

Form **990**

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No 1545-0047

2018

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.
▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

A For the 2018 calendar year, or tax year beginning , 2018, and ending , 20

B Check if applicable:
 Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Final 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 province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code
Burlingame, CA 94010-1926

D Employer identification number
91-1748201

E Telephone number
650-558-3980

G Gross receipts \$ 25,893,442

F Name and address of principal officer Thomas E MaCurdy
500 Airport Blvd, Suite 340, Burlingame, CA 94010-1926

H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? Yes No
H(b) Are all subordinates 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 ▶ 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		Prior Year	Current Year
Activities & Governance	1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities. <u>The mission is to innovate and improve the data and information provided to policy makers at the federal, state, and local level who design, change, and implement health, welfare, housing, and human resources programs, and their research and evaluation for policy formation. Medicare reforms is an example.</u>		
	2 Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.		
	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	3
	5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2018 (Part V, line 2a)	5	257
	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 38	7b	-0-	
Revenue	8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	-0-	-0-
	9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	21,465,009	25,820,563
	10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	47,957	72,879
	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)	21,512,966	25,893,442
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)	16,441,010	19,796,194
	16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	-0-	-0-
	b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶		
	17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e)	4,933,201	5,705,668
18 Total expenses Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	21,434,211	25,501,862	
19 Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12	78,755	391,580	
Net Assets or Fund Balances	20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	Beginning of Current Year 16,953,217	End of Year 18,378,634
	21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	2,887,535	3,921,372
	22 Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	14,065,682	14,457,262

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 MAY 16 2019
 OGDEN, UT
 IRS-OSG

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 ▶ Thomas E. MaCurdy Signature of officer Date 05/10/2019
 ▶ Thomas E. MaCurdy, President Type or print name and title

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name: Michael S. Bernstam Preparer's signature: MBernstam Date: 05/10/2019 Check if self-employed PTIN: P01317508

Firm's name ▶ Patrac Firm's EIN ▶ 94-3192370

Firm's address ▶ 500 Airport Blvd, STE 365, Burlingame, CA 94010-1926 Phone no 650-558-3980

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

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions. Cat No 11282Y Form 990 (2018)

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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	✓	
2 Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors (see instructions)?		✓
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		✓
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		✓
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		✓
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		✓
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		✓
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III		✓
9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability, 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		✓
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		✓
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		✓
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	✓	
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		✓
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		✓
e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X	✓	
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		✓
12a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII	✓	
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 and XII is optional		✓
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E		✓
14a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?		✓
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		✓
15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV		✓
16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV		✓
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)		✓
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		✓
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		✓
20a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? If "Yes," complete Schedule H		✓
b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		
21 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II		✓

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

		Yes	No
22	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III		✓
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? If "Yes," complete Schedule J	✓	
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? If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a		✓
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), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part 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? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I		✓
26	Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5, 6, or 22 for receivables from or payables to any current or former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, or disqualified persons? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II		✓
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? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III		✓
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? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV		✓
b	A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV		✓
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? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV	✓	
29	Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M		✓
30	Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M		✓
31	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I		✓
32	Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II		✓
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? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I		✓
34	Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1	✓	
35a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		✓
b	If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2		
36	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2		✓
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? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI		✓
38	Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b 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 or note to any line in this Part V

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable		
b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable		
c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	✓	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance (continued)

		Yes	No		
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	257		
b	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? Note. If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file (see instructions)	2b		✓	
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" to line 3b, 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 FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).				
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 as charitable contributions?	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. Did a donor advised fund maintained by the sponsoring organization have excess business holdings at any time during the year?	8			
9	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.				
a	Did the sponsoring organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?	9a			
b	Did the sponsoring 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? Note. See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O	13a			
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			
15	Is the organization subject to the section 4960 tax on payment(s) of more than \$1,000,000 in remuneration or excess parachute payment(s) during the year? If "Yes," see instructions and file Form 4720, Schedule N.	15			
16	Is the organization an educational institution subject to the section 4968 excise tax on net investment income? If "Yes," complete Form 4720, Schedule O.	16			

