For over 50 years, Small Press Distribution has pushed back against the systemic racial, gender, and economic inequalities in the publishing industry that exclude or underrepresent small presses and their authors. We advocate for these voices—most often writers of color, Black writers, LGBTQIA+ writers, indigenous writers, neurodivergent writers, disabled writers, and those with alternative viewpoints and aesthetics. SPD provides practical services that enable these books to break into the competitive marketplace and to readers, organizers, and educators. We offer a path for publishers and authors to stay viable without losing vibrancy. Our goal is to make sure the literary field reflects and celebrates the actual diversity of writers and readers present in our communities.

SPD must continually renew our mission and commitment to representational justice with action, find new ways to actively support and resource presses run by people of color, seek out presses taking risks and producing work from and for marginalized communities, and make this work accessible.

SPD is also committed to transformative inclusivity, equity, and diversity within our own organization. This commitment shapes our programs, partnerships, and advocacy. The SPD staff and board strive to reflect the diversity of our authors and presses. We believe more perspectives and diverse backgrounds at every level—staff, leadership, and board members—make us a stronger organization.

This commitment requires ongoing reflection, recommitment, and outside resources. Because these values are so central to our very mission, and because our very staff come directly from these communities, we work hard to ensure a workplace that is safe, accessible, and inclusive.