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Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No 1545-0047

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

2011

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements

A For the 2011 calendar year, or tax year beginning , 2011, and ending , 20

B Check if applicable:
 Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Terminated
 Amended return
 Application pending

C Name of organization **The SPHERE Institute**
 Doing Business As
 Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite
500 Airport Blvd. 340
 City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4
Burlingame, CA 94010-1926

D Employer identification number
91-1748201

E Telephone number
650-558-3982

F Name and address of principal officer
Thomas E. MaCurdy 895 Lathrop Drive, Stanford, CA 94305

G Gross receipts \$ **3,599,579**

H(a) Is this a group return for affiliates? Yes No
H(b) Are all affiliates included? Yes No
 If "No," attach a list (see instructions)

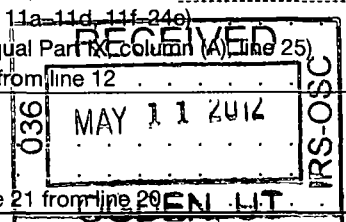
I Tax-exempt status 501(c)(3) 501(c) () ◀ (insert no) 4947(a)(1) or 527

J Website: ▶ **http://www.sphereinstitute.org**

K Form of organization Corporation Trust Association Other ▶ **Non-profit** **L** Year of formation **1996** **M** State of legal domicile **CA**

Part I Summary

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: Mission. To significantly improve data and the information provided to policy makers at federal, state, and local level who design, change, test, and implement health, welfare, education, housing, and human resources programs at the national, state, and county level. The SPHERE Institute provides research, evaluation, and data to improve health and human services programs and delivery of services to the public			
2 Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.			
Activities & Governance	3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	5
	4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	4
	5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2011 (Part V, line 2a)	5	57
	6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	-0-
	7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	-0-
	b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	7b	-0-
	Revenue	8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	-0-
9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)		5,813,967	3,599,150
10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)		818	429
11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)		-0-	-0-
12 Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)		5,814,785	3,599,579
Expenses	13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3)	-0-	-0-
	14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	-0-	-0-
	15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10)	2,900,568	2,341,457
	16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	-0-	-0-
	b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶	-0-	-0-
	17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e)	2,871,523	1,103,598
18 Total expenses. Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	5,772,091	3,445,055	
19 Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	42,694	154,524	
Net Assets or Fund Balances	20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	506,609	641,110
	21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	11,421	(8,602)
	22 Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	495,188	649,712



Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here ▶ Signature of officer: **Thomas E. MaCurdy** Date: **05/01/2012**
 Type or print name and title: **Thomas E. MaCurdy President**

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name: **Michael S Bernstam** Preparer's signature: **M Bernstam** Date: **05/01/2012** Check if self-employed PTIN: **P01317508**
 Firm's name ▶ **Patrac** Firm's EIN ▶ **94-3192370**
 Firm's address ▶ **144 Pacchetti Way, Mountain View, CA 94040** Phone no **650-723-0527**

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) Yes No

SCANNED MAY 14 2012

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Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part III

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission:

The mission of the SPHERE Institute is to significantly improve data and the information provided to policy makers who design, revise, test, and implement health care, education, welfare, housing, and labor market preparedness and training programs at the national, state, and local -- county and municipal -- level. The SPHERE Institute's research and evaluation improves health and human services programs and facilitates their optimal delivery to the public

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? Yes No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? Yes No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) trusts are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

4a (Code:) (Expenses \$ 1,887,818 including grants of \$ -0-) (Revenue \$ 2,320,562)

Health Policy: In conjunction with its related organization, Acumen, LLC, The SPHERE Institute offers The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, other federal agencies, the National Institutes of Health, and corresponding government agencies at the state and local level, as well as public health practitioners, powerful policy analysis capability, providing specific, impartial advice and context evaluation for policy debates. In developing models for timely analysis, SPHERE has developed a deep understanding of health and social trends in the U.S. and the state of California that also provides a solid infrastructure for its long-term research program. With these interrelated goals, SPHERE serves the interests of the public, government, and the business and research communities. The projects Medicare Wage Index, Prescription Drug Data, Cost Effectiveness of Four HRSA Special Programs of National Significance (SPNS) for the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) are current and long-running studies. SPNS assesses the comparative effectiveness and costs of four Ryan Act CARE Act special programs They engage marginalized HIV-positive populations into primary health care by employing peer-based outreach methods.