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 or note to any line 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	5	
	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	4	
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		
8a	The governing body?	✓	
8b	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 (1024 or 1024-A 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 Other (explain in Schedule O)
- 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, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records ►
 Thomas E. MaCurdy, 500 Airport Blvd., Suite 340, Burlingame, CA 94010-1926, tel 650-558-3980

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

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line 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 (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(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	20									
(2) Jonathan Gibbs, former officer, Board Member	5 40	✓		✓			93,812	481,057	1,096,635	
(3) Gerald P. Gillespie, Chairman of the Board	4	✓					2,000			
(4) Semion Lyandres, Vice-Chair of the Board	3	✓					2,000			
(5) Gian Balsamo, Board Member	2	✓					2,000			
(6) Inaki Arbeloa, Associate	40				✓		128,621			
(7) Vedita Bipat, Associate	40				✓		133,146			
(8) Gregory Boro, Program Director	40				✓	✓	193,949			
(9) Nan Chan, Associate	40				✓		133,787			
(10) Yoganand Chillarige, Associate	40				✓		123,531			
(11) Michael Collier, Project Leader	40				✓		152,531			
(12) Ji Gan, Associate	40				✓		110,490			
(13) Bruno Garcia, Project Leader	40				✓	✓	156,040			
(14) Maria del Mar Jauregui Vazquez, Associate	40				✓		154,444			

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

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(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) Vaikath Job, Project Leader	40				✓		143,875			
(16) Anton Kravchenko, Project Leader	40				✓	✓	156,436			
(17) Dimitra Politi, Project Director	40				✓	✓	179,492			
(18) Francis Schillinger, Associate	40				✓		122,568			
(19) Elen Shrestha, Associate	40				✓		127,336			
(20) Jonathan Stanton, Program Director	40				✓	✓	158,973			
(21) Edward Sung, Project Leader	40				✓		152,842			
(22) Amy Wagner, Project Leader	40				✓		136,086			
(23) Yugin Wei, Project Leader	40				✓		131,889			
(24) Ivana Stosic, Associate	40				✓		128,872			
(25) Amrit Singh, Associate	40				✓		119,134			
1b Sub-total							2,943,854	760,273	1,096,635	
c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A							-0-	-0-	-0-	
d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)							2,943,854	760,273	1,096,635	

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 **▶** 34

	Yes	No
3 Did the organization list any former officer, director, or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual	3 ✓	
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? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual	4 ✓	
5 Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person	5	✓

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
Fragomen del Rey Bernsen & Loewy, LLP 555 Montgomery St., San Francisco, CA	Legal attorney services	152,034

