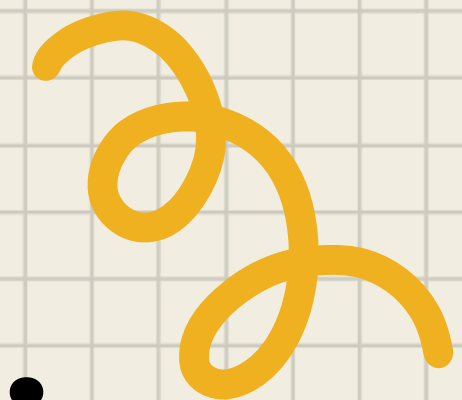


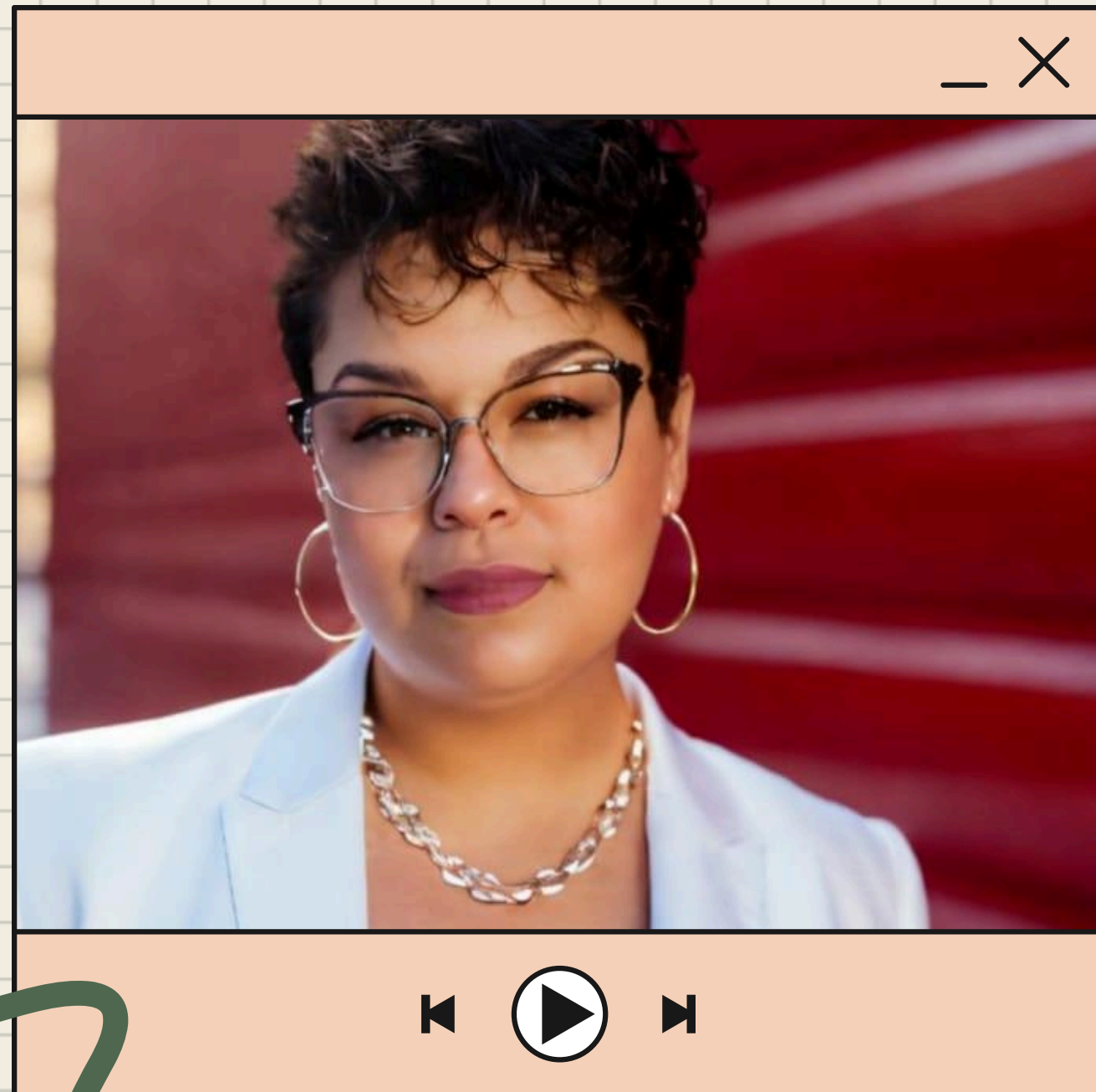


# **The revolution will not be 501(c)3 incorporated**

Live workshop | by Melodie KG



# Hi! My name is Melodie.



- Current sex worker
- Owner of Orange Cap Consultation & Co-Director for New Moon Network
- I have over 12 years of experience directing social justice projects ranging from direct services to advocacy to philanthropy.
- Program design, public safety, community engagement, facilitation, harm reduction

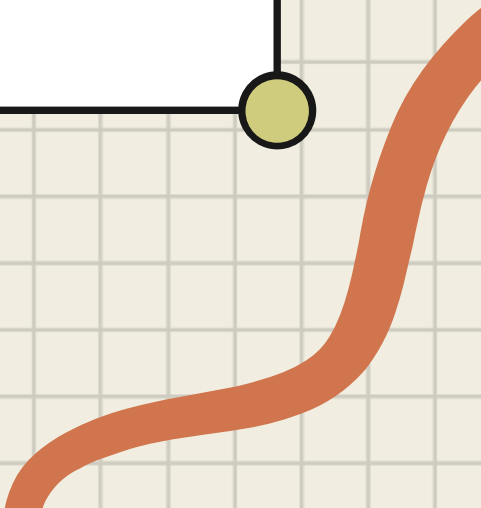
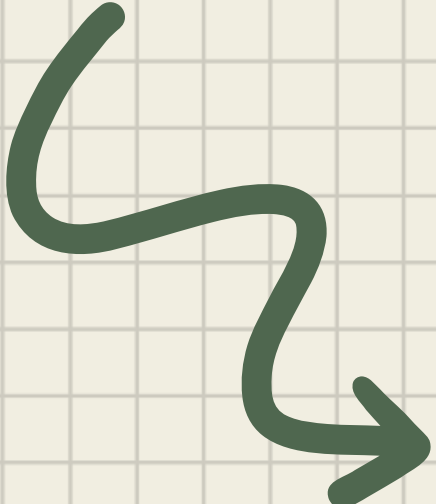


# ORANGE CAP CONSULTATION



Orange Cap Consultation is a boutique consulting firm specializing in trauma-informed meeting facilitation, program design, and equitable community engagement.

I help institutions reduce the harm they cause to marginalized communities and co-create solutions that build intentional relationships. I work with nonprofit, government, philanthropic, and corporate programs that seek to build community.