4b (Code:) (Expenses \$ 470,368 including grants of \$ -0-) (Revenue \$ 619,652)

Health Policy The SPHERE Institute conducted projects for Agency for Health Care Quality (AHCQ) and for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These projects provided research and technical assistance on a variety of health policy issues, including health care insurance coverage for indigent populations, the provision and financing of health care services, the role of safety net providers in delivering care, and ways to assess and improve the quality of care per the AHCQ mandate Our health policy research encompasses a wide range of analytical and evaluative approaches, from the examination of large claims data for government health insurance programs to the collection of information through employee surveys of preferences for employer-provided health care benefits. These projects inform policy makers at this critical junction of the national health care reform

4c (Code:) (Expenses \$ 172,087 including grants of \$ -0-) (Revenue \$ 456,638)

Social, Labor, and Child and Family Policies. The SPHERE Institute conducted ongoing projects for the California Department of Social Services and for the Department of Developmental Services. This includes a wide range of social services programs and sub-programs, providing technical assistance to many of the service providers and performing analyses of the systems in which these programs exist SPHERE conducts ongoing research projects on home visitation, foster youth services, and child care assistance Projects in these areas address the provision of human services by both public agencies and private, community-based organizations, emphasizing the effective use of analysis and data in program design, service integration, and outcome-based management SPHERE developed Comprehensive Assessment Tool (CAT), Safety and Risk Assessment System for California Department of Social Services It is evidence-based system for use in counties' Child Welfare Agencies It has been already implemented in 13 counties in California such as San Bernadino, Santa Clara, Napa, and Contra Costa counties It assists social workers in gathering critical information and ensures that key information is reviewed at each decision point in the life of a case It is ready to expand to more counties. The SPHERE Institute works with counties officials to train social workers to use this tool

4d Other program services (Describe in Schedule O.)
(Expenses \$ 914,782 including grants of \$ -0-) (Revenue \$ 202,298)

4e Total program service expenses ▶ \$3,445,055

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? If "Yes," complete Schedule A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors (see instructions)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5 Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21; serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X, or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11 If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable.		
a Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12 a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI, XII, and XIII	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI, XII, and XIII is optional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14 a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or assistance to any organization or entity located outside the United States? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or assistance to individuals located outside the United States? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I (see instructions)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20 a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? If "Yes," complete Schedule H	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

	Yes	No
21 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to any government or organization in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II</i>		✓
22 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III</i>		✓
23 Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J</i>	✓	
24a Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25</i>		✓
b Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?		✓
c Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?		✓
d Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?		✓
25a Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>		✓
b Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>		✓
26 Was a loan to or by a current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, highly compensated employee, or disqualified person outstanding as of the end of the organization's tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II</i>		✓
27 Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III</i>		✓
28 Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions):		
a A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		✓
b A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		✓
c An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>	✓	
29 Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		✓
30 Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		✓
31 Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i>		✓
32 Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II</i>		✓
33 Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I</i>		✓
34 Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Parts II, III, IV, and V, line 1</i>	✓	
35a Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		✓
b Did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>		✓
36 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>	✓	
37 Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI</i>		✓
38 Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11 and 19? Note. All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O	✓	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part V

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable 1a 5		
b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable 1b -0-		
c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners? 1c ✓	✓	
2a	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return 2a 57		
b	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? 2b ✓ Note. If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file (see instructions)	✓	
3a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year? 3a		✓
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O 3b		
4a	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? 4a		✓
b	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country. ► See instructions for filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22 1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts.		
5a	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year? 5a		✓
b	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? 5b		✓
c	If "Yes" to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T? 5c		
6a	Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible? 6a		✓
b	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible? 6b		
7	Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).		
a	Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor? 7a		
b	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided? 7b		
c	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282? 7c		
d	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year 7d		
e	Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract? 7e		
f	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract? 7f		
g	If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required? 7g		
h	If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C? 7h		
8	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds and section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations. Did the supporting organization, or a donor advised fund maintained by a sponsoring organization, have excess business holdings at any time during the year? 8		
9	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.		
a	Did the organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966? 9a		
b	Did the organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person? 9b		
10	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:		
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12 10a		
b	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities 10b		
11	Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter:		
a	Gross income from members or shareholders 11a		
b	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them.) 11b		
12a	Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts. Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041? 12a		
b	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year 12b		
13	Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.		
a	Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? 13a Note. See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O.		
b	Enter the amount of reserves the organization is required to maintain by the states in which the organization is licensed to issue qualified health plans 13b		
c	Enter the amount of reserves on hand 13c		
14a	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year? 14a		
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O 14b		

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to line 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions. Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VI