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 **▶** 1

Part VIII Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

			(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512-514	
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1a	Federated campaigns					
	1b	Membership dues					
	1c	Fundraising events					
	1d	Related organizations					
	1e	Government grants (contributions)					
	1f	All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above					
	g	Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$					
	h	Total. Add lines 1a-1f					
Program Service Revenue		Business Code					
	2a	Data analysis, policy research	518210	25,820,563	25,820,563	-0-	
	b						
	c						
	d						
	e						
	f	All other program service revenue					
	g	Total. Add lines 2a-2f		25,820,563			
Other Revenue	3	Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)		72,879	72,879	-0-	
	4	Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds					
	5	Royalties					
	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)					
	8a	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18	a				
			b	Less: direct expenses			
c			Net income or (loss) from fundraising events				
9a	Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19	a					
		b	Less: direct expenses				
		c	Net income or (loss) from gaming activities				
10a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	a					
		b	Less: cost of goods sold				
		c	Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory				
Miscellaneous Revenue		Business Code					
11a							
b							
c							
d	All other revenue						
e	Total. Add lines 11a-11d		-0-				
12	Total revenue. See instructions		25,893,442	25,893,442	-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).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line 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 domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21	-0-			
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22	-0-			
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. 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	2,943,854	2,743,905	199,949	-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-			
7 Other salaries and wages	13,639,793	13,631,868	7,925	-0-
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	822,795	798,295	24,500	-0-
9 Other employee benefits	1,224,382	1,213,913	10,469	-0-
10 Payroll taxes	1,165,370	1,153,991	11,379	-0-
11 Fees for services (non-employees):				
a Management	289,325	194,209	95,116	-0-
b Legal	223,358	-0-	223,358	-0-
c Accounting	51,195	-0-	51,195	-0-
d Lobbying	-0-			
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17	-0-			
f Investment management fees	-0-			
g Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O.)	17,333	17,333	-0-	
12 Advertising and promotion	-0-			
13 Office expenses	39,134	15,100	24,034	-0-
14 Information technology	28,550	28,550	-0-	-0-
15 Royalties	-0-			
16 Occupancy	889	889	-0-	-0-
17 Travel	67,519	67,519	-0-	-0-
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials	-0-			
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings	1,271	1,271	-0-	-0-
20 Interest	-0-			
21 Payments to affiliates	4,757,544	4,757,544	-0-	-0-
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	-0-			
23 Insurance	179,651	141,663	37,988	-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 State environmental fee	1,248	-0-	1,248	-0-
b Postage, delivery, telephone, licenses, dues	1,333	335	998	-0-
c Bank service charges	106	-0-	106	-0-
d Printing and reproduction	1,202	1,202	-0-	-0-
e All other expenses	46,010	46,010	-0-	-0-
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	25,501,862	24,813,597	688,265	-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

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
Assets	1 Cash—non-interest-bearing	1,213,163	1	770,981
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	3,804,977	2	3,253,774
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net		3	
	4 Accounts receivable, net	6,681,197	4	9,103,579
	5 Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L		5	
	6 Loans and other 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) Complete Part II of Schedule L		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	5,250,000	12	5,250,000
	13 Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11		13	
	14 Intangible assets		14	
	15 Other assets See Part IV, line 11	3,880	15	300
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	16,953,217	16	18,378,634	
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	614,964	17	834,493
	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 Loans and other 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	999,985	24	1,506,227
	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	1,272,586	25	1,580,652
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	2,887,535	26	3,921,372
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), 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 (ASC 958), check here <input 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	14,065,682	32	14,457,262
33 Total net assets or fund balances	14,065,682	33	14,457,262	
34 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	16,953,217	34	18,378,634	

Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	25,893,442
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	25,501,862
3	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	391,580
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	14,065,682
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	-0-
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	-0-
7	Investment expenses	7	-0-
8	Prior period adjustments	8	-0-
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	-0-
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	14,457,262

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

	Yes	No
1 Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" 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? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
b Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
c 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.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
b 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Public Charity Status and Public Support

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.

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No 1545-0047

2018

Open to Public Inspection

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 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

09

(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						

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) 2014	(b) 2015	(c) 2016	(d) 2017	(e) 2018	(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) 2014	(b) 2015	(c) 2016	(d) 2017	(e) 2018	(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 VI)						
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 2018 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	%
15 Public support percentage from 2017 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	%
16a 33 1/3% support test—2018. 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—2017. 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—2018. 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—2017. 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"/>		

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

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 10 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) 2014	(b) 2015	(c) 2016	(d) 2017	(e) 2018	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						-0-
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	11,398,647	14,963,098	20,801,678	21,465,009	25,820,563	94,448,995
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						-0-
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						-0-
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						-0-
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5	11,398,647	14,963,098	20,801,678	21,465,009	25,820,563	94,448,995
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						-0-
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						-0-
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support. (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						94,448,995

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2014	(b) 2015	(c) 2016	(d) 2017	(e) 2018	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6	11,398,647	14,963,098	20,801,678	21,465,009	25,820,563	94,448,995
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources	1,812	1,413	35,580	47,957	72,879	159,641
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						-0-
c Add lines 10a and 10b	1,812	1,413	35,580	47,957	72,879	159,641
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						-0-
12 Other income Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI)						-0-
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12)	11,400,459	14,964,511	20,837,258	21,512,966	25,893,442	94,608,636
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 2018 (line 8, column (f), divided by line 13, column (f))	15	99.83 %
16 Public support percentage from 2017 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	99.88 %