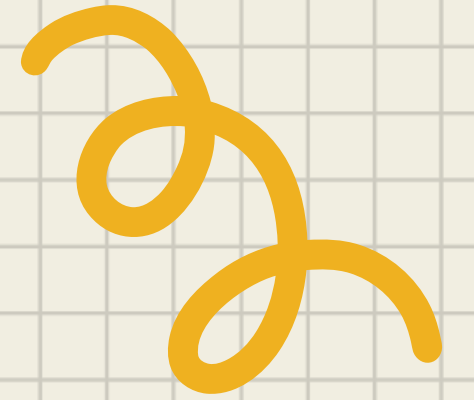


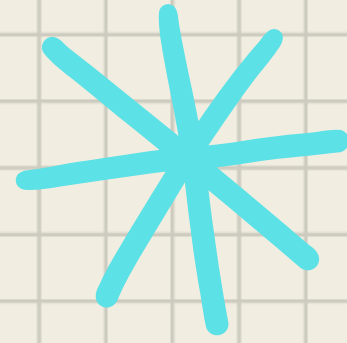




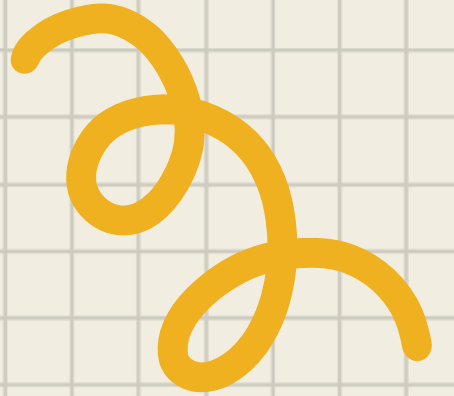
# Today's agenda

- 01 Grounding
- 02 What are/aren't nonprofits?
- 03 Some alternatives
- 04 Discussion & reflection





# Some Caveats



I am not a legal or tax professional. Nothing in this workshop should be considered legal or tax advice.

