



The Center for People of All Races

A voice and a hub for the Latino community
as we advocate on behalf of our people
and work to achieve social justice.

Volunteer Philosophy Statement

El Centro de la Raza is an organization grounded in the Latino community. Our mission is to build unity across all racial and economic sectors; to organize, empower, and defend our most vulnerable and marginalized populations; and, to bring justice, dignity, equality, and freedom to all the peoples of the world.

Volunteer Philosophy:

- We are eternally grateful to our volunteers and the difference their efforts make for our work and our community. We were founded through the efforts of dedicated volunteers, and volunteers continue to play a vital role working alongside staff members to jointly reach our goals.
- Our volunteers are members of our team. As team members, we believe volunteers should be treated with respect, dignity, humility, and as equals. Volunteers help with a variety of essential tasks that help the operations run smoothly, ranging from manual labor and administrative support to teaching and project management.
- Our volunteers are our allies. They believe in, support, and want to be a part of our mission, our values, our history, our culture, and our fight for social justice.
- Our volunteers represent our diverse community while at the same time serve as our representatives within the community and to the wider public. Volunteering with El Centro provides an opportunity to get to know and build relationships with Seattle's diverse residents.
- We believe volunteers should come with an open mind, a positive attitude, and the willingness to follow-through on commitments they make to El Centro.

What volunteers receive in exchange:

- Your work at El Centro is an investment of your time in exchange for the opportunity to make a difference in the world by helping to promote social justice and create change.
- You will become a part of El Centro's extended family and have the opportunity to get to know and contribute to our culture and our collective diversity.
- You will receive training about our mission, vision, history, culture, and social impact, as well as specific job related training. You will be given clear instructions, specific tasks and the necessary resources to complete them.

For some volunteers, involvement with El Centro also provides the opportunity to:

- Learn or practice Spanish.
- Gain work experience, office skills, and learn how a non-profit functions.
- Receive school credit.
- Fulfill community service requirements.

We are fortunate to have many participants who are also volunteers. These individuals do not receive preferential treatment when utilizing El Centro's services.