Section A. Governing Body and Management

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year		
	If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O.		
1b	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent		
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?		✓
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors, or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?		✓
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?		✓
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?		✓
6	Did the organization have members or stockholders?		✓
7a	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?		✓
7b	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?		✓
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following:		
a	The governing body?	✓	
b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	✓	
9	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O		✓

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

		Yes	No
10a	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?		✓
10b	If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?		
11a	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	✓	
11b	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990.		
12a	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	✓	
12b	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	✓	
12c	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done	✓	
13	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	✓	
14	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	✓	
15	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
15a	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	✓	
15b	Other officers or key employees of the organization	✓	
	If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions).		
16a	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?		✓
16b	If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?		

Section C. Disclosure

- 17** List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed ► **California**
- 18** Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (Section 501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.
 Own website Another's website Upon request
- 19** Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how), the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year.
- 20** State the name, physical address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the books and records of the organization: ► **Thomas E. MaCurdy, 895 Lathrop Drive, Stanford, CA 94305, tel 650-533-4211**

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VII

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.
- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any. See instructions for definition of "key employee."
- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee, or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, and highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

List persons in the following order: individual trustees or directors; institutional trustees; officers; key employees, highest compensated employees; and former such persons.

Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (describe hours for related organizations in Schedule O)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) Thomas E. MaCurdy President	40	✓		✓				54,076	-0-	813,958
(2) Gerald P. Gillespie Chairman of the Board	5	✓						-0-	-0-	-0-
(3) Semion Lyandres Vice-Chairman of the Board	2	✓						-0-	-0-	-0-
(4) Peter R. Meffert Board Member	1	✓						-0-	-0-	-0-
(5) Thomas D. Sege Board Member	0.5	✓						-0-	-0-	-0-
(6) Felix Tismer Accounts Manager	40			✓				80,712	-0-	-0-
(7) Jonathan Gibbs Research Associate	40				✓	✓		141,218	-0-	-0-
(8) Azucena Monroy Research Associate	40				✓	✓		101,928	-0-	-0-
(9) Kelly T. MaCurdy IT Manager	40				✓	✓		122,744	-0-	-0-
(10)										
(11)										
(12)										
(13)										
(14)										

Part VII Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (describe hours for related organizations in Schedule O)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(15)										
(16)										
(17)										
(18)										
(19)										
(20)										
(21)										
(22)										
(23)										
(24)										
(25)										
1b Sub-total							500,678	-0-	813,958	
c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A							-0-	-0-	-0-	
d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)							500,678	-0-	813,958	

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization **▶ 3**

	Yes	No
3 Did the organization list any former officer, director, or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>		✓
4 For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>	✓	
5 Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person</i>		✓

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
None		

2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization **▶ -0-**

Part VIII Statement of Revenue

			(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512, 513, or 514	
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1a Federated campaigns	1a					
	b Membership dues	1b					
	c Fundraising events	1c					
	d Related organizations	1d					
	e Government grants (contributions)	1e					
	f All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f					
	g Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$						
	h Total. Add lines 1a-1f ▶			-0-			
Program Service Revenue	2a Data analysis, policy research	Business Code 518210	3,599,150	3,599,150	-0-	-0-	
	b _____						
	c _____						
	d _____						
	e _____						
	f All other program service revenue						
	g Total. Add lines 2a-2f ▶		3,599,150				
	Other Revenue	3 Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts) ▶		429	429	-0-	-0-
4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds ▶			-0-				
5 Royalties ▶			-0-				
6a Gross rents		(i) Real	(ii) Personal				
b Less: rental expenses							
c Rental income or (loss)							
d Net rental income or (loss) ▶							
7a Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory		(i) Securities	(ii) Other				
b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses							
c Gain or (loss)							
d Net gain or (loss) ▶				-0-			
8a Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18 a							
		b Less: direct expenses b					
	c Net income or (loss) from fundraising events . . ▶			-0-			
9a Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19 a							
	b Less: direct expenses b						
	c Net income or (loss) from gaming activities . . ▶			-0-			
10a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances a							
	b Less: cost of goods sold b						
	c Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory . . ▶			-0-			
Miscellaneous Revenue		Business Code					
11a _____							
b _____							
c _____							
d All other revenue			-0-				
e Total. Add lines 11a-11d ▶			-0-				
12 Total revenue. See instructions. ▶			3,599,579	3,599,579	-0-	-0-	

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A) but are not required to complete columns (B), (C), and (D).