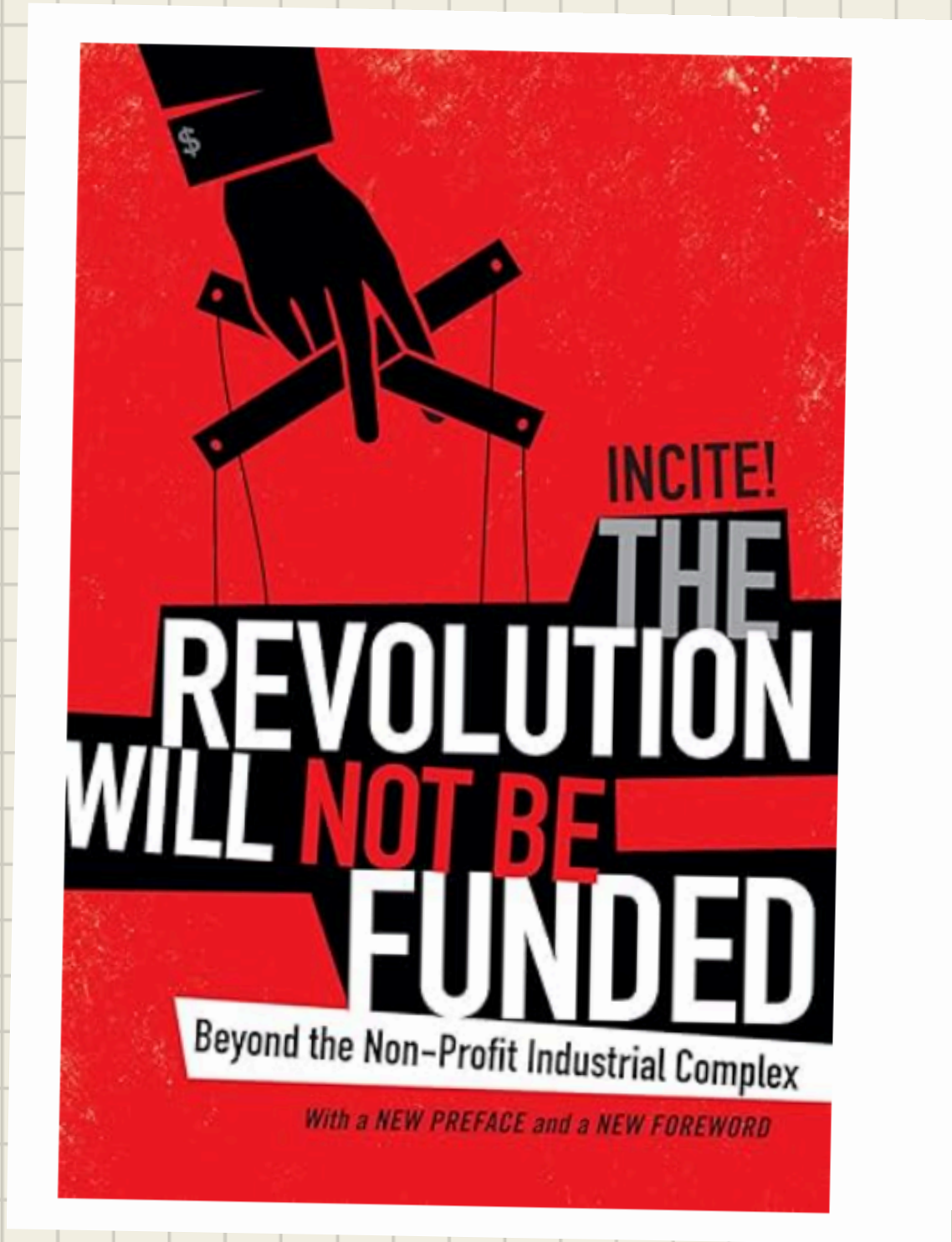
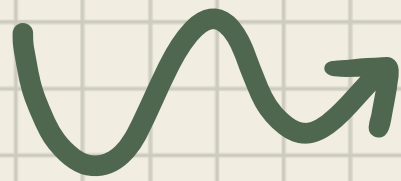
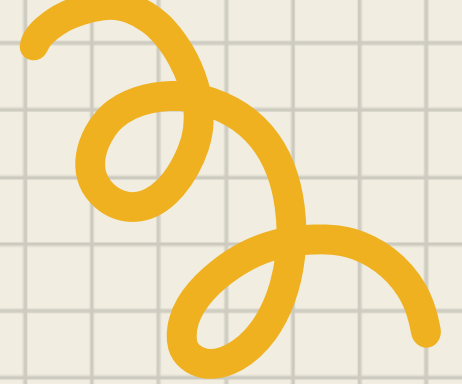