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2018 (line 10c, column (f), divided by line 13, column (f))	17	0.17 %
18 Investment income percentage from 2017 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	0.12 %
19a 33 1/3% support tests—2018. 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—2017. 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"/>		

Part IV Supporting Organizations

(Complete only if you checked a box in line 12 on Part I. If you checked 12a of Part I, complete Sections A and B. If you checked 12b of Part I, complete Sections A and C. If you checked 12c of Part I, complete Sections A, D, and E. If you checked 12d of Part I, complete Sections A and D, and complete Part V.)

Section A. All Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Are all of the organization's supported organizations listed by name in the organization's governing documents? <i>If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organizations are designated. If designated by class or purpose, describe the designation. If historic and continuing relationship, explain.</i>		
2 Did the organization have any supported organization that does not have an IRS determination of status under section 509(a)(1) or (2)? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI how the organization determined that the supported organization was described in section 509(a)(1) or (2).</i>		
3a Did the organization have a supported organization described in section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6)? <i>If "Yes," answer (b) and (c) below.</i>		
b Did the organization confirm that each supported organization qualified under section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) and satisfied the public support tests under section 509(a)(2)? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI when and how the organization made the determination.</i>		
c Did the organization ensure that all support to such organizations was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization put in place to ensure such use.</i>		
4a Was any supported organization not organized in the United States ("foreign supported organization")? <i>If "Yes," and if you checked 12a or 12b in Part I, answer (b) and (c) below.</i>		
b Did the organization have ultimate control and discretion in deciding whether to make grants to the foreign supported organization? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI how the organization had such control and discretion despite being controlled or supervised by or in connection with its supported organizations.</i>		
c Did the organization support any foreign supported organization that does not have an IRS determination under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) or (2)? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization used to ensure that all support to the foreign supported organization was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes.</i>		
5a Did the organization add, substitute, or remove any supported organizations during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," answer (b) and (c) below (if applicable). Also, provide detail in Part VI, including (i) the names and EIN numbers of the supported organizations added, substituted, or removed; (ii) the reasons for each such action; (iii) the authority under the organization's organizing document authorizing such action, and (iv) how the action was accomplished (such as by amendment to the organizing document).</i>		
b Type I or Type II only. Was any added or substituted supported organization part of a class already designated in the organization's organizing document?		
c Substitutions only. Was the substitution the result of an event beyond the organization's control?		
6 Did the organization provide support (whether in the form of grants or the provision of services or facilities) to anyone other than (i) its supported organizations, (ii) individuals that are part of the charitable class benefited by one or more of its supported organizations, or (iii) other supporting organizations that also support or benefit one or more of the filing organization's supported organizations? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
7 Did the organization provide a grant, loan, compensation, or other similar payment to a substantial contributor (as defined in section 4958(c)(3)(C)), a family member of a substantial contributor, or a 35% controlled entity with regard to a substantial contributor? <i>If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990 or 990-EZ).</i>		
8 Did the organization make a loan to a disqualified person (as defined in section 4958) not described in line 7? <i>If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990 or 990-EZ).</i>		
9a Was the organization controlled directly or indirectly at any time during the tax year by one or more disqualified persons as defined in section 4946 (other than foundation managers and organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or (2))? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
b Did one or more disqualified persons (as defined in line 9a) hold a controlling interest in any entity in which the supporting organization had an interest? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
c Did a disqualified person (as defined in line 9a) have an ownership interest in, or derive any personal benefit from, assets in which the supporting organization also had an interest? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
10a Was the organization subject to the excess business holdings rules of section 4943 because of section 4943(f) (regarding certain Type II supporting organizations, and all Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations)? <i>If "Yes," answer 10b below.</i>		
b Did the organization have any excess business holdings in the tax year? <i>(Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine whether the organization had excess business holdings.)</i>		

Part IV Supporting Organizations (continued)

