

**Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax**  
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](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2019**  
**Open to Public Inspection**

**A For the 2019 calendar year, or tax year beginning , and ending**

<b>B</b> Check if applicable: <input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Final return/terminated <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	<b>C</b> Name of organization <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Touchstones Discussion Project, Inc</div> Doing business as Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite <div style="font-weight: bold;">143 Log Canoe Circle</div> City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code <div style="font-weight: bold;">Stevensville MD 21666</div>	<b>D</b> Employer identification number <div style="font-weight: bold;">52-2009938</div> <b>E</b> Telephone number <div style="font-weight: bold;">410-604-3309</div> <b>G</b> Gross receipts \$ <div style="font-weight: bold;">537,206</div>
<b>F</b> Name and address of principal officer: <div style="font-weight: bold;">Stefanie Takacs, MS.Ed.</div> <div style="font-weight: bold;">143 Log Canoe Circle</div> <div style="font-weight: bold;">Stevensville MD 21666</div>		<b>H(a)</b> Is this a group return for subordinates? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <b>H(b)</b> Are all subordinates included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If "No," attach a list. (see instructions)
<b>I</b> Tax-exempt status: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) <input type="checkbox"/> 501(c) ( ) (insert no.) <input type="checkbox"/> 4947(a)(1) or <input type="checkbox"/> 527		<b>H(c)</b> Group exemption number ▶
<b>J</b> Website: ▶ <div style="font-weight: bold;">www.touchstones.org</div>		<b>L</b> Year of formation: <div style="font-weight: bold;">1996</div>
<b>K</b> Form of organization: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/> Other ▶		<b>M</b> State of legal domicile: <div style="font-weight: bold;">MD</div>

**Part I Summary**

<b>Activities &amp; Governance</b>	<b>1</b> Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: <div style="font-weight: bold;">See Schedule O</div>															
	<b>2</b> Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.															
	<b>3</b> Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3 12														
	<b>4</b> Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4 11														
	<b>5</b> Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2019 (Part V, line 2a)	5 6														
	<b>6</b> Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6 50														
	<b>7a</b> Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a 0														
	<b>b</b> Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 39	7b 0														
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>8</b> Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h) <b>9</b> Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g) <b>10</b> Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d) <b>11</b> Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e) <b>12</b> Total revenue – add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Prior Year</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Current Year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">473,074</td> <td style="text-align: right;">529,305</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">253,576</td> <td style="text-align: right;">126,226</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">13</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">4,080</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-120,325</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">730,743</td> <td style="text-align: right;">535,206</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Prior Year	Current Year	473,074	529,305	253,576	126,226	13	0	4,080	-120,325	730,743	535,206		
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473,074	529,305															
253,576	126,226															
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4,080	-120,325															
730,743	535,206															
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>13</b> Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3) <b>14</b> Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4) <b>15</b> Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10) <b>16a</b> Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e) <b>b</b> Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ <div style="font-weight: bold;">68,608</div> <b>17</b> Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e) <b>18</b> Total expenses. Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25) <b>19</b> Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">241,960</td> <td style="text-align: right;">204,878</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">246,407</td> <td style="text-align: right;">224,696</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">488,367</td> <td style="text-align: right;">429,574</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">242,376</td> <td style="text-align: right;">105,632</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		0		0	241,960	204,878		0	246,407	224,696	488,367	429,574	242,376	105,632
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<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>20</b> Total assets (Part X, line 16) <b>21</b> Total liabilities (Part X, line 26) <b>22</b> Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Beginning of Current Year</th> <th style="text-align: center;">End of Year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">476,034</td> <td style="text-align: right;">598,042</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">31,526</td> <td style="text-align: right;">47,902</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">444,508</td> <td style="text-align: right;">550,140</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Beginning of Current Year	End of Year	476,034	598,042	31,526	47,902	444,508	550,140						
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476,034	598,042															
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**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.

<b>Sign Here</b>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>             Signature of officer  <div style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Stefanie Takacs, MS.Ed.</div>            Type or print name and title         </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <div style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Sept. 26, 2020</div>            Date  <div style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Executive Director</div> </div> </div>																
<b>Paid Preparer Use Only</b>	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:40%;">Print/Type preparer's name J. Brian Stitcher, CPA</td> <td style="width:30%;">Preparer's signature J. Brian Stitcher, CPA</td> <td style="width:10%;">Date 09/22/20</td> <td style="width:20%;">Check <input type="checkbox"/> if self-employed</td> <td style="width:10%;">PTIN P00082903</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Firm's name ▶ <div style="font-weight: bold;">JBS &amp; Co. LLC</div></td> <td colspan="2">Firm's EIN ▶ <div style="font-weight: bold;">27-4032675</div></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Firm's address ▶ <div style="font-weight: bold;">101 Log Canoe Cir Ste I Stevensville, MD 21666-2106</div></td> <td colspan="2">Phone no. <div style="font-weight: bold;">410-956-6902</div></td> </tr> </table>	Print/Type preparer's name J. Brian Stitcher, CPA	Preparer's signature J. Brian Stitcher, CPA	Date 09/22/20	Check <input type="checkbox"/> if self-employed	PTIN P00082903	Firm's name ▶ <div style="font-weight: bold;">JBS &amp; Co. LLC</div>			Firm's EIN ▶ <div style="font-weight: bold;">27-4032675</div>		Firm's address ▶ <div style="font-weight: bold;">101 Log Canoe Cir Ste I Stevensville, MD 21666-2106</div>			Phone no. <div style="font-weight: bold;">410-956-6902</div>		
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May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) ☐ Yes ☐ No

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate Instructions.

**Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments**

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

**1** Briefly describe the organization's mission:

**Touchstones builds critical thinking, communication, and leadership skills through respectful and engaging discussion-based programs within the United States and internationally.**

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

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

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

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

**4** Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.**4a** (Code: ) (Expenses \$ **106,360** including grants of\$ ) (Revenue \$ **126,226** )**See Schedule O****4b** (Code: ) (Expenses \$ **82,979** including grants of\$ ) (Revenue \$ )**See Schedule O****4c** (Code: ) (Expenses \$ **26,687** including grants of\$ ) (Revenue \$ )**See Schedule O****4d** Other program services (Describe on Schedule O.)(Expenses \$ **129,694** including grants of\$ ) (Revenue \$ )**4e** Total program service expenses **345,720**

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? If "Yes," complete Schedule A	<b>X</b>	
<b>2</b> Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors (see instructions)?	<b>X</b>	
<b>3</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>5</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>6</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>7</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>8</b> Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III		<b>X</b>
<b>9</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>10</b> Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in donor-restricted endowments or in quasi endowments? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V		<b>X</b>
<b>11</b> 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.		
<b>a</b> Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI		<b>X</b>
<b>b</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		<b>X</b>
<b>c</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>d</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>e</b> Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X		<b>X</b>
<b>f</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>12a</b> Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII		<b>X</b>
<b>b</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		<b>X</b>
<b>13</b> Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E		<b>X</b>
<b>14a</b> Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?		<b>X</b>
<b>b</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		<b>X</b>
<b>15</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>16</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>17</b> 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)		<b>X</b>
<b>18</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>19</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>20a</b> Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? If "Yes," complete Schedule H		<b>X</b>
<b>b</b> If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		
<b>21</b> 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		<b>X</b>



**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)**

	Yes	No
<b>22</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>23</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>24a</b> 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>X</b>
<b>24b</b> Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?		
<b>24c</b> Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?		
<b>24d</b> Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?		
<b>25a</b> <b>Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I		<b>X</b>
<b>25b</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		<b>X</b>
<b>26</b> Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5 or 22, for receivables from or payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II		<b>X</b>
<b>27</b> Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity (including an employee thereof) or family member of any of these persons? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III		<b>X</b>
<b>28</b> 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):		
<b>28a</b> A current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, or substantial contributor? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV		<b>X</b>
<b>28b</b> A family member of any individual described in line 28a? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV		<b>X</b>
<b>28c</b> A 35% controlled entity of one or more individuals and/or organizations described in lines 28a or 28b? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV		<b>X</b>
<b>29</b> Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M	<b>X</b>	
<b>30</b> Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M	<b>X</b>	
<b>31</b> Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I		<b>X</b>
<b>32</b> Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II		<b>X</b>
<b>33</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>34</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>35a</b> Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		<b>X</b>
<b>35b</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		
<b>36</b> <b>Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2		<b>X</b>
<b>37</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>38</b> Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? <b>Note:</b> All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O.	<b>X</b>	

**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
<b>1a</b> Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable		
<b>1b</b> Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable		
<b>1c</b> Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	<b>X</b>	

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

		Yes	No
<b>2a</b>	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	<b>2a</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>b</b>	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? <b>Note:</b> If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file (see instructions)	<b>2b</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>3a</b>	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?	<b>3a</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>b</b>	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No" to line 3b, provide an explanation on Schedule O	<b>3b</b>	
<b>4a</b>	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?	<b>4a</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>b</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).		
<b>5a</b>	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?	<b>5a</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>b</b>	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	<b>5b</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>c</b>	If "Yes" to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T?	<b>5c</b>	
<b>6a</b>	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?	<b>6a</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>b</b>	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?	<b>6b</b>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).</b>		
<b>a</b>	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?	<b>7a</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>b</b>	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?	<b>7b</b>	
<b>c</b>	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?	<b>7c</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>d</b>	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year	<b>7d</b>	
<b>e</b>	Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?	<b>7e</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>f</b>	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?	<b>7f</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>g</b>	If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?	<b>7g</b>	
<b>h</b>	If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C?	<b>7h</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.</b> Did a donor advised fund maintained by the sponsoring organization have excess business holdings at any time during the year?	<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.</b>		
<b>a</b>	Did the sponsoring organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?	<b>9a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Did the sponsoring organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?	<b>9b</b>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(7) organizations.</b> Enter:		
<b>a</b>	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12	<b>10a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities	<b>10b</b>	
<b>11</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(12) organizations.</b> Enter:		
<b>a</b>	Gross income from members or shareholders	<b>11a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them.)	<b>11b</b>	
<b>12a</b>	<b>Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts.</b> Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?	<b>12a</b>	
<b>b</b>	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year	<b>12b</b>	
<b>13</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.</b>		
<b>a</b>	Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? <b>Note:</b> See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O.	<b>13a</b>	
<b>b</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	<b>13b</b>	
<b>c</b>	Enter the amount of reserves on hand	<b>13c</b>	
<b>14a</b>	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year?	<b>14a</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>b</b>	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation on Schedule O	<b>14b</b>	
<b>15</b>	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.	<b>15</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>16</b>	Is the organization an educational institution subject to the section 4968 excise tax on net investment income? If "Yes," complete Form 4720, Schedule O.	<b>16</b>	<b>X</b>

**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 on 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**

	1a	12		Yes	No
1a Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year ..... If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain on Schedule O.					
b Enter the number of voting members included on line 1a, above, who are independent	1b	11			
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?			2	X	
3 Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors, trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?			3		X
4 Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?			4		X
5 Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?			5		X
6 Did the organization have members or stockholders?			6		X
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?			7a		X
b Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?			7b		X
8 Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following:			8a	X	
a The governing body?			8b	X	
b Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?					
9 Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses on Schedule O.			9		X

**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?	10a		X
b 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?	10b		
11a Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	11a	X	
b Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990.	12a	X	
12a Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	12b	X	
b Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	12c	X	
c Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done	13	X	
13 Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	14	X	
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	X	
a The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	15b		X
b 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?	16a		X
b 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?	16b		

**Section C. Disclosure**

- 17 List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed ► **MD**
- 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 on Schedule O)
- 19 Describe on 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 ►

**Touchstones Discussion Project** 143 Log Canoe Circle  
**Stevensville**

**MD 21666****410-604-3309**



**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.

See instructions for the order in which to list the persons above.