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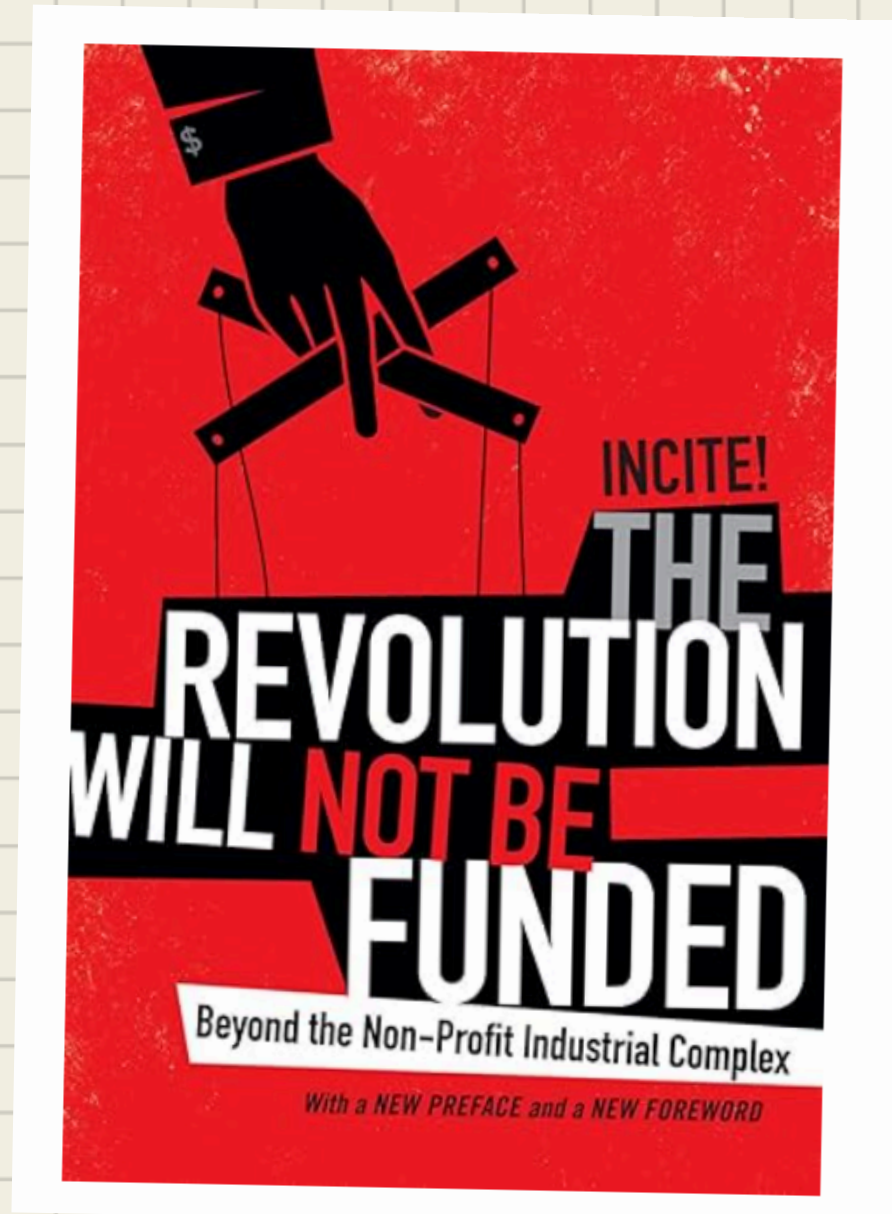
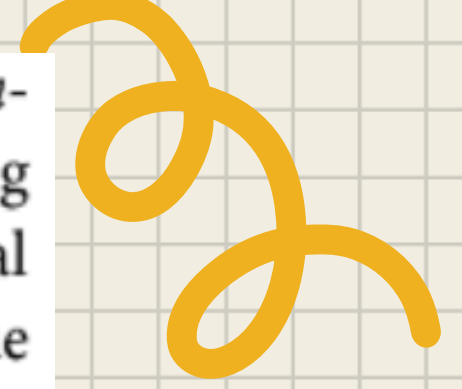
# Reference Note