	Yes	No
11 Has the organization accepted a gift or contribution from any of the following persons?		
a A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (b) and (c) below, the governing body of a supported organization?	11a	
b A family member of a person described in (a) above?	11b	
c A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (a) or (b) above? If "Yes" to a, b, or c, provide detail in Part VI.	11c	

Section B. Type I Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Did the directors, trustees, or membership of one or more supported organizations have the power to regularly appoint or elect at least a majority of the organization's directors or trustees at all times during the tax year? If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organization(s) effectively operated, supervised, or controlled the organization's activities. If the organization had more than one supported organization, describe how the powers to appoint and/or remove directors or trustees were allocated among the supported organizations and what conditions or restrictions, if any, applied to such powers during the tax year	1	
2 Did the organization operate for the benefit of any supported organization other than the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization? If "Yes," explain in Part VI how providing such benefit carried out the purposes of the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization.	2	

Section C. Type II Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Were a majority of the organization's directors or trustees during the tax year also a majority of the directors or trustees of each of the organization's supported organization(s)? If "No," describe in Part VI how control or management of the supporting organization was vested in the same persons that controlled or managed the supported organization(s)	1	

Section D. All Type III Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Did the organization provide to each of its supported organizations, by the last day of the fifth month of the organization's tax year, (i) a written notice describing the type and amount of support provided during the prior tax year, (ii) a copy of the Form 990 that was most recently filed as of the date of notification, and (iii) copies of the organization's governing documents in effect on the date of notification, to the extent not previously provided?	1	
2 Were any of the organization's officers, directors, or trustees either (i) appointed or elected by the supported organization(s) or (ii) serving on the governing body of a supported organization? If "No," explain in Part VI how the organization maintained a close and continuous working relationship with the supported organization(s)	2	
3 By reason of the relationship described in (2), did the organization's supported organizations have a significant voice in the organization's investment policies and in directing the use of the organization's income or assets at all times during the tax year? If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role the organization's supported organizations played in this regard	3	

Section E. Type III Functionally Integrated Supporting Organizations

1 Check the box next to the method that the organization used to satisfy the Integral Part Test during the year (see instructions).		
a <input type="checkbox"/> The organization satisfied the Activities Test. Complete line 2 below.		
b <input type="checkbox"/> The organization is the parent of each of its supported organizations. Complete line 3 below.		
c <input type="checkbox"/> The organization supported a governmental entity. Describe in Part VI how you supported a government entity (see instructions)		
2 Activities Test. Answer (a) and (b) below.		
a Did substantially all of the organization's activities during the tax year directly further the exempt purposes of the supported organization(s) to which the organization was responsive? If "Yes," then in Part VI identify those supported organizations and explain how these activities directly furthered their exempt purposes, how the organization was responsive to those supported organizations, and how the organization determined that these activities constituted substantially all of its activities.	2a	
b Did the activities described in (a) constitute activities that, but for the organization's involvement, one or more of the organization's supported organization(s) would have been engaged in? If "Yes," explain in Part VI the reasons for the organization's position that its supported organization(s) would have engaged in these activities but for the organization's involvement.	2b	
3 Parent of Supported Organizations Answer (a) and (b) below.		
a Did the organization have the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the officers, directors, or trustees of each of the supported organizations? Provide details in Part VI.	3a	
b Did the organization exercise a substantial degree of direction over the policies, programs, and activities of each of its supported organizations? If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role played by the organization in this regard.	3b	

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations

1 Check here if the organization satisfied the Integral Part Test as a qualifying trust on Nov 20, 1970 (explain in Part VI). See instructions. All other Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations must complete Sections A through E

