

Current landscape. Positive psychedelic experiences and growth, with reduced risk and safety net infrastructure, can be fostered in formal communities with intentional operating, ethical, and governance structures. Examples include secular psychedelic societies, psychedelic churches, and religious organizations already serving as spiritual homes to many. Churches could in time come to enjoy a degree of legal protection, although to date, this protection has been limited to only a few organizations. Line of sight to a clear legal framework that protects a meaningful number of groups is still unclear, though some seek to apply pressure on the DEA to provide this.

A few pioneering groups have recognized the potential for abuse in underground settings, and are responding by designing models that minimize these and other risks - and sharing them with others.

- Sacred Plant Alliance ([SPA](#)), a membership organization for minimal-dogma psychedelic religious organizations, that provides peer support and collaboration among leaders, sharing of best practices and ethical standards (including annual ethical review and peer review, and a central reporting system), and public education.
- Brooklyn Psychedelic Society ([BPS](#)), a local group (reach ~10K) defining the novel “trellis” operating model to foster community based healing with highly participative governance and strong accountability. This will be open-source, and eventually be a basis for recognition of other groups that show alignment with the core tenets.

Other organizations are exploring implications of growing awareness of psychedelics as they inevitably intersect with the practice of mainstream religions. [Ligare](#) and [Shefa](#) are education and advocacy organizations that seek to enable existing Christian and Jewish communities, respectively, to responsibly incorporate psychedelic experiences into well-established traditions, when they wish to do so.

These organizations are still early in their journeys, and the scale of their impact thus far is still small. We consider their missions to be high priorities for individual philanthropy by those seeking to foster ethical, responsible community use outside the limits of regulated settings. As these organizations’ models are refined and their footprint grows, the path to large-scale impact will become clearer, and they could become top priorities for collective philanthropy.