A nod to mutual aid, community care, and the de-institutionalization of movements.







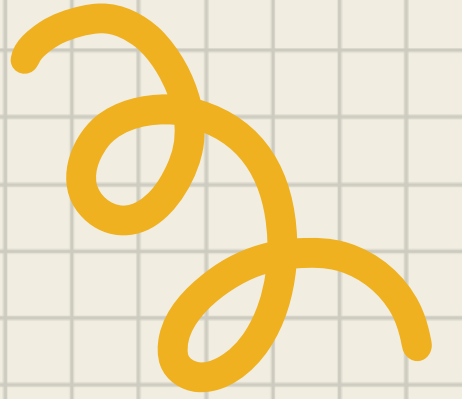
Before the publication of *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: Beyond the Non-profit Industrial Complex*, critiques of the non-profit system had been circulating for years. Yet, there seemed to be little thought that we would engage in a social justice organizing system outside the non-profit system. This was particularly true in the antiviolence movement where, as Beth Richie notes in her volume *Arrested Justice*, the antiviolence movement has ceased to be a movement and has become a network of primarily state-funded agencies. INCITE! organized in 2000 in response to state co-optation of the antiviolence movement. As part of its statement of principles, it declared that it would not take funding from state agencies. As the antiviolence movement's imbrication with the state had led this movement to be invested in the criminal justice system and its attendant prison industrial complex, INCITE! was clear that there needed to be an antiviolence movement that was not invested in carceral feminism and was independent of state funding.

Given the strong critique that INCITE! had of state funding, it is significant that it had no significant critique of foundation funding. Of course, we would gripe with social justice organizers at conferences about the problems with foundations and grant writing. But we did seem to take foundation funding for granted as a necessary evil.

On a trip to India, funded ironically by the Ford Foundation, we had our consciousness raised about the non-profit system. We met with unfunded organizations that asked us why we thought the system was going to fund any real systemic change. We saw organizations that had access to much fewer resources than did we, and yet this did not stop us from doing amazing organizing. As we began to be more connected to mass movements globally and questioned by participants who asked us, "Do you think the system is really going to fund you to dismantle it?"



