

OTHERING & BELONGING

2026 / LOUISVILLE

Othering & Belonging Conference 2026 Your Sponsorship's Impact

At the Othering & Belonging Institute, we have repeatedly seen that **convenings are a critical strategy** for diffusing belonging without othering across the world. Convenings function as robust places where dialogue, reciprocal learning, and deeper relationship-building are incubated and catalyzed—all elements we believe are essential to bolstering democratic practices and strengthening our collective work to build more caring, inclusive societies.

O&B26 in Louisville

Louisville, Kentucky was selected as the site for O&B26 in order to deepen our network-forward strategy, learn from regional contexts and leaders, and respond to calls that we bring the conference to other parts of the U.S. Holding the conference in Kentucky is a significant step to regionally norming belonging as well as to strengthen, test, and expand the Othering & Belonging Institute's frameworks and networks. The city of Louisville was chosen in large part because of existing and emerging partnerships there, and the enthusiasm and willingness of local leaders to help curate a gathering related to belonging in Kentucky.

Sponsorship increases participation

Nonprofits and other similar sectors are especially challenged right now to invest in this type of convening due to budget constraints. While it is not unique for national conferences to take place in Louisville, we recognize O&B may be contextually more expensive for those in this region. Sponsorship allows us to offer a generous amount of scholarships to ensure the greatest possible attendance of those who otherwise would not be able to attend.



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Your sponsorship helps to catalyze participation especially for partners based throughout Kentucky, Appalachia, the Midwest, and the South. Sponsorship will **increase the availability of low-cost registrations** for those who cannot afford the per person cost of the conference—including staff of nonprofits with very small budgets and underemployed or low-paid individuals who are covering the cost out of their own funds.

We hope that sponsors and supporters—whether foundations, individual donors, in-kind partners, businesses and public entities—will be drawn to be part of O&B26 as a commitment to bolstering conference participation from our worldwide ecosystem and this specific region.

What is “Othering & Belonging”

The Othering and Belonging framework has allowed us to better articulate various intersections, whether it be about structural racism, growing social anxiety and polarization, immigration and migration, mass incarceration, affordable housing, public finance, among other broad issues. Not merely analytic, Othering and Belonging is designed to be operationalized and applied as a framework that can inform policy, shift discourse, strengthen movements, influence pedagogy, and deliver a set of best practices and values for expanding our circle of concern for all people and our living planet.

For more information on Impact, Sponsorship, or Sponsor Benefits, please contact **Sarah Legg**, Development Director, at slegg@berkeley.edu.