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part IX

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.		(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1	Grants and other assistance to governments and organizations in the United States. See Part IV, line 21	-0-			
2	Grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States. See Part IV, line 22	-0-			
3	Grants and other assistance to governments, organizations, and individuals outside the United States. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16	-0-			
4	Benefits paid to or for members	-0-			
5	Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	500,678	297,222	203,456	-0-
6	Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)	-0-			-0-
7	Other salaries and wages	1,487,736	1,481,496	6,240	-0-
8	Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	64,202	64,202	-0-	-0-
9	Other employee benefits	119,268	119,268	-0-	-0-
10	Payroll taxes	169,573	168,766	807	-0-
11	Fees for services (non-employees):				
a	Management	-0-			-0-
b	Legal	6,751	6,751	-0-	-0-
c	Accounting	11,944	-0-	11,944	-0-
d	Lobbying	-0-			-0-
e	Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17	-0-			-0-
f	Investment management fees	-0-			-0-
g	Other	674,443	670,687	3,756	-0-
12	Advertising and promotion	-0-			-0-
13	Office expenses	31,977	28,779	3,198	-0-
14	Information technology	6,448	6,448	-0-	-0-
15	Royalties	-0-			-0-
16	Occupancy	345,610	345,610	-0-	-0-
17	Travel	10,202	10,202	-0-	-0-
18	Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials	-0-			-0-
19	Conferences, conventions, and meetings	4,066	4,066	-0-	-0-
20	Interest	-0-			
21	Payments to affiliates	-0-			
22	Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	-0-			
23	Insurance	2,003	2,003	-0-	-0-
24	Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above. (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a	Dues and subscriptions	415	415	-0-	-0-
b	Telephone	465	430	35	-0-
c	Postage and delivery	399	199	200	-0-
d	Printing and reproduction	8,018	8,018	-0-	-0-
e	All other expenses Bank service charges	857	-0-	857	-0-
25	Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	3,445,055	3,214,562	230,493	-0-
26	Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

Part X Balance Sheet

		(A)		(B)
		Beginning of year		End of year
Assets	1 Cash—non-interest-bearing	291,962	1	450,064
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	229,365	2	229,754
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net		3	
	4 Accounts receivable, net	(32,821)	4	(56,811)
	5 Receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L		5	
	6 Receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions)		6	
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net		7	
	8 Inventories for sale or use		8	
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges		9	
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a		
	b Less: accumulated depreciation	10b		10c
	11 Investments—publicly traded securities		11	
	12 Investments—other securities See Part IV, line 11		12	
	13 Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11		13	
	14 Intangible assets		14	
	15 Other assets. See Part IV, line 11	18,103	15	18,103
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	506,609	16	641,110	
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	11,421	17	(8,602)
	18 Grants payable		18	
	19 Deferred revenue		19	
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities		20	
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D		21	
	22 Payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons Complete Part II of Schedule L		22	
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties		23	
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties		24	
	25 Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D		25	
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	11,421	26	(8,602)
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117, check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.			
	27 Unrestricted net assets		27	
	28 Temporarily restricted net assets		28	
	29 Permanently restricted net assets		29	
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117, check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34.			
	30 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		30	
	31 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund		31	
	32 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds	495,188	32	649,712
33 Total net assets or fund balances	495,188	33	649,712	
34 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	506,609	34	641,110	

Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part XI

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	3,599,579
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	3,445,055
3	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	154,524
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	495,188
5	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	5	-0-
6	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3, 4, and 5 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	6	649,712

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part XII

		Yes	No
1	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O.		
2a	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant?	✓	
2b	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?		✓
2c	If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O.		✓
d	If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were issued on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		
3a	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?	✓	
3b	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits	✓	

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Public Charity Status and Public Support

OMB No 1545-0047

2011

Open to Public Inspection

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ▶ See separate instructions.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization
The SPHERE Institute

Employer identification number
91-1748201

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 11, check only one box.)

- 1 A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)**.
- 2 A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)**. (Attach Schedule E.)
- 3 A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**.
- 4 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. Enter the hospital's name, city, and state: _____
- 5 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 6 A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v)**.
- 7 An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 8 A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 9 An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2)**. (Complete Part III.)
- 10 An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4)**.
- 11 An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2). See **section 509(a)(3)**. Check the box that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e through 11h.
 - a Type I b Type II c Type III—Functionally integrated d Type III—Other
- e By checking this box, I certify that the organization is not controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons other than foundation managers and other than one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2).
- f If the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, or Type III supporting organization, check this box
- g Since August 17, 2006, has the organization accepted any gift or contribution from any of the following persons?
 - (i) A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (ii) and (iii) below, the governing body of the supported organization?