*“Do you really think the system is really going to fund you to dismantle it?”*







# What is a nonprofit (501c3)?

## Tax exempt

Individuals, corporations, foundations, and other nonprofits can make donations to nonprofits (usually tax deductible)

## Public Entity

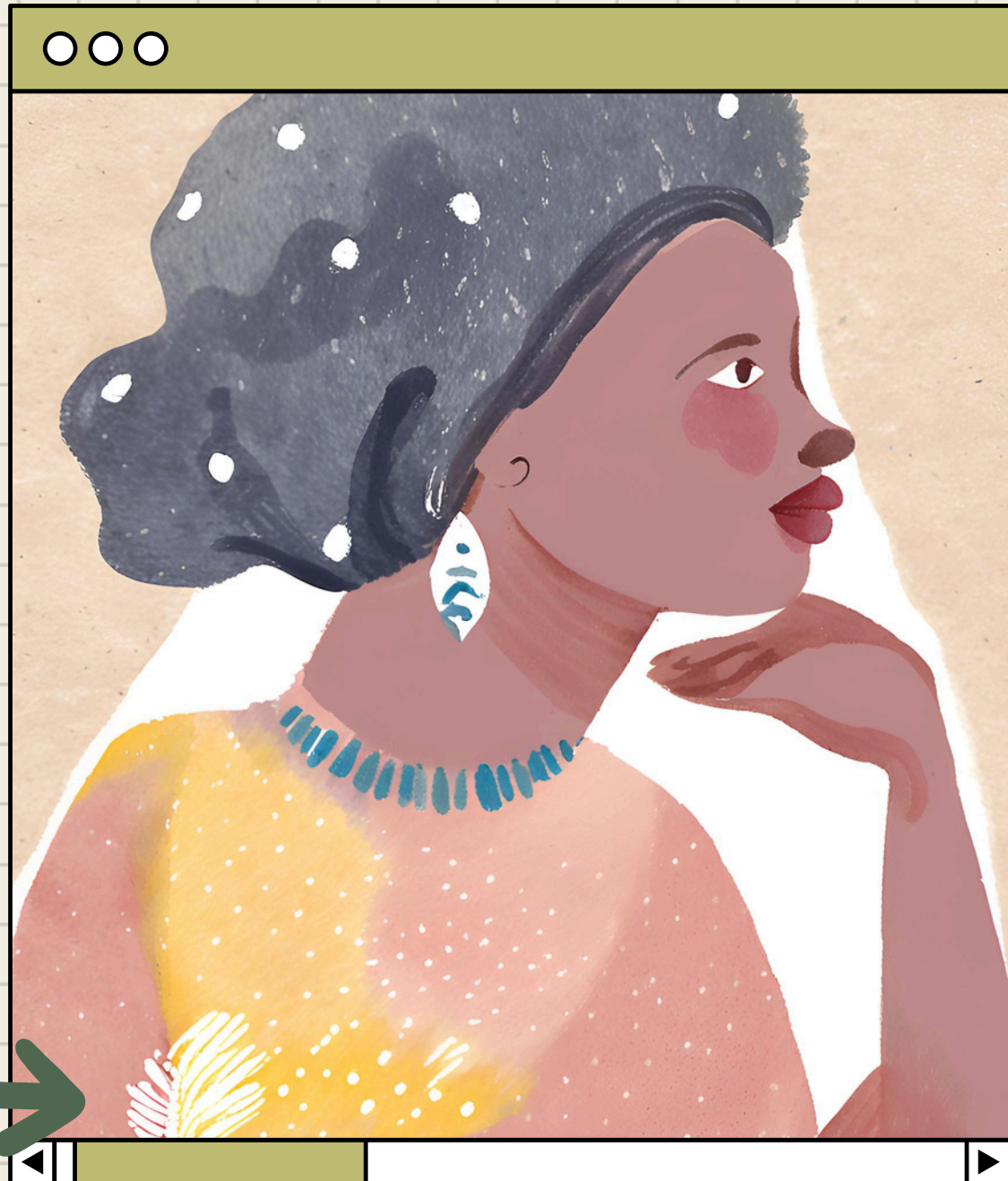
Being a public entity means it is subject to oversight, scrutiny, and some public disclosure.

