI University](#), our free online educational and community hub.

OBI's email list has over 100,000 subscribers

O&B 2024 was attended in person or livestream by reporters and editors from 10 major news outlets including *The New York Times*, *LA Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and KQED.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Belonging Champion \$200,000

Branding on mainstage graphics, website, signage, app
Exclusive ad space in app
Poster submission in Belonging in Action Poster Gallery
Exhibit table in The Commons
20 conference registrations

Belonging Visionary \$100,000

Branding on mainstage graphics, website, signage, app
Poster submission in Belonging in Action Poster Gallery
Exhibit table in The Commons
10 conference registrations



New this year! Belonging Champion and Belonging Visionary Sponsors receive one poster submission for your organization (or grantee of your choice) to be displayed in our highly popular Poster Gallery. After an open call for submissions we choose 35 posters out of dozens of submissions from all over the world. Posters are displayed prominently throughout communal spaces in the conference.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Bridge-Builder

\$50,000

Branding on mainstage graphics, website, signage, and app

Recognition in digital communications and social media

5 conference registrations

Changemaker

\$25,000

Branding on website, signage, and app
Recognition in digital communications and social media

3 conference registrations

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Unique Sponsorship Opportunities

We can also customize your sponsorship to one that most meets your organization's goals. Reach out to [Puanani Forbes](mailto:Puanani@forbes) a pforbes@berkeley.edu to discuss ideas.

Livestream \$50,000

- Exclusive branding on conference livestream
- Social media and email recognition
- Live acknowledgement during livestream
- 5 registrations



Poster Gallery \$30,000

- Logo on poster gallery
- printed materials and signage
- Acknowledgment on [online poster gallery](#)
- Logo on website and app
- 3 conference registrations



Breaking Bread* \$20,000

- Recognition on signage at lunch area
- Logo on website and app
- Social media and email recognition
- 3 conference registrations

*Ten sponsorships available

Reception* \$10,000

- Logo on reception venue signage
- Acknowledgement during reception
- Logo on website and app
- Social media and email recognition
- 1 conference registration

*Five sponsorships available

What's incredible about this conference is being able to think about scholarship alongside a kind of expansion and love. There's something I think is really, really important about bringing together the fight for social justice with the inner work of expanding the circle of compassion.

- Na'ilah Nasir, President,
Spencer Foundation



Join our growing roster of supporters

Whether a returning sponsor, or donating for the first time, we hope you will join the many organizations, foundations, and companies who have provided support for the O&B Conference over the years. In addition to generous financial support, many staff from supporting organizations take leadership roles in conference sessions, as well as bringing large cohorts of their staff to the conference to take part in this dynamic learning space.

We hope you will be interested in supporting our next conference in Louisville! Please contact Puanani at pforbes@berkeley.edu for more information.



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This conference has really pushed me to think about what loving your neighbor really means. How do we actually connect with people that we don't normally connect with? What does it mean to see the humanity in those who don't see your humanity? How do we move from just gathering and being upset and resisting, to really creating the kind of change that we want?.. When we do that, it actually becomes easier to connect with others and to build bridges with others as well.

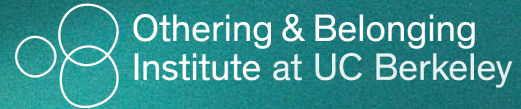
- Conference Attendee Testimonial

I feel like I'm
evolving towards
a new language
to describe the
radical love for
humanity that I
have, and I'm
sure that many
others have.

- Conference Attendee Testimonial



Together, we
can make
belonging
without
othering the
norm not the
exception



The Othering & Belonging Conference is organized by the **Othering & Belonging Institute at the University of California, Berkeley**, a research and action hub that brings together scholars, organizers, communicators, cultural workers, policymakers, and other invested stakeholders to identify and eliminate the barriers to an inclusive, just, and sustainable society and create transformative change.

We can't wait to see you in Louisville!
-Othering & Belonging Institute staff