	Yes	No
11g(i)		
11g(ii)		
11g(iii)		
 - (ii) A family member of a person described in (i) above?

	Yes	No
11g(ii)		
 - (iii) A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (i) or (ii) above?

	Yes	No
11g(iii)		
- h Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1-9 above or IRC section (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization in col. (i) listed in your governing document?		(v) Did you notify the organization in col. (i) of your support?		(vi) Is the organization in col. (i) organized in the U.S.?		(vii) Amount of support
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
(A)									
(B)									
(C)									
(D)									
(E)									
Total									

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
 (Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2007	(b) 2008	(c) 2009	(d) 2010	(e) 2011	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3						
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2007	(b) 2008	(c) 2009	(d) 2010	(e) 2011	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4						
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ► <input type="checkbox"/>						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2011 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	%
15 Public support percentage from 2010 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	%
16a 33 1/3% support test—2011. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ► <input type="checkbox"/>		
b 33 1/3% support test—2010. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ► <input type="checkbox"/>		
17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2011. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ► <input type="checkbox"/>		
b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2010. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ► <input type="checkbox"/>		
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions ► <input type="checkbox"/>		

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2007	(b) 2008	(c) 2009	(d) 2010	(e) 2011	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose	1,074,668	1,796,573	1,927,778	5,813,967	3,599,150	14,212,136
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5	1,074,668	1,796,573	1,927,778	5,813,967	3,599,150	14,212,136
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						14,212,136

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2007	(b) 2008	(c) 2009	(d) 2010	(e) 2011	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6	1,074,668	1,796,573	1,927,778	5,813,967	3,599,150	14,212,136
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	1,182	455	305	818	429	3,189
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b	1,182	455	305	818	429	3,189
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV)						
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)	1,075,850	1,797,028	1,928,083	5,814,785	3,599,579	14,215,325
14 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2011 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	99.98 %
16 Public support percentage from 2010 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	99.95 %

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2011 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	0.02 %
18 Investment income percentage from 2010 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	0.05 %
19a 33 1/3% support tests—2011. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here . The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
b 33 1/3% support tests—2010. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here . The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
20 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		

**SCHEDULE D
(Form 990)**

Supplemental Financial Statements

OMB No 1545-0047

2011

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Name of the organization

The SPHERE Institute

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.
▶ Attach to Form 990. ▶ See separate instructions.

Employer identification number

91-1748201

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1 Total number at end of year		
2 Aggregate contributions to (during year)		
3 Aggregate grants from (during year)		
4 Aggregate value at end of year		
5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply). <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of land for public use (e.g., recreation or education) <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of an historically important land area <input type="checkbox"/> Protection of natural habitat <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of a certified historic structure <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of open space	
2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year.	
	Held at the End of the Tax Year
a Total number of conservation easements	2a
b Total acreage restricted by conservation easements	2b
c Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)	2c
d Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register	2d
3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ▶	
4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ▶	
5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶	
7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ \$	
8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
9 In Part XIV, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements.	

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIV, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items.	
b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items:	
(i) Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1	▶ \$
(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X	▶ \$
2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items:	
a Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1	▶ \$
b Assets included in Form 990, Part X	▶ \$

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets (continued)

- 3** Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply):
- a** Public exhibition
 - b** Scholarly research
 - c** Preservation for future generations
 - d** Loan or exchange programs
 - e** Other
- 4** Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIV.
- 5** During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? Yes No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

- 1a** Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? Yes No
- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIV and complete the following table:
- | | Amount |
|--|-----------|
| c Beginning balance | 1c |
| d Additions during the year | 1d |
| e Distributions during the year | 1e |
| f Ending balance | 1f |
- 2a** Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21? Yes No
- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIV.

Part V Endowment Funds. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance					

- 2** Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as:
- a** Board designated or quasi-endowment %
 - b** Permanent endowment %
 - c** Temporarily restricted endowment %
- The percentages in lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%.
- 3a** Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:
- | | Yes | No |
|--|---------------|----|
| (i) unrelated organizations | 3a(i) | |
| (ii) related organizations | 3a(ii) | |
| b If "Yes" to 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R? | 3b | |
- 4** Describe in Part XIV the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds.

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land				
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment				
e Other				

Total. Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c).)

