

THE GENTLEMEN'S NETWORK

2025 SYMPOSIUM FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 26-28 ~ ATLANTA, GA
HOST: DWAYNE E. SMITH, FOUNDER



THE GENTLEMEN'S NETWORK
AN AFFIRMING GROUP

SYMPOSIUM FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP PACKET OUTLINE



01. The Organization
(About TGN)
02. The Program
(About the Symposium Festival)
03. The Ask
(Sponsorship Opportunities)
04. Call to Action
(How to Participate)

THE ORGANIZATION (ABOUT TGN)

ABOUT TGN

The Gentlemen's Network (TGN), is an Illinois based 501C3 organization, founded in January 2019 by Dwayne E. Smith. TGN's membership is currently comprised of just over 500 SGL men of color between the ages of 18 – 62. There are chapters in three US cities - Chicago, Atlanta and Washington D.C. (DMV), as well as satellite members who live throughout the United States.



What is Our Brand? (WHO WE ARE)

- We are a Brotherhood (Of Quality Professional SGL Men of Color)
- We are a Network (A Place of Resources)
- We are an Empowerment Group (to Encourage, Promote, and Assist with Self-Improvement)
- We are Mental Health Advocates (We spread Hope and all facets of Life Support)

What is Our Motto?

We are better together.

WHAT'S THE MISSION OF TGN?

To make a positive impact on the lives of SGL men of color globally **eliminate division** within our community, and **produce leaders** who pay our n forward and make a difference.

WE DO THIS BY:

- Motivating, inspiring, uplifting and supporting SGL men of color
- Teaching SGL men of color to put their differences to the side and unite.
- Promoting self-improvement and brotherhood
- Encouraging freedom & authenticity
- Providing a safe space where SGL men of color can show up as their authentic selves, heal and grow
- Fostering quality relationships to build our community
- Changing our SGL community one person at a time



SOME OF THE GOALS OF THE ORGANIZATION INCLUDE:

- ✓ Creating a safe space for SGL men to exchange ideas and knowledge
- ✓ To improve the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health of SGL men of color.
- ✓ Helping heal the LGBTQ+ community through outreach initiatives
- ✓ Advocating for queer men of color to show up in spaces as their authentic selves
- ✓ Stopping the spread of HIV and AIDS

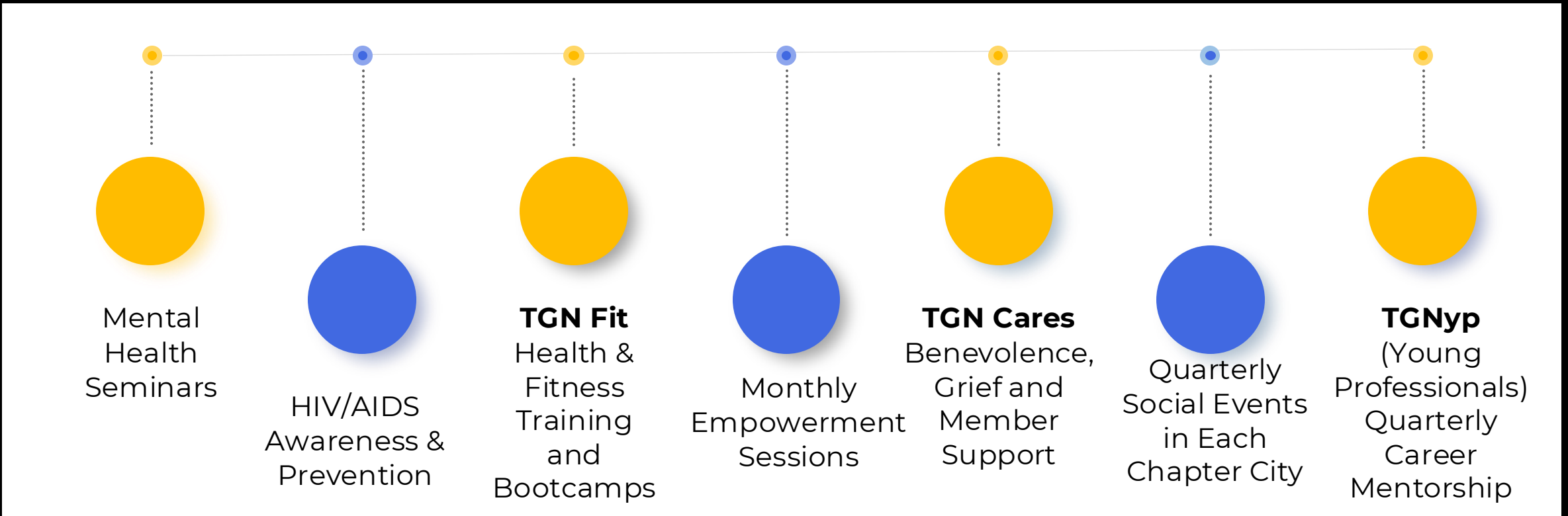
WHAT IS THE VISION OF TGN?

We envision a global network and brotherhood of SGL men of color who: are leaders in their respective communities, and who create and foster opportunity for others to grow and develop.