☐ 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) Stefanie Takacs, MS.Ed	60.00									
Executive Director	0.00	X						69,908	0	0
(2) Howard Zeiderman	40.00									
Vice Chair	0.00	X		X				22,077	0	0
(3) Jonathan Adams	0.50									
Board Member	0.00	X						0	0	0
(4) Sarah Gadd	0.50									
Board Member	0.00	X						0	0	0
(5) Sapna Gandhi-Rao	0.50									
Board Member	0.00	X						0	0	0
(6) Florence Girouard	0.50									
Board Member	0.00	X						0	0	0
(7) Laurie de Grazia	0.50									
Board Member	0.00	X						0	0	0
(8) Garreth Heidt	0.50									
Board Member	0.00	X						0	0	0
(9) Rachel Lewis	0.50									
Board Member	0.00	X						0	0	0
(10) Nicholas Maistrellis	3.00									
Board Secretary	0.00	X						0	0	0
(11) Kurt Redfield	3.00									
Board Chair	0.00	X		X				0	0	0

**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			
(12) <b>Ford Rowan</b>	0.50									
Board Member	0.00	X						0	0	0
(13) <b>Gregg Steinberg</b>	0.50									
Board Chair	0.00	X						0	0	0
(14) <b>Debra Valentine</b>	3.00									
Board Treasurer	0.00	X		X				0	0	0
(15) <b>Geoff Wilson</b>	0.50									
Board Member	0.00	X						0	0	0
<b>1b Subtotal</b>								<b>91,985</b>		
<b>c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A</b>										
<b>d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)</b>								<b>91,985</b>		

**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 **0**

	Yes	No
<b>3</b> Did the organization list any <b>former</b> officer, director, trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual		<b>X</b>
<b>4</b> 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		<b>X</b>
<b>5</b> 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		<b>X</b>

**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

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



**Part VIII Statement of Revenue**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
<b>Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts</b>	1a Federated campaigns	1a					
	b Membership dues	1b					
	c Fundraising events	1c					
	d Related organizations	1d					
	e Government grants (contributions)	1e	121,284				
	f All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f	408,021				
	g Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f	1g	\$ 241,028				
	<b>h Total. Add lines 1a-1f</b>			529,305			
<b>Program Service Revenue</b>	2a Contracts	Business Code	611710	67,100	67,100		
	b Book Sales	611710	46,851	46,851			
	c Workshops and Coaching	611710	12,275	12,275			
	d						
	e						
	f All other program service revenue						
	<b>g Total. Add lines 2a-2f</b>			126,226			
	<b>Other Revenue</b>	3 Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)					
4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds							
5 Royalties							
6a Gross rents		(i) Real	(ii) Personal				
b Less: rental expenses							
c Rental inc. 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 exps.							
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		8a					
b Less: direct expenses		8b					
c Net income or (loss) from fundraising events							
9a Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19	9a						
b Less: direct expenses	9b						
c Net income or (loss) from gaming activities							
10a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	10a	11,150					
b Less: cost of goods sold	10b	2,000					
c Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory			9,150	9,150			
<b>Miscellaneous Revenue</b>	11a Sales Discounts	Business Code		-49,702	-49,702		
	b Uncollectible Pledges			-79,773	-79,773		
	c						
	d All other revenue						
	<b>e Total. Add lines 11a-11d</b>			-129,475			
	<b>12 Total revenue. See instructions</b>			535,206	5,901	0	0

**Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses**

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

☒

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
<b>1</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21				
<b>2</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22				
<b>3</b> Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
<b>4</b> Benefits paid to or for members				
<b>5</b> Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	91,985	91,985		
<b>6</b> Compensation not included above to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)	87,440	55,224	5,380	26,836
<b>7</b> Other salaries and wages				
<b>8</b> Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	7,195	5,688		1,507
<b>9</b> Other employee benefits	18,258	18,258		
<b>10</b> Payroll taxes				
<b>11</b> Fees for services (nonemployees):				
<b>a</b> Management	1,929	603	1,326	
<b>b</b> Legal	7,655	6,359		1,296
<b>c</b> Accounting				
<b>d</b> Lobbying				
<b>e</b> Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 7				
<b>f</b> Investment management fees				
<b>g</b> Other. (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O.)	124,644	96,955	20	27,669
<b>12</b> Advertising and promotion	2,295	2,024	148	123
<b>13</b> Office expenses	22,147	18,360	2,223	1,564
<b>14</b> Information technology	10,365	7,748	663	1,954
<b>15</b> Royalties				
<b>16</b> Occupancy	22,579	20,122	634	1,823
<b>17</b> Travel	11,660	8,849	1,428	1,383
<b>18</b> Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
<b>19</b> Conferences, conventions, and meetings	2,723		2,723	
<b>20</b> Interest	5,466	4,967	326	173
<b>21</b> Payments to affiliates				
<b>22</b> Depreciation, depletion, and amortization				
<b>23</b> Insurance	2,405	1,982	375	48
<b>24</b> Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses on line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
<b>a</b> Meals	7,684	4,969		2,715
<b>b</b> Bank Charges	3,144	1,627		1,517
<b>c</b>				
<b>d</b>				
<b>e</b> All other expenses				
<b>25</b> Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	429,574	345,720	15,246	68,608
<b>26</b> 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
<b>Assets</b>	<b>1</b> Cash—non-interest-bearing .....	<b>23,580</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>48,123</b>
	<b>2</b> Savings and temporary cash investments .....	<b>49</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>49</b>
	<b>3</b> Pledges and grants receivable, net .....	<b>408,003</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>360,230</b>
	<b>4</b> Accounts receivable, net .....	<b>42,239</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>34,454</b>
	<b>5</b> Loans and other receivables from any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons .....		<b>5</b>	
	<b>6</b> Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B) .....		<b>6</b>	
	<b>7</b> Notes and loans receivable, net .....		<b>7</b>	
	<b>8</b> Inventories for sale or use .....	<b>2,163</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>155,186</b>
	<b>9</b> Prepaid expenses and deferred charges .....		<b>9</b>	
	<b>10a</b> Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D .....	<b>10a</b>		
	<b>b</b> Less: accumulated depreciation .....	<b>10b</b>	<b>10c</b>	
	<b>11</b> Investments—publicly traded securities .....		<b>11</b>	
	<b>12</b> Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11 .....		<b>12</b>	
	<b>13</b> Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11 .....		<b>13</b>	
	<b>14</b> Intangible assets .....		<b>14</b>	
	<b>15</b> Other assets. See Part IV, line 11 .....		<b>15</b>	
<b>16</b> <b>Total assets.</b> Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 33) .....	<b>476,034</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>598,042</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>17</b> Accounts payable and accrued expenses .....	<b>21,526</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>25,401</b>
	<b>18</b> Grants payable .....		<b>18</b>	
	<b>19</b> Deferred revenue .....		<b>19</b>	<b>1,600</b>
	<b>20</b> Tax-exempt bond liabilities .....		<b>20</b>	
	<b>21</b> Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D .....		<b>21</b>	
	<b>22</b> Loans and other payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons .....		<b>22</b>	
	<b>23</b> Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties .....		<b>23</b>	
	<b>24</b> Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties .....	<b>10,000</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20,901</b>
	<b>25</b> 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 .....		<b>25</b>	
	<b>26</b> <b>Total liabilities.</b> Add lines 17 through 25 .....	<b>31,526</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>47,902</b>
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>Organizations that follow FASB ASC 958, check here</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>and complete lines 27, 28, 32, and 33.</b>			
	<b>27</b> Net assets without donor restrictions .....	<b>444,508</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>550,140</b>
	<b>28</b> Net assets with donor restrictions .....		<b>28</b>	
	<b>Organizations that do not follow FASB ASC 958, check here</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>and complete lines 29 through 33.</b>			
	<b>29</b> Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds .....		<b>29</b>	
	<b>30</b> Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund .....		<b>30</b>	
	<b>31</b> Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds .....		<b>31</b>	
<b>32</b> <b>Total net assets or fund balances</b> .....	<b>444,508</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>550,140</b>	
<b>33</b> <b>Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances</b> .....	<b>476,034</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>598,042</b>	

**Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets**Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI ☐

<b>1</b>	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	<b>1</b>	<b>535,206</b>
<b>2</b>	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	<b>2</b>	<b>429,574</b>
<b>3</b>	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	<b>3</b>	<b>105,632</b>
<b>4</b>	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 32, column (A))	<b>4</b>	<b>444,508</b>
<b>5</b>	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b>	Donated services and use of facilities	<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b>	Investment expenses	<b>7</b>	
<b>8</b>	Prior period adjustments	<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b>	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain on Schedule O)	<b>9</b>	
<b>10</b>	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 32, column (B))	<b>10</b>	<b>550,140</b>

**Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting**Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII ☐

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> 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.		
<b>2a</b> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis	<b>X</b>	
<b>2b</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 type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		<b>X</b>
<b>2c</b> 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 on Schedule O.	<b>X</b>	
<b>3a</b> 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?		<b>X</b>
<b>3b</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 on Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits		



**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](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.**

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2019**

**Open to Public  
Inspection**

Name of the organization

**Touchstones Discussion Project, Inc**

Employer identification number

**52-2009938**

**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: .....
- g Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

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

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2019

**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) 2015	(b) 2016	(c) 2017	(d) 2018	(e) 2019	(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 <b>Total.</b> 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 <b>Public support.</b> Subtract line 5 from line 4						

**Section B. Total Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2015	(b) 2016	(c) 2017	(d) 2018	(e) 2019	(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 <b>Total support.</b> Add lines 7 through 10						
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)						12
13 <b>First five years.</b> 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 <b>stop here</b> <input type="checkbox"/>						

**Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage**

14 Public support percentage for 2019 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	%
15 Public support percentage from 2018 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	%
16a <b>33 1/3% support test—2019.</b> If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and <b>stop here.</b> The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization <input type="checkbox"/>		
b <b>33 1/3% support test—2018.</b> 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 <b>stop here.</b> The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization <input type="checkbox"/>		
17a <b>10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2019.</b> 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 <b>stop here.</b> 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 <b>10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2018.</b> 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 <b>stop here.</b> 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 <b>Private foundation.</b> 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) 2015	(b) 2016	(c) 2017	(d) 2018	(e) 2019	(f) Total
<b>1</b> Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	266,745	285,420	180,585	426,117	288,277	1,447,144
<b>2</b> 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	296,454	208,086	215,998	253,576	85,674	1,059,788
<b>3</b> Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
<b>4</b> Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
<b>5</b> The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
<b>6</b> <b>Total.</b> Add lines 1 through 5	563,199	493,506	396,583	679,693	373,951	2,506,932
<b>7a</b> Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons	36,000	51,600	15,300	255,170	15,060	373,130
<b>b</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				54,318		54,318
<b>c</b> Add lines 7a and 7b	36,000	51,600	15,300	309,488	15,060	427,448
<b>8</b> <b>Public support.</b> (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						2,079,484