Section A—Adjusted Net Income		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1 Net short-term capital gain	1		
2 Recoveries of prior-year distributions	2		
3 Other gross income (see instructions)	3		
4 Add lines 1 through 3.	4		
5 Depreciation and depletion	5		
6 Portion of operating expenses paid or incurred for production or collection of gross income or for management, conservation, or maintenance of property held for production of income (see instructions)	6		
7 Other expenses (see instructions)	7		
8 Adjusted Net Income (subtract lines 5, 6, and 7 from line 4)	8		
Section B—Minimum Asset Amount		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1 Aggregate fair market value of all non-exempt-use assets (see instructions for short tax year or assets held for part of year)			
a Average monthly value of securities	1a		
b Average monthly cash balances	1b		
c Fair market value of other non-exempt-use assets	1c		
d Total (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c)	1d		
e Discount claimed for blockage or other factors (explain in detail in Part VI)			
2 Acquisition indebtedness applicable to non-exempt-use assets	2		
3 Subtract line 2 from line 1d	3		
4 Cash deemed held for exempt use Enter 1-1/2% of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions).	4		
5 Net value of non-exempt-use assets (subtract line 4 from line 3)	5		
6 Multiply line 5 by .035	6		
7 Recoveries of prior-year distributions	7		
8 Minimum Asset Amount (add line 7 to line 6)	8		
Section C—Distributable Amount			Current Year
1 Adjusted net income for prior year (from Section A, line 8, Column A)	1		
2 Enter 85% of line 1.	2		
3 Minimum asset amount for prior year (from Section B, line 8, Column A)	3		
4 Enter greater of line 2 or line 3.	4		
5 Income tax imposed in prior year	5		
6 Distributable Amount. Subtract line 5 from line 4, unless subject to emergency temporary reduction (see instructions).	6		
7 <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if the current year is the organization's first as a non-functionally integrated Type III supporting organization (see instructions).			

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations (continued)

Section D—Distributions		Current Year		
1	Amounts paid to supported organizations to accomplish exempt purposes			
2	Amounts paid to perform activity that directly furthers exempt purposes of supported organizations, in excess of income from activity			
3	Administrative expenses paid to accomplish exempt purposes of supported organizations			
4	Amounts paid to acquire exempt-use assets			
5	Qualified set-aside amounts (prior IRS approval required)			
6	Other distributions (describe in Part VI). See instructions			
7	Total annual distributions. Add lines 1 through 6.			
8	Distributions to attentive supported organizations to which the organization is responsive (provide details in Part VI). See instructions.			
9	Distributable amount for 2018 from Section C, line 6			
10	Line 8 amount divided by line 9 amount			
Section E—Distribution Allocations (see instructions)		(i) Excess Distributions	(ii) Underdistributions Pre-2018	(iii) Distributable Amount for 2018
1	Distributable amount for 2018 from Section C, line 6			
2	Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2018 (reasonable cause required—explain in Part VI). See instructions			
3	Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2018			
a	From 2013			
b	From 2014			
c	From 2015			
d	From 2016			
e	From 2017			
f	Total of lines 3a through e			
g	Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
h	Applied to 2018 distributable amount			
i	Carryover from 2013 not applied (see instructions)			
j	Remainder. Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from 3f			
4	Distributions for 2018 from Section D, line 7 \$			
a	Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
b	Applied to 2018 distributable amount			
c	Remainder. Subtract lines 4a and 4b from 4.			
5	Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2018, if any. Subtract lines 3g and 4a from line 2. For result greater than zero, explain in Part VI. See instructions			
6	Remaining underdistributions for 2018. Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1. For result greater than zero, explain in Part VI. See instructions			
7	Excess distributions carryover to 2019. Add lines 3j and 4c.			
8	Breakdown of line 7:			
a	Excess from 2014			
b	Excess from 2015			
c	Excess from 2016			
d	Excess from 2017			
e	Excess from 2018			

Part VI **Supplemental Information.** Provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; Part III, line 12; Part IV, Section A, lines 1, 2, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c, 5a, 6, 9a, 9b, 9c, 11a, 11b, and 11c; Part IV, Section B, lines 1 and 2; Part IV, Section C, line 1; Part IV, Section D, lines 2 and 3; Part IV, Section E, lines 1c, 2a, 2b, 3a, and 3b; Part V, line 1; Part V, Section B, line 1e; Part V, Section D, lines 5, 6, and 8, and Part V, Section E, lines 2, 5, and 6. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions.)