- TGN is a social networking group
- TGN seeks to disrupt current stereotypical models of the LGBTQ+ community, by bringing SGL men closer together, and creating support systems that will elevate the aspirations of those connected to the network.
- TGN is passionately dedicated to reaching within to build our community: – to equally ground and propel SGL men into their purpose, and bring awareness and solutions to current affairs impacting the LGBTQ+ community

THE WORK WE DO

ONGOING PROGRAMMING – THIS IS HOW WE EXECUTE OUR MISSION AND VISION



THE PROGRAM (ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM)

THE EXPERIENCE

The Symposium Festival is one of the LGBTQ+ community's best kept secrets. It is an exciting and celebrated event that has something to offer every attendee. SGL men of color from across the country come together for four days of **empowerment, networking, inspiration, and entertainment.**

The Symposium Festival is not just another pride party, but **a time of education and impartation.** What makes this event unique is that the event has the perfect balance of learning and fun.

Attendees take part in various social events centered around **empowerment** throughout the weekend, and on Saturday experience a day long conference packed with workshops and speakers on **business, career, finance, health and wellness, and sexual identity.**

The last TGN Symposium had over **200 registered attendees** for the overall conference, and **460 attendees** over the course of the weekend.



WHO ARE TGN SYMPOSIUM ATTENDEES?

***Based upon 2024 Symposium Survey Responses**

01 90% are frequent travelers

02 95% Are Men 5% Women

03 85% Black / 8% Hispanic / 7% Other

04 **Sexuality:** 79% Gay/Lesbian | 15% Bi-Sexual | 6% Straight

05 Median age is 35 with a range from 18 to 66

06 Very socially active (i.e. dining out, theater, movies, clubs, etc)

07 Average income larger than the national average

08 Educated, most with college degrees

09 Work in professional fields

10 Socially active and influential

11 Buyers of high-ticket items (i.e. automobiles, electronic, real estate)

12 Beauty/ health and fitness conscious

13 Fashion conscious/ trendsetters

THE ASK (SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES)



THE ASK

We want to partner with you in this work! Businesses and corporations are a critical part of our community's ecosystem. The Gentlemen's Network is seeking to build mission-aligned partnership opportunities with each business we work with. We're looking forward to talking with you about how we can impact SGL Men of Color together!

WE ARE SEEKING:

- 01 1 Lead Sponsor - \$20,000
 - o (Covers the Full Day Symposium Festival Conference)

- 02 2 Premium Sponsors - \$10,000
 - o (Covers the Mix & Mingle and Pillow Talk Mental Health Events)

- 03 4 Purpose Sponsors - \$5,000
 - o (Covers Speakers & Entertainment)

- 04 10 Symposium Patrons - \$1,000
 - o (Covers Registration Packets)

2025 PRESENTING SPONSOR

SEEKING ONE (1)

**PRESENTING SPONSOR:
\$20,000**

Speaking Opportunity at the Symposium Workshop

Branded Materials included in registration/swag bags (Sponsor provided)

Public recognition at all weekend events

Sponsor exhibit or booth space at Mental Health Panel, Mix & Mingle, Symposium
Festival

Name and logo on all printed materials and promos

Additional Custom Value Propositions available upon request.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS

SEEKING TWO (2)

PREMIUM SPONSORS: \$10,000

Sponsors Representative to Welcome Guests at Mental Health Pajama Party and/or Friday Night Mix & Mingle

Branded Materials included in registration/swag bags (Sponsor provided)

Full page ad in Symposium Program Booklet

Public recognition at all weekend events

Tabletop Advertisements at all weekend events (Sponsor Provided)

SEEKING FOUR (4)

PURPOSE SPONSORS: \$5,000

Full page ad in Symposium Program Booklet

Public Recognition at all weekend events

Tabletop Advertisements at all weekend events (Sponsor Provided)

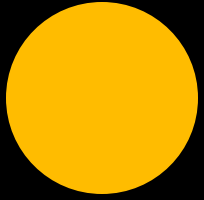
SEEKING TEN (10)

SYMPOSIUM PATRONS: \$1,000

Name and or Logo listed in Symposium Program Booklet

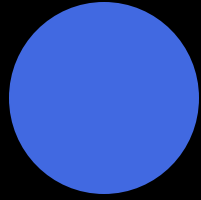
Name and or Logo listed on Registration Booth Tablecloth & Popup Banner outside Symposium Workshop

BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP



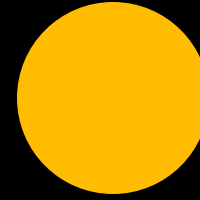
Investment in Meaningful Change

Transform your corporate giving efforts from transactional charitable contributions to investment in meaningful change in our community. By supporting TGN's work, your investment helps motivate and empower the LGBTQ+ community.



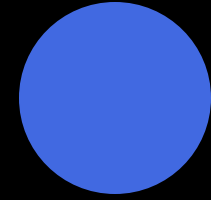
Engagement Opportunities for Your Team

Your financial support provides you with avenues for involvement in our work in other ways, like speaking opportunities, invitations to attend Symposium Festival events, and we can coordinate with your workplace giving program.



Knowledge and Resource Sharing

Does your business have a skill or non-monetary resource to share, such as subject matter experts on issues of importance to our community? Or can we share our knowledge with your team? You can hire our team for presentations on the role of LGBTQ+ philanthropy, and to learn more about critical issues facing SGL men of color.



Visibility

Although we offer standardized sponsorships based on dollars of support, we do offer unique and personalized ways to recognize our partnership through Symposium events, vendor tables, print publications and online.

CALL TO ACTION

**For further information or to
sponsor, Contact:**

Eric Sanders
Chair, Board of Directors

The Gentlemen's Network
9050 S Richmond Ave
Evergreen Park, IL 60805

Email: esanders@connecttgn.com

Tel: 312-545-0269