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Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

2016

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

- ▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
- ▶ Information about Form 990-EZ and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

A For the 2016 calendar year, or tax year beginning _____, and ending _____	
B Check if applicable:	C Name of organization
<input type="checkbox"/> Address change	SPHERE, INC
<input type="checkbox"/> Name change	Number and street (or P O box, if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite
<input type="checkbox"/> Initial return	P. O. BOX 1136
<input type="checkbox"/> Final return/terminated	City or town State ZIP code
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended return	RIDGEFIELD CT 06877
<input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	Foreign country name Foreign province/state/county Foreign postal code
	D Employer identification number
	22-2968009
	E Telephone number
	(203) 775-1651
	F Group Exemption Number ▶

G Accounting Method: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Accrual Other (specify) ▶ _____	H Check <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF)
I Website: ▶ WWW.SPHERECT.ORG	
J Tax-exempt status (check only one) — <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) <input type="checkbox"/> 501(c) () ◀ (insert no) <input type="checkbox"/> 4947(a)(1) or <input type="checkbox"/> 527	
K Form of organization: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

L Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b to line 9 to determine gross receipts. If gross receipts are \$200,000 or more, or if total assets (Part II, column (B) below) are \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ ▶ \$ 94,457

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (see the instructions for Part I)
Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part I

	Description	Column	Amount
Revenue	1 Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	1	81,924
	2 Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	2	
	3 Membership dues and assessments	3	9,195
	4 Investment income	4	628
	5a Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a	
	b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b	
	c Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (Subtract line 5b from line 5a)	5c	0
	6 Gaming and fundraising events		
	a Gross income from gaming (attach Schedule G if greater than \$15,000)	6a	
	b Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions from fundraising events reported on line 1) (attach Schedule G if the sum of such gross income and contributions exceeds \$15,000)	6b	
c Less: direct expenses from gaming and fundraising events	6c		
d Net income or (loss) from gaming and fundraising events (add lines 6a and 6b and subtract line 6c)	6d	0	
Expenses	7a Gross sales of inventory less returns and allowances	7a	2,710
	b Less: cost of goods sold	7b	703
	c Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c	2,007
	8 Other revenue (describe in Schedule O)	8	
	9 Total revenue. Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6d, 7c, and 8 ▶	9	93,754
	10 Grants and similar amounts paid (list in Schedule O)	10	
	11 Benefits paid to or for members	11	
Net Assets	12 Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	12	
	13 Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	13	27,500
	14 Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	14	23,684
	15 Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	15	2,040
	16 Other expenses (describe in Schedule O)	16	60,231
	17 Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 16 ▶	17	113,455
	18 Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9)	18	-19,701
19 Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	19	373,631	
20 Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	20	-7,272	
21 Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20 ▶	21	346,658	

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For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

Form **990-EZ** (2016)

9910 12

Part II Balance Sheets. (see the instructions for Part II)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part II.

	(A) Beginning of year	(B) End of year
22 Cash, savings, and investments	347,827	333,766
23 Land and buildings		
24 Other assets (describe in Schedule O)	25,804	12,892
25 Total assets	373,631	346,658
26 Total liabilities (describe in Schedule O)		
27 Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	373,631	346,658

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments (see the instructions for Part III)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part III.

What is the organization's primary exempt purpose? PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED ADULTS
 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. In a clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, and other relevant information for each program title.

Expenses
 (Required for section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations, optional for others)

28 <u>ADVOCATES AND RUNS PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON ENRICHING AND ENHANCING THE LIVES OF MEMBERS THROUGH EDUCATION, RECREATION AND THE ARTS.</u> (Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	28a	113,455
29 (Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	29a	
30 (Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	30a	
31 Other program services (describe in Schedule O) (Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	31a	
32 Total program service expenses. (add lines 28a through 31a)	32	113,455

Part IV List of Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees (list each one even if not compensated—see the instructions for Part IV)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part IV.

(a) Name and title	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC) (if not paid, enter -0-)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation
LORI BERISFORD CHAIRWOMAN OF THE BOARD	Hr/WK 5.00			
MARGARET PRICE TREASURER	Hr/WK 5.00			
REBECCA CIOTA SECRETARY	Hr/WK 5.00			
JILL BARBERIE DIRECTOR	Hr/WK 5.00			
NICKI SMITH DIRECTOR	Hr/WK 5.00			
NEIL GOLLOGLY DIRECTOR	Hr/WK 5.00			
WENDY LIONETTI DIRECTOR	Hr/WK 5.00			
	Hr/WK			
	Hr/WK			
	Hr/WK			
	Hr/WK			
	Hr/WK			

Part V Other Information (Note the Schedule A and personal benefit contract statement requirements in the instructions for Part V) Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part V.