Area with horizontal dashed lines for supplemental information.

SCHEDULE D (Form 990)

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

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

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No 1545-0047

2018

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization

The SPHERE Institute

Employer identification number

91-1748201

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

Table with 2 columns: (a) Donor advised funds, (b) Funds and other accounts. Rows include: 1 Total number at end of year, 2 Aggregate value of contributions to (during year), 3 Aggregate value of 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?, 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?

Part II Conservation Easements.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

Table with 2 columns: Description, Held at the End of the Tax Year. Rows include: 1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply), 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, 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?, 6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year, 7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, 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)?, 9 In Part XIII, 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" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Rows include: 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 XIII, 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) Revenue included on 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 Revenue included on 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 XIII.
- 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" on 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 XIII 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, for escrow or custodial account liability? Yes No
- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided on Part XIII

Part V Endowment Funds.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on 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 on 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" on line 3a(i), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R? Yes No
- 3b**

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. 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 10c) ▶

Part VII Investments—Other Securities.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b. 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) Convertible Debenture Put-Packaged Bond from WPP with coupon	5,250,000	Cost
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 12) ▶	5,250,000	

Part VIII Investments—Program Related.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

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

Part IX Other Assets.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1) Security Deposit	300
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 15) ▶	300

Part X Other Liabilities.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	-0-
(2) Payroll liabilities	1,580,652
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 25) ▶	1,580,652

2. Liability for uncertain tax positions. In Part XIII, 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). Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII

**SCHEDULE J
(Form 990)**

Compensation Information

OMB No 1545-0047

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

- ▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 23. ▶ Attach to Form 990.
- ▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

2018

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

The SPHERE Institute

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 on 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 (such as 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 directors, trustees, and officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked on 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, but 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 on 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), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5–9.

5 For persons listed on 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" on line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.

6 For persons listed on 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" on line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III

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

8 Were any amounts reported on 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" on 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 on 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 aren't 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 and Title		(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 in column (B) reported as deferred on prior Form 990
		(i) Base compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
1 Thomas E. MaCurdy, President	(i)	93,812	0	0	0	0	93,812	0
	(ii)	481,057	0	1,096,635	0	0	1,577,692	0
2 Jonathan Gibbs, Board Member	(i)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(ii)	279,216	0	0	18,500	0	297,716	0
3 Gregory Boro, Program Director	(i)	193,949	0	0	24,500	10,649	229,098	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Bruno Garcia, Project Leader	(i)	156,040	0	0	18,500	4,620	179,160	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Anton Kravchenko, Project Lead	(i)	156,436	0	0	18,500	0	174,936	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Dimitra Politi, Project Director	(i)	179,492	0	0	18,500	4,901	202,893	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Jonathan Stanton, Program Director	(i)	158,973	0	0	18,500	4,620	182,093	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	(i)							
	(ii)							
9	(i)							
	(ii)							
10	(i)							
	(ii)							
11	(i)							
	(ii)							
12	(i)							
	(ii)							
13	(i)							
	(ii)							
14	(i)							
	(ii)							
15	(i)							
	(ii)							
16	(i)							
	(ii)							

SCHEDULE L
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Transactions With Interested Persons

OMB No 1545-0047

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

▶ 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.

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

2018

Open To Public Inspection

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

The SPHERE Institute

91-1748201

Part I Excess Benefit Transactions (section 501(c)(3), section 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) 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) Relationship between disqualified person and organization	(c) Description of transaction	(d) Corrected?	
				Yes	No
(1)					
(2)					
(3)					
(4)					
(5)					
(6)					

2 Enter the amount of tax incurred by 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-EZ, Part V, line 38a or Form 990, Part IV, line 26; or if the organization reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 5, 6, or 22

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship with organization	(c) Purpose of loan	(d) Loan to or from the organization?		(e) Original principal amount	(f) Balance due	(g) In default?		(h) Approved by board or committee?		(i) 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.