## Public Good/Service

Usually has to justify itself in term of what it offers the "public."

## complex structures

501c3, c4, c6, c7, etc.  
Legally overseen by a Board of Directors.



# Things to consider when starting a program

How will you support yourself? How will you sustain the work?

How much autonomy do you need in the work?

How much flexibility and privacy?

How will my offerings be perceived in the market?



# What a nonprofit *is not*

## Tax shelter for workers

Working for, or having ownership in a nonprofit does not lessen your individual tax burden.

## Nont-for-profit

Nonprofits CAN make a profit, but there are rules about how that profit can be spent.

## Anti-capitalist

Still very much operate within and dependent of capitalist dynamics, such as market

## Created equal





# Some alternative structures

**Individual**

You do a thing, it makes money, and you report that money as income.

**Sole Prop**

You create a Business Entity (you) and you report your earnings as "passthrough" income.

**LLC**

You create a Company, that Company does business, and you pay yourself a paycheck or "passthrough income"

**Co-op**  
**S-Corp**  
**C-Corp**





# Examples of non-501(c)3 mechanisms to drive social change

Unincorporated mutual aid collectives like Black Lives Matter (BLM) Chapters or Giving Circles.

LLCs that charge for their programs while making an impact like Orange Cap or RHJ.

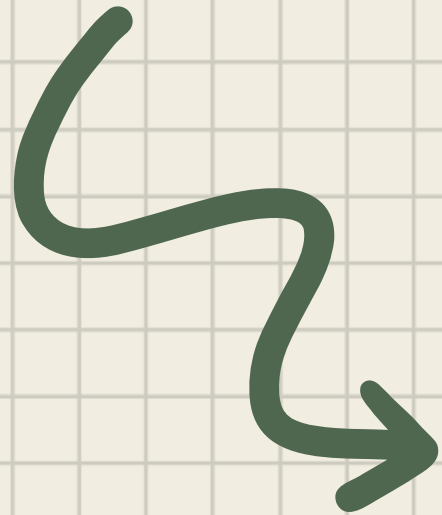
Crowdsourced projects (like Whose Corner is it Anyway) that raise money through platforms like Gofundme

Individual advocates that do the work without pay or affiliation (funded through other means)

# Some Reflections



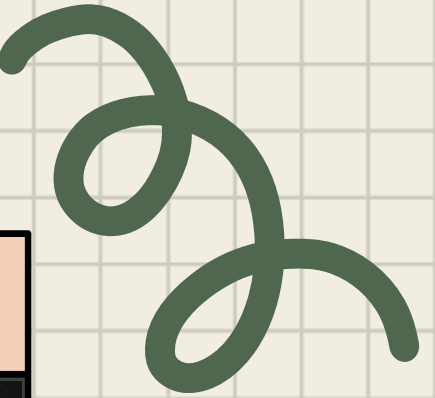
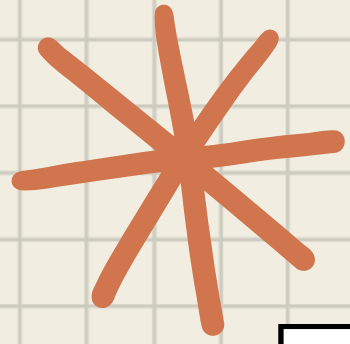
- The nonprofit sector is no longer the only path to social change. As political and economic conditions evolve, we must diversify how we organize, fund, and operate movements to create a more adaptable foundation for social justice.
- Whether through mutual aid, innovative business models, or fiscal sponsorship, change should be driven by the collective energy of people, not traditional funding methods.





# Discussion

1. Who here has either started a nonprofit, fiscally sponsored project, or incorporated a Business entity? What was your experience?
2. What other structures have you encountered or seen work well?
3. What questions do you have about nonprofits or revenue making models?
4. How do you define "revolution," and how do we get there?



# Thank You!

Contact me for any questions and comments

@ @melodiekg

✉ melodie@orangecapconsultation.com

🌐 www.bio.site/Melodie

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