**Section B. Total Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2015	(b) 2016	(c) 2017	(d) 2018	(e) 2019	(f) Total
<b>9</b> Amounts from line 6	563,199	493,506	396,583	679,693	373,951	2,506,932
<b>10a</b> Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources	16		3	13		32
<b>b</b> Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
<b>c</b> Add lines 10a and 10b	16		3	13		32
<b>11</b> Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
<b>12</b> Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)		21,110	78,044	51,037	161,255	311,446
<b>13</b> <b>Total support.</b> (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)	563,215	514,616	474,630	730,743	535,206	2,818,410
<b>14</b> <b>First five years.</b> 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**

<b>15</b> Public support percentage for 2019 (line 8, column (f), divided by line 13, column (f))	<b>15</b>	73.78 %
<b>16</b> Public support percentage from 2018 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	<b>16</b>	78.20 %

**Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage**

<b>17</b> Investment income percentage for 2019 (line 10c, column (f), divided by line 13, column (f))	<b>17</b>	%
<b>18</b> Investment income percentage from 2018 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	<b>18</b>	%

- 19a** **33 1/3% support tests—2019.** 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 ☒
- b** **33 1/3% support tests—2018.** 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 ☐
- 20** **Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions ☐

**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**

- 1 Are all of the organization's supported organizations listed by name in the organization's governing documents? 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.
- 2 Did the organization have any supported organization that does not have an IRS determination of status under section 509(a)(1) or (2)? If "Yes," explain in **Part VI** how the organization determined that the supported organization was described in section 509(a)(1) or (2).
- 3a Did the organization have a supported organization described in section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6)? If "Yes," answer (b) and (c) below.
- 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)? If "Yes," describe in **Part VI** when and how the organization made the determination.
- c Did the organization ensure that all support to such organizations was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes? If "Yes," explain in **Part VI** what controls the organization put in place to ensure such use.
- 4a Was any supported organization not organized in the United States ("foreign supported organization")? If "Yes," and if you checked 12a or 12b in Part I, answer (b) and (c) below.
- b Did the organization have ultimate control and discretion in deciding whether to make grants to the foreign supported organization? 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.
- 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)? 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.
- 5a Did the organization add, substitute, or remove any supported organizations during the tax year? 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).
- 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? If "Yes," provide detail in **Part VI**.
- 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? If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990 or 990-EZ).
- 8 Did the organization make a loan to a disqualified person (as defined in section 4958) not described in line 7? If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990 or 990-EZ).
- 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))? If "Yes," provide detail in **Part VI**.
- 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? If "Yes," provide detail in **Part VI**.
- 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? If "Yes," provide detail in **Part VI**.
- 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)? If "Yes," answer 10b below.
- b Did the organization have any excess business holdings in the tax year? (Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine whether the organization had excess business holdings.)

	Yes	No
1		
2		
3a		
3b		
3c		
4a		
4b		
4c		
5a		
5b		
5c		
6		
7		
8		
9a		
9b		
9c		
10a		
10b		



**Part IV Supporting Organizations (continued)**

- |  | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| <b>11</b> Has the organization accepted a gift or contribution from any of the following persons?  |     |    |
| <b>a</b> 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? |     |    |
| <b>b</b> A family member of a person described in (a) above?   |     |    |
| <b>c</b> A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (a) or (b) above? If "Yes" to a, b, or c, provide detail in <b>Part VI</b> .                                       |     |    |

**Section B. Type I Supporting Organizations**

- |   | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| <b>1</b> 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 <b>Part VI</b> 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. |     |    |
| <b>2</b> 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 <b>Part VI</b> how providing such benefit carried out the purposes of the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization.   |     |    |

**Section C. Type II Supporting Organizations**

- |  | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| <b>1</b> 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 <b>Part VI</b> how control or management of the supporting organization was vested in the same persons that controlled or managed the supported organization(s). |     |    |

**Section D. All Type III Supporting Organizations**

- |   | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| <b>1</b> 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? |     |    |
| <b>2</b> 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 <b>Part VI</b> how the organization maintained a close and continuous working relationship with the supported organization(s).   |     |    |
| <b>3</b> 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 <b>Part VI</b> the role the organization's supported organizations played in this regard.  |     |    |

**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** ☐ The organization satisfied the Activities Test. Complete **line 2** below.
- b** ☐ The organization is the parent of each of its supported organizations. Complete **line 3** below.
- c** ☐ 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.**

- |   | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| <b>a</b> 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 <b>Part VI</b> 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. |     |    |
| <b>b</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 <b>Part VI</b> the reasons for the organization's position that its supported organization(s) would have engaged in these activities but for the organization's involvement.  |     |    |
| <b>3</b> Parent of Supported Organizations. Answer (a) and (b) below.   |     |    |
| <b>a</b> 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 <b>Part VI</b> .   |     |    |
| <b>b</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 <b>Part VI</b> the role played by the organization in this regard.   |     |    |