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

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

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.
▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for the latest information.

OMB No 1545-0047

2018

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
The SPHERE Institute

Employer identification number
91-1748201

Form 990, part VI, line 11b After the tax preparer completes form 990, it is reviewed and discussed by the President and financial staff, project directors, and account managers. Then it is reviewed by and discussed with the Chairman of the Board of Directors. Specific issues are discussed with and reviewed by members of the Board, as needed. The tax return after this vetting process is reported to the President and the Board for their approval and signature.

Form 990, part VI, line 15a Per the founding charter and bylaws of the SPHERE Institute since its founding in 1996, compensation of the President is set by the Board of Directors each year. However, in the current case of the SPHERE Institute the current President receives \$0 compensation for his presidential and managerial duties and is compensated only for his contribution to the projects according to the FARC government rules and government contracts. His compensation is based on the hours he contributes to specific projects and the hourly rate commensurate with his professional experience and approved by the U.S. government agencies including the HHS, the CMS, and DCCA.

Form 990, part VI, line 15b The President determines compensation of project directors, research associates, key employees, etc. Their compensation is based on the number of hours contributed to projects and the hourly rates approved by various agencies of the U.S. government.

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 as follows: a) The government documents and the conflict of interest policy are attached to various reports and publications as routinely directed by the U.S. government agencies and California State agencies for which The SPHERE Institute conducts an array of public policy research projects. These documents and policy statements are also posted on the web site <http://sphereinstitute.org/publications.html>. b) The financial statements and the conflict of interest policy and governing documents are always 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. c) The same procedure applies to project report submissions to various non-governmental organizations which follows general rules of the profession.

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

**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" on Form 990, Part IV, line 33, 34, 35b, 36, or 37

▶ Attach to Form 990.

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information

OMB No 1545-0047

2018

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Employer identification number

91-1748201

Part I Identification of Disregarded Entities. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 33

(a) Name, address, and EIN (if applicable) 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" on 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" on 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 1085)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
							Yes	No		Yes	No	
(1) Acumen LLC, Burlingame, CA 94010, EIN 91-1748582	IT related services	CA	None	Unrelated	0	-0		✓	-0	✓	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" on 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	(i) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
								Yes	No
(1)									
(2)									
(3)									
(4)									
(5)									
(6)									
(7)									

Part V Transactions With Related Organizations Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34, 35b, or 36

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

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?

	Yes	No
a Receipt of (i) interest, (ii) annuities, (iii) royalties, or (iv) rent from a controlled entity		✓
b Gift, grant, or capital contribution to related organization(s)		✓
c Gift, grant, or capital contribution from related organization(s)		✓
d Loans or loan guarantees to or for related organization(s)		✓
e Loans or loan guarantees by related organization(s)		✓
f Dividends from related organization(s)		✓
g Sale of assets to related organization(s)		✓
h Purchase of assets from related organization(s)		✓
i Exchange of assets with related organization(s)		✓
j Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets to related organization(s)		✓
k Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets from related organization(s)		✓
l Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations for related organization(s)	✓	
m Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations by related organization(s)	✓	
n Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, or other assets with related organization(s)		✓
o Sharing of paid employees with related organization(s)		✓
p Reimbursement paid to related organization(s) for expenses		✓
q Reimbursement paid by related organization(s) for expenses		✓
r Other transfer of cash or property to related organization(s)		✓
s Other transfer of cash or property from related organization(s)		✓

2 If the answer to any of the above is "Yes," see the instructions for information on who must complete this line, including covered relationships and transaction thresholds

(a) Name of related organization	(b) Transaction type (a-s)	(c) Amount involved	(d) Method of determining amount involved
(1) Acumen LLC EIN 91-1748582	i	25,820,563	Per books
(2) Acumen LLC EIN 91 1748582	m	4,757,544	Per books
(3)			
(4)			
(5)			
(6)			

Part VI Unrelated Organizations Taxable as a Partnership. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on 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 sections 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)													
(11)													
(12)													
(13)													
(14)													
(15)													
(16)													