33 Did the organization engage in any significant activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," provide a detailed description of each activity in Schedule O.
34 Were any significant changes made to the organizing or governing documents? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the amended documents if they reflect a change to the organization's name.
35 a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year from business activities...
35 b If "Yes," to line 35a, has the organization filed a Form 990-T for the year?
35 c Was the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization subject to section 6033(e) notice...
36 Did the organization undergo a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or significant disposition of net assets during the year?
37 a Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions.
37 b Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?
38 a Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee or were any such loans made in a prior year and still outstanding at the end of the tax year covered by this return?
38 b If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II and enter the total amount involved.
39 Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:
39 a Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9.
39 b Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities.
40 a Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911, section 4912, section 4955.
40 b Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year, or did it engage in an excess benefit transaction in a prior year that has not been reported on any of its prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ?
40 c Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958.
40 d Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization.
40 e All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?
41 List the states with which a copy of this return is filed.
42 a The organization's books are in care of REBECCA CIOTA Telephone no. 914.329.2373 Located at 421B MAIN STREET City RIDGEFIELD ST CT ZIP + 4 06877
42 b 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)?
42 c At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside the United States?
43 Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041—Check here and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year.
44 a Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds during the year?
44 b Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities during the year?
44 c Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the year?
44 d If "Yes" to line 44c, has the organization filed a Form 720 to report these payments?
45 a Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?
45 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)?

	Yes	No
46 Did the organization engage, directly or indirectly, in political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I.		X

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) organizations only

All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 47-49b and 52, and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part VI

	Yes	No
47 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.		X
48 Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E.		X
49 a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?		X
b If "Yes," was the related organization a section 527 organization?		X

50 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees, and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and title of each employee	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation
Name NONE				
Title	Hr/WK .00			
Name	Hr/WK .00			
Title	Hr/WK .00			
Name	Hr/WK .00			
Title	Hr/WK .00			
Name	Hr/WK .00			
Title	Hr/WK .00			

f Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000

51 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and business address of each independent contractor	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
Name NONE		
City		
Name		
City		
Name		
City		
Name		
City		
Name		
City		

d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000

52 Did the organization complete Schedule A? Note: All section 501(c)(3) organizations must attach a completed Schedule A. Yes No

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.

Signature of officer: Rebecca Ciota Date: 10/27/17
 Type or print name and title: Rebecca Ciota, Secretary

Paid Preparer Use Only
 Print/Type preparer's name: _____ Preparer's signature: SELF-PREPARED RETURN Date: _____
 Check if self-employed PTIN: _____
 Firm's name: _____ Firm's EIN: _____
 Firm's address: _____ Phone no: _____

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions. Yes No

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Public Charity Status and Public Support

OMB No 1545-0047

2016

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

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.**

Open to Public Inspection

▶ Information about Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

Name of the organization

SPHERE, INC

Employer identification number

22-2968009

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 12, 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 (Form 990 or 990-EZ).)
- 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 agricultural research organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ix)** operated in conjunction with a land-grant college or university or a non-land-grant college of agriculture (see instructions). Enter the name, city, and state of the college or university:
- 10 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.)
- 11 An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4)**.
- 12 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 in lines 12a through 12d that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 12e, 12f, and 12g.
 - a **Type I.** A supporting organization operated, supervised, or controlled by its supported organization(s), typically by giving the supported organization(s) the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the directors or trustees of the supporting organization. **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and B.**
 - b **Type II.** A supporting organization supervised or controlled in connection with its supported organization(s), by having control or management of the supporting organization vested in the same persons that control or manage the supported organization(s). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and C.**
 - c **Type III functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with, and functionally integrated with, its supported organization(s) (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A, D, and E.**
 - d **Type III non-functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with its supported organization(s) that is not functionally integrated. The organization generally must satisfy a distribution requirement and an attentiveness requirement (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and D, and Part V.**
 - e Check this box if the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, Type III functionally integrated, or Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization.
 - f Enter the number of supported organizations 0
- g Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1–10 above (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization listed in your governing document?		(v) Amount of monetary support (see instructions)	(vi) Amount of other support (see instructions)
			Yes	No		
(A)						
(B)						
(C)						
(D)						
(E)						
Total					0	0

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) 2012	(b) 2013	(c) 2014	(d) 2015	(e) 2016	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants")	131,069	109,574	70,174	128,640	91,119	530,576
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						0
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						0
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	131,069	109,574	70,174	128,640	91,119	530,576
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)						139,420
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4						391,156

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2012	(b) 2013	(c) 2014	(d) 2015	(e) 2016	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	131,069	109,574	70,174	128,640	91,119	530,576
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	583	260	661	27	628	2,159
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						0
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI)						0
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						532,735
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc (see instructions)					12	12,539
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 2016 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	73.42%
15 Public support percentage from 2015 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	72.31%
16a 33 1/3% support test—2016. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
b 33 1/3% support test—2015. 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—2016. 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 VI 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—2015. 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 VI 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"/>	

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

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.

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2016

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

SPHERE, INC

Employer identification number

22-2968009

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Fundraising: 5,515

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Supplies: 552

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Depreciation: 12,912

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Administration: 92

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Bank Charges: 391

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Web Site: 4,146

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Community Programs: 1,250

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Face Book Fees: 76

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Credit Card Fees: 357

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Sect of State Registration Fees: 50

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Field Trip: 70

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Insurance: 1,791

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: T-shirts and hats: 1,051

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Program Expenses: 25,095

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: SPHERE Recital: 6,309

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16, Other Expenses: Misc: 574

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 20, Net Assets: Adjustment for prior year accounting errors: -7,272

Form 990-EZ, Part II, Line 24, Other Assets: Bus: Beginning of year: 25,804, End of year:

12,892

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

SPHERE, INC

22-2968009

Area with horizontal dashed lines for supplemental information.