**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	<b>Adjusted Net Income</b> (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	<b>Total</b> (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c)	1d	
e	<b>Discount</b> claimed for blockage or other factors (explain in detail in <b>Part VI</b> ):		
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	<b>Minimum Asset Amount</b> (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	<b>Distributable Amount.</b> 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	<b>Total annual distributions.</b> 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 2019 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-2019	(iii) Distributable Amount for 2019
1 Distributable amount for 2019 from Section C, line 6			
2 Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2019 (reasonable cause required-explain in Part VI). See instructions.			
3 Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2019			
a From 2014			
b From 2015			
c From 2016			
d From 2017			
e From 2018			
f <b>Total</b> of lines 3a through e			
g Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
h Applied to 2019 distributable amount			
i Carryover from 2014 not applied (see instructions)			
j <b>Remainder.</b> Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from 3f.			
4 Distributions for 2019 from Section D, line 7: \$			
a Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
b Applied to 2019 distributable amount			
c <b>Remainder.</b> Subtract lines 4a and 4b from 4.			
5 Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2019, 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 2019. Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1. For result greater than zero, explain in Part VI. See instructions.			
7 <b>Excess distributions carryover to 2020.</b> Add lines 3j and 4c.			
8 <b>Breakdown of line 7:</b>			
a Excess from 2015			
b Excess from 2016			
c Excess from 2017			
d Excess from 2018			
e Excess from 2019			

**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.)

Part III, Line 12 - Other Income Detail

Noncash Contributions	\$	357,139
Copyright Settlement	\$	30,000
Campaign Kickoff Revenue	\$	4,080
Uncollectible Pledges	\$	-79,773

Supplemental Information

Noncash Contributions Breakdown:

2016:	\$	21,110
2017:	\$	48,044
=====		
Total	\$	69,154



**SCHEDULE M**  
**(Form 990)**

**Noncash Contributions**

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2019**

**Open To Public  
Inspection**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

- ▶ **Complete if the organizations answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, lines 29 or 30.**  
▶ **Attach to Form 990.**  
▶ **Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.**

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

**Touchstones Discussion Project, Inc**

**52-2009938**

**Part I Types of Property**

	(a) Check if applicable	(b) Number of contributions or items contributed	(c) Noncash contribution amounts reported on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1g	(d) Method of determining noncash contribution amounts
1 Art — Works of art .....	<b>X</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>153,150</b>	<b>Cost of materials</b>
2 Art — Historical treasures .....				
3 Art — Fractional interests .....				
4 Books and publications .....				
5 Clothing and household goods .....				
6 Cars and other vehicles .....				
7 Boats and planes .....				
8 Intellectual property .....				
9 Securities — Publicly traded .....				
10 Securities — Closely held stock .....				
11 Securities — Partnership, LLC, or trust interests .....				
12 Securities — Miscellaneous .....				
13 Qualified conservation contribution — Historic structures .....				
14 Qualified conservation contribution — Other .....				
15 Real estate — Residential .....				
16 Real estate — Commercial .....				
17 Real estate — Other .....				
18 Collectibles .....				
19 Food inventory .....				
20 Drugs and medical supplies .....				
21 Taxidermy .....				
22 Historical artifacts .....				
23 Scientific specimens .....				
24 Archeological artifacts .....				
25 Other ▶ ( <b>Various</b> ) .....	<b>X</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>83,690</b>	<b>FMV</b>
26 Other ▶ ( <b>Facility</b> ) .....	<b>X</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4,188</b>	<b>FMV</b>
27 Other ▶ ( ) .....				
28 Other ▶ ( ) .....				

29 Number of Forms 8283 received by the organization during the tax year for contributions for which the organization completed Form 8283, Part IV, Donee Acknowledgement .....

**29**

30a During the year, did the organization receive by contribution any property reported in Part I, lines 1 through 28, that it must hold for at least three years from the date of the initial contribution, and which isn't required to be used for exempt purposes for the entire holding period? .....

b If "Yes," describe the arrangement in Part II.

31 Does the organization have a gift acceptance policy that requires the review of any nonstandard contributions? .....

32a Does the organization hire or use third parties or related organizations to solicit, process, or sell noncash contributions? .....

b If "Yes," describe in Part II.

33 If the organization didn't report an amount in column (c) for a type of property for which column (a) is checked, describe in Part II.

Yes No

<b>30a</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>31</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>32a</b>		<b>X</b>

**Part II Supplemental Information.** Provide the information required by Part I, lines 30b, 32b, and 33, and whether the organization is reporting in Part I, column (b), the number of contributions, the number of items received, or a combination of both. Also complete this part for any additional information.

**Schedule M - Supplemental Information**

Artwork was left through the Zuckerman Estate and valued based on the cost of the materials.

Other various services were donated as well as the use of a facility. These were valued based on the fair market value of such services or rental of facility.

**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](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2019**

**Open to Public  
Inspection**

Name of the organization

**Touchstones Discussion Project, Inc**

Employer identification number

**52-2009938**

**Form 990 - Organization's Mission or Most Significant Activities**

Touchstones' discussion-based programs develop thinking and collaboration at the highest levels for all students and learners. Touchstones primary focus is to address gaps in education in K-12 schools by teaching educators and students to use structured dialogue to activate and enliven their thinking and build cooperation and leadership. These programs are held in schools, prisons, senior centers, and with veterans and executive groups.

**Form 990, Part III, Line 4a - First Accomplishment**

K-12 School Programming, Enrichment and After School Programs, Youth Workforce Development, Educational Conferences, and Teacher Professional Development

Academically rigorous yet accessible to all, Touchstones' school, after-school, homeschooling, and workforce development programs help students of all academic abilities and backgrounds become active collaborators in their learning. Touchstones materials are most widely used in general education programs but also for advanced learners, ESL and ELL students, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, AVID elective and critical reading, students with special needs, and in inclusive classrooms. Touchstones school programs are in more than 47 countries and have been translated from English to Arabic, Burmese, French, Haitian Kreyòl, and Spanish. More than five million students of all ages have used Touchstones programs since the organization was founded in 1984.