Part VII Investments—Other Securities. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives		
(2) Closely-held equity interests		
(3) Other		
(A)		
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		
(I)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 12.) ▶		

Part VIII Investments—Program Related. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment type	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
(10)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 13.) ▶		

Part IX Other Assets. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1) Security deposit	18,103
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
(10)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 15.) ▶	18,103

Part X Other Liabilities. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
(10)	
(11)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 25.) ▶	

2. FIN 48 (ASC 740) Footnote. In Part XIV, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740).

Part XI Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets from Form 990 to Audited Financial Statements

1	Total revenue (Form 990, Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	3,599,579
2	Total expenses (Form 990, Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	3,445,055
3	Excess or (deficit) for the year. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	154,524
4	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	4	
5	Donated services and use of facilities	5	
6	Investment expenses	6	
7	Prior period adjustments	7	
8	Other (Describe in Part XIV.)	8	
9	Total adjustments (net). Add lines 4 through 8	9	-0-
10	Excess or (deficit) for the year per audited financial statements. Combine lines 3 and 9	10	154,524

Part XII Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements	1	
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:		
a	Net unrealized gains on investments	2a	
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b	
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIV.)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1:		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	
b	Other (Describe in Part XIV.)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	
5	Total revenue. Add lines 3 and 4c. (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)	5	

Part XIII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements	1	
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:		
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a	
b	Prior year adjustments	2b	
c	Other losses	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIV.)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1:		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	
b	Other (Describe in Part XIV.)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	
5	Total expenses. Add lines 3 and 4c. (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)	5	

Part XIV Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9; Part III, lines 1a and 4; Part IV, lines 1b and 2b; Part V, line 4; Part X, line 2; Part XI, line 8; Part XII, lines 2d and 4b; and Part XIII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

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**SCHEDULE J
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Name of the organization

The SPHERE Institute

Compensation Information

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

- ▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 23.
- ▶ Attach to Form 990. ▶ See separate instructions.

OMB No 1545-0047

2011

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Employer identification number

91-1748201

Part I Questions Regarding Compensation

1a Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions | <input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments | <input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef) |

b If any of the boxes on line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain.

2 Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all officers, directors, trustees, and the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked in line 1a?

3 Indicate which, if any, of the following the filing organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director. Explain in Part III.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant | <input type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee |

4 During the year, did any person listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, with respect to the filing organization or a related organization:

- a** Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment?
 - b** Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?
 - c** Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement?
- If "Yes" to any of lines 4a–c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III.

Only section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete lines 5–9.

5 For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of:

- a** The organization?
 - b** Any related organization?
- If "Yes" to line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.

6 For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of:

- a** The organization?
 - b** Any related organization?
- If "Yes" to line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.

7 For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any non-fixed payments not described in lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III

8 Were any amounts reported in Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III

9 If "Yes" to line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?

	Yes	No
1a		
1b		
2		
3		
4a		✓
4b		✓
4c		✓
5a		✓
5b		✓
6a		✓
6b	✓	
7		✓
8		✓
9		

Part II Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees. Use duplicate copies if additional space is needed.

For each individual whose compensation must be reported in Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions, on row (ii). Do not list any individuals that are not listed on Form 990, Part VII.

Note. The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) for each listed individual must equal the total amount of Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, applicable column (D) and (E) amounts for that individual.

	(A) Name	(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC compensation					(C) Retirement and other deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation reported as deferred in prior Form 990
		(i) Base compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation	(iv) Bonus & incentive compensation	(v) Other reportable compensation				
1	Thomas E. MaCurdy	(i) 54,076 (ii) -0-	-0- -0-	-0- 813,958	2,704 -0-	876 -0-	57,656 813,958	1,730 -0-		
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										
11										
12										
13										
14										
15										
16										

Part III Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8, and for Part II. Also complete this part for any additional information.

Thomas E. MaCurdy, SSN 534-50-0446, is the President of The SPHERE Institute and also a founder and a majority partner and general partner of the related organization,

Acumen, LLC, EIN 91-1748582. He receives from The SPHERE Institute a regular part-time salary and two types of employee benefits, 401(a) and employer-provided health

insurance, both pro-rated on his part-time effort basis. He also receives from Acumen, LLC, two types of compensation: 1) guaranteed partner payment which amounted to \$409,496

in 2011, and 2) his share of net income, which amounted to \$402,811 in 2011. In addition, per IRS rules, his share of Acumen, LLC, interest income was reported also as his income

in his Schedule K-1 from Acumen, LLC, which amounted to \$1,651 in 2011. Thus his total compensation from Acumen, LLC, per his Schedule K-1 was \$813,958 in 2011.

SCHEDULE L
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Transactions With Interested Persons

▶ Complete if the organization answered
"Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a, 25b, 26, 27, 28a, 28b, or 28c,
or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a or 40b.
▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ▶ See separate instructions.

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Open To Public Inspection

Name of the organization
The SPHERE Institute

Employer identification number
91-1748201

Part I Excess Benefit Transactions (section 501(c)(3) and section 501(c)(4) organizations only).
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a or 25b, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 40b.

1	(a) Name of disqualified person	(b) Description of transaction	(c) Corrected?	
			Yes	No
(1)				
(2)				
(3)				
(4)				
(5)				
(6)				
2	Enter the amount of tax imposed on the organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under section 4958 ▶ \$			
3	Enter the amount of tax, if any, on line 2, above, reimbursed by the organization ▶ \$			

Part II Loans to and/or From Interested Persons.
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 26, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a.

1	(a) Name of interested person and purpose	(b) Loan to or from the organization?		(c) Original principal amount	(d) Balance due	(e) In default?		(f) Approved by board or committee?		(g) Written agreement?	
		To	From			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
		(1)									
(2)											
(3)											
(4)											
(5)											
(6)											
(7)											
(8)											
(9)											
(10)											
Total ▶ \$											

Part III Grants or Assistance Benefiting Interested Persons.
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 27.

1	(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount and type of assistance
(1)			
(2)			
(3)			
(4)			
(5)			
(6)			
(7)			
(8)			
(9)			
(10)			

**SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)**

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

OMB No 1545-0047

2011

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Name of the organization
The SPHERE Institute

Employer identification number
91-1748201

I. For form 990, part VI, line 11b: After the tax preparer completes Form 990, it is reviewed and discussed between the President, senior staff, project directors, and account managers 2) Then it is reviewed by and discussed with the Chairman of the Board of Directors and 3) specific issues are discussed with and reviewed by members of the Board, project directors, and account managers, as needed.

4) The tax return after this vetting process is reported to the President and to the Board for their approval and the President's signature

II. For Form 990, part VI, line 15a: 1) Per founding chapter and bylaws of The SPHERE Institute since its founding in 1996, compensation of the President is set by the Board of Directors each year, based on the comparative compensation of professionals with similar duties and experience and then pro-rated by the actual share of effort on the part-time basis. 2) The President determines compensation of officers, project directors, and other key employees, with the advice of various members of the Board of Directors in specific cases

III. For Form 990, part VI, line 19. The SPHERE Institute makes its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public through several channels 1) The governing documents and the conflict of interest policy are attached to various reports and publications as routinely requested by the U.S. federal government agencies and California state agencies for which The SPHERE Institute conducts an array of projects These documents and policy statements are also posted on the web site <http://www.sphereinstitute.org/publications.html>. 2) The financial statements as well as the conflict of interest policy and governing documents are submitted to federal, state, and local government agencies in the process of competitive applications for research projects with the submission of project proposals to which all of the above documentation is necessarily attached per protocol 3) The same procedure applies to project submissions with various non-governmental organizations as they follow the rules of the profession

IV. Continued from Part II of Form 990, item 4d in Statement of Program Services Accomplishments:

Child Welfare Policy . Implementation of Strategies to Address Disproportionality in Child Welfare Services

for Santa Clara County in California with applications to other counties and jurisdictions in California and other states

The SPHERE Institute has worked and is working extensively in multi-year continuous projects with Social Services Agencies in the Santa Clara County in California and specifically with Child Welfare Agencies on a variety of different projects which have applications to other counties and U S states. The SPHERE Institute has identified issues affecting the disproportionate representation of children of racial and ethnic minorities in child welfare services. SPHERE is assessing the agency's practice strategies and working processes, as well as is developing data resources, analyses, and reports. In addition, The SPHERE Institute is providing training on how to interpret and use data effectively to address this issue and develop policies which mitigate the above disproportionality.

Name of the organization
The SPHERE Institute

Employer identification number
91-1748201

To Part X of Form 990: The balance sheet: Total net assets (or fund balances) at the beginning of the year 2011 are the same in this return as in the return on form 990 for Fiscal Year 2010 -- last year's tax return. Retained earnings and accumulated income are also the same in both tax returns for the beginning of 2011 and the end of 2010. However assets and liabilities at the end of 2010 in the return for 2010 and in the beginning of 2011 in the return for 2011 are slightly different due to reclassification of line items and due to settlement of accounts and mutual payments with the related organization, Acumen, LLC, wherein transactions are reported in this tax return on Schedule L, Part IV, lines 1 and 2, and Schedule R, Part V, lines 2(1) and 2(2). All balances are in balance in the tax returns for both 2010 and 2011 and are consistent with total net assets or fund balances which are the same at the end of 2010 and the beginning of 2011 in the tax returns for 2010 and 2011, respectively. The IRS regulations do not require to submit an amended return if total net assets or fund balances remain unchanged.

**SCHEDULE R
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Name of the organization

The SPHERE Institute

Related Organizations and Unrelated Partnerships

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 33, 34, 35, 36, or 37.
▶ Attach to Form 990. ▶ See separate instructions.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2011

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Employer identification number
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Part I Identification of Disregarded Entities (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 33.)

(a) Name, address, and EIN of disregarded entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Total income	(e) End-of-year assets	(f) Direct controlling entity
(1)					
(2)					
(3)					
(4)					
(5)					
(6)					

Part II Identification of Related Tax-Exempt Organizations (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related tax-exempt organizations during the tax year.)

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Exempt Code section	(e) Public charity status (if section 501(c)(3))	(f) Direct controlling entity	(g) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
						Yes	No
(1)							
(2)							
(3)							
(4)							
(5)							
(6)							
(7)							

Part III Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Partnership (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a partnership during the tax year.)

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Predominant income (related, unrelated, excluded from tax under sections 512-514)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Disproportionate allocations?		(i) Code V—UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
							Yes	No		Yes	No	
(1) Acumen, LLC EIN 91-1748582	IT related services	CA	None	Unrelated	-0-	-0-		✓	N/A		✓	-0-
(2)												
(3)												
(4)												
(5)												
(6)												
(7)												

Part IV Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Corporation or Trust (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a corporation or trust during the tax year.)

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Type of entity (C corp, S corp, or trust)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Percentage ownership
(2)							
(3)							
(4)							
(5)							
(6)							
(7)							

Part V Transactions With Related Organizations (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 34, 35, 35a, or 36.)

Note. Complete line 1 if any entity is listed in Parts II, III, or IV of this schedule.

		Yes	No
1	During the tax year, did the organization engage in any of the following transactions with one or more related organizations listed in Parts II-IV?		
a	Receipt of (i) interest (ii) annuities (iii) royalties or (iv) rent from a controlled entity	1a	✓
b	Gift, grant, or capital contribution to related organization(s)	1b	✓
c	Gift, grant, or capital contribution from related organization(s)	1c	✓
d	Loans or loan guarantees to or for related organization(s)	1d	✓
e	Loans or loan guarantees by related organization(s)	1e	✓
f	Sale of assets to related organization(s)	1f	✓
g	Purchase of assets from related organization(s)	1g	✓
h	Exchange of assets with related organization(s)	1h	✓
i	Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets to related organization(s)	1i	✓
j	Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets from related organization(s)	1j	✓
k	Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations for related organization(s)	1k	✓
l	Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations by related organization(s)	1l	✓
m	Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, or other assets with related organization(s)	1m	✓
n	Sharing of paid employees with related organization(s)	1n	✓
o	Reimbursement paid to related organization(s) for expenses	1o	✓
p	Reimbursement paid by related organization(s) for expenses	1p	✓
q	Other transfer of cash or property to related organization(s)	1q	✓
r	Other transfer of cash or property from related organization(s)	1r	✓

	(a) Name of other organization	(b) Transaction type (a-r)	(c) Amount involved	(d) Method of determining amount involved
(1)	Acumen, LLC EIN 91-1748582	o	444,647	Per books
(2)	Acumen, LLC EIN 91-1748582	p	2,320,562	Per books
(3)				
(4)				
(5)				
(6)				

Part VI Unrelated Organizations Taxable as a Partnership (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 37.)

Provide the following information for each entity taxed as a partnership through which the organization conducted more than five percent of its activities (measured by total assets or gross revenue) that was not a related organization. See instructions regarding exclusion for certain investment partnerships.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Predominant income (related, unrelated, excluded from tax under section 512-514)	(e) Are all partners section 501(c)(3) organizations?		(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Disproportionate allocations?		(i) Code V—UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
				Yes	No			Yes	No		Yes	No	
(1)													
(2)													
(3)													
(4)													
(5)													
(6)													
(7)													
(8)													
(9)													
(10)													
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