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

Touchstones Discussion Project, Inc

52-2009938

To foster optimal implementations and outcomes, Touchstones provides educators using Touchstones with professional development training that teaches the Touchstones discussion method through direct experience. Offered several times each year, our interactive workshops (Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced), help teachers learn strategies for discussion leadership, to identify and devise solutions to issues in discussion dynamics with input from the students, to model active listening and respectful engagement with all students, to measure student progress over time, and to assess and refine their own development as discussion leaders and classroom managers throughout the year. In-class coaching provided by Touchstones staff provides additional and tailored guidance to support continued development in instructional and leadership capacities. Teachers using Touchstones often report becoming more skilled and confident in their leadership roles and activities outside the classroom.

Touchstones staff ran 15 training workshops and provided in-classroom coaching for more than 300 educators, administrators, and volunteers at eight school sites and our local workshop space in 2019. In addition, 17 new schools and districts implemented Touchstones curricula. Another 24 schools and districts expanded their existing programs in 2019. To ensure that all teachers who wish to be trained in Touchstones are able, we provided 35 scholarship seats at Open Enrollment Workshops through the Touchstones Educator Scholarship Program and hired a summer Teaching Fellow to support school outreach and development.

As part of our outreach in 2019, Touchstones staff attended the ASCD educational leadership conference in Washington, DC and provided a free



Name of the organization

Touchstones Discussion Project, Inc

Employer identification number

52-2009938

class set of materials to a public-charter school in Paterson, NJ, which had no funding but was eager to build civil discourse and critical thinking in their classrooms. Teachers using Touchstones programs guide and empower students through direct engagement and active learning. They use Touchstones curricular materials and training to learn to differentiate instruction based on students' strengths and challenges and encourage students to teach and learn from each other. Students in Touchstones practice accountable speaking, active listening, cooperative learning, critical thinking, and collaborative leadership in each class. As part of their work in Touchstones, students learn to attend to group dynamics and to moderate behavior and engagement to make room for and encourage diverse perspectives and greater engagement by all members of the class. Students in Touchstones explore ideas and issues central to civil society and examine their roles as citizens. They evaluate their own work, self-correct unproductive behaviors, and set goals collectively for improved discussion outcomes. These essential skills transfer to many dimensions of academic settings and extend outside of school.

#### After School/Enrichment Programs

Touchstones also continued its partnership with Seeds4Success in Annapolis, MD-modeling a Touchstones discussion with elementary age students for new staff. Seeds4Success provides children and young adults from under-resourced communities with enrichment, mentoring, and educational support to achieve success in school and in life.

In addition, Touchstones collaborated with the Girl Scouts of Central

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

Touchstones Discussion Project, Inc

52-2009938

Maryland to launch a new program at the Waxter Detention Center in Maryland. Touchstones staff provided program design and training and observation for the Girl Scout program staff. This pilot program seeks to strengthen the young women's pro-social skills by building self-esteem, self-regulation, reflective thinking, cooperative learning, and leadership. More than 20 teens participated in the program in 2019, with hopes for national replication in the future.

Further outreach and volunteerism by Touchstones staff included engagement with STAIR, an intensive year-long literacy program for second grade students in Anne Arundel County. Touchstones staff met with STAIR volunteers to demonstrate discussion as a tool for building literacy and ran a Touchpebbles lesson at one program site.

Form 990, Part III, Line 4b - Second Accomplishment

Leadership & Executive Development Programs

Executives and managers in different types and sizes of businesses and organizations gain a better sense of teamwork through custom Touchstones programs. Executives systematically improve how they access, assess, and utilize diverse perspectives and collective knowledge in problem-solving. At the same time, Touchstones workshops or custom programs help them identify and grow leadership capacity, build more inclusive and cohesive teams, and improve organizational functionality and management. These programs take place with teams in non-profit and higher ed leadership, corporate settings and governmental agencies. Touchstones staff ran an intensive, three-day workshop for leadership development in 2019, to build

Name of the organization

Touchstones Discussion Project, Inc

Employer identification number

52-2009938

organizational capacity to deliver more programming in a growing market.

In 2019, Touchstones ran custom programs for executives in Annapolis, MD and Washington, DC. Those included topic-oriented programs such as "Revolutions," which examines three revolutions over ten discussion meetings and explores the ways in which those periods offer different lenses through which to understand our current socio-political environments. They also included a program series on modern short fiction around topics of identity, creativity, and the role and evolution of literature in society. A second program series on modern short fiction was also started in 2019 in Washington, DC to explore how recent short, fictional works help us to conceptualize the future.

In addition, Touchstones staff ran a day-long leadership development workshop for the Coastal Community Colleges in Alabama and launched a four-session program in the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Department of Criminal Justice's Masters Program in Emergency and Crisis Management.

Touchstones completed a custom four-session program in 2019 for 20 managers at a NYC based global pension fund with managed assets of \$13.5 billion. This program develops vital communication and leadership tools to support highly collaborative teams. Such teams are characterized as ones in which all members recognize they have legitimate and needed voices. Over the course of the program, participants refined their communication and perception skills to create a work practice and forum in which all viewpoints are welcomed, heard, and meaningfully integrated in



Name of the organization

Employer identification number

Touchstones Discussion Project, Inc

52-2009938

collaborative endeavors. Touchstones also ran a second professional development workshop for 40 Deans and Directors through the Center for Advancement of Food Service Education (C.A.F.E.) in Charleston, SC. This workshop invited participants to examine elements of personal and institutional branding while working collaboratively with peers from other institutions in higher education and technical schools.

## Form 990, Part III, Line 4c - Third Accomplishment

## Programs with Incarcerated Youth and Adults

Through Touchstones programs in correctional institutions, juvenile and adult detention centers and jails, incarcerated people reflect on their thinking, choices, and values and practice cooperative learning and complex problem-solving. In the process, they practice assuming greater responsibility for decisions and consequences and acquire skills essential for constructive and sustained freedom after release from incarceration. Participants also practice speaking publicly, listening respectfully and actively, and considering diverse viewpoints. In so doing, Touchstones discussions afford incarcerated people essential opportunities to experience and share their ideas and opinions with others in a mutually respectful environment.

Touchstones is used by program staff and volunteers in psycho-emotional and educational programs in correctional centers in Maryland, Virginia, and California. Two weekly programs initiated in the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women (MCI-W) in 2015 continued through 2019 and are run by Touchstones staff and volunteers. Those programs engaged more than 105



Name of the organization

Employer identification number

Touchstones Discussion Project, Inc

52-2009938

women in 58 hour-long Touchstones class meetings for a total attendance of 477. Of the women participants in Touchstones prison programs who have been released from MCI-W over the last three years, the recidivism rate remains below 5%. Eight community volunteers participated in the program at MCI-W in 2019.

## Form 990, Part III, Line 4d - All Other Accomplishments

## Adult and Community Programs

## Community

In 2019, Touchstones hosted a free public art exhibition in Annapolis, Maryland, featuring works by Dr. Elliott Zuckerman. Dr. Zuckerman passed away in June 2019, leaving a bequest of more than 180 paintings to support Touchstones' educational programs. The retrospective exhibition featured 24 works in oil and included landscapes, still lifes, and portraits by the art, as well as a panel discussion that included local art historians, curators, and public radio broadcasters. More than 180 people attended the weekend-long exhibition that coincided with the memorial service for Dr. Zuckerman. Support for this special event was received from Art Fleischer and space was donated by St. John's College.

## Veterans and Veteran-Civilian Programs

In addition, Touchstones ran a third veterans' discussion group and launched a new veteran-civilian discussion group, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Both groups explored themes of

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

Touchstones Discussion Project, Inc

52-2009938

service, separation, the journey home, and the role of community in veterans' homecomings. More than two dozen participants received training and materials through these programs. This generous funding also provided for production of the veterans' program, Completing the Odyssey: A Journey Home Leader's and Participant's Workbooks for access and use by veteran-run discussion groups everywhere. Our work with veterans included partnerships with the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project and the Annapolis Vet Center, in addition to program support from a project-specific advisory council that included veterans, mental health experts, and clergy

## Older Adults

In 2019, Touchstones completed work on Elderstones Volume 1, the first volume in a new series designed specifically for adults with cognitive impairment. The materials in Elderstones have been piloted in multiple memory care facilities to engage staff, family, and residents in active learning and constructive socialization. The project is expected to expand based on encouraging data from the pilot period.

Dozens of older adults in greater Anne Arundel County engage in Touchstone discussions in multiple programs run by Cynthia M. Barry through the Anne Arundel Community College's School of Continuing Education.

## Form 990, Part VI, Line 2 - Related Party Information Among Officers

Howard Zeiderman

Stefanie Takacs

Vice Chair

Ex. Director

Spouse

Name of the organization

Touchstones Discussion Project, Inc

Employer identification number

52-2009938

Form 990, Part VI, Line 11b - Organization's Process to Review Form 990

The Board of Directors is provided with drafts of the 990 during its preparation period. Once a final version is ready, the 990 is provided electronically for the entire Touchstones Board to review and reply with questions, comments, or requests for changes. After that review period, the final 990 is signed and filed.

Form 990, Part VI, Line 12c - Enforcement of Conflicts Policy

The executive director provides monthly summary reports to the Board outlining key program activities, financial contracts, and other current and prospective business arrangements. Any conflicts would be reported in these summaries.

Form 990, Part VI, Line 15a - Compensation Process for Top Official

Performance of the executive director is evaluated based on data and information relayed throughout the year in the form of monthly summaries, fundraising and communications plans and deliverables, financial reports, and general oversight of management policy and practices. The annual evaluation also includes a review and discussion of the executive director's performance by several Board officers, if not the entire Board, during the year-end board meeting. The Board shares its findings with the executive director at the end of an executive session.

As the organization's co-founder and vice-chair is a voting member of the Board and does not carry primary responsibility for Touchstones operations and management, his performance is not evaluated except in terms of annual compensation relative to current job responsibilities in



Name of the organization

Employer identification number

Touchstones Discussion Project, Inc

52-2009938

executive program development and implementation.

Form 990, Part VI, Line 19 - Governing Documents Disclosure Explanation

Upon receipt of written request, printed copies of Touchstones governing documents, financial statements, and/or conflict of interest policy are made available. These documents are also posted on the Touchstones website

Form 990, Part IX, Line 11g - Other Fees for Services

Description

	Tot/Prog Service	Mgt & General	Fundraising
In-Kind			
	\$ 7,589	\$ 0	\$ 0
Consultanats			
	\$ 89,366	\$ 20	\$ 27,669
Total			
	\$ 96,955	\$ 20	\$ 27,669



Form **990****Two Year Comparison Report****2018 & 2019**

For calendar year 2019, or tax year beginning , ending

Name

Taxpayer Identification Number

**Touchstones Discussion Project, Inc****52-2009938**

		2018	2019	Differences
<b>Revenue</b>	1. Contributions, gifts, grants	1. 444,455	408,021	-36,434
	2. Membership dues and assessments	2.		
	3. Government contributions and grants	3. 28,619	121,284	92,665
	4. Program service revenue	4. 253,576	126,226	-127,350
	5. Investment income	5. 13		-13
	6. Proceeds from tax exempt bonds	6.		
	7. Net gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory	7.		
	8. Net income or (loss) from fundraising events	8. 4,080		-4,080
	9. Net income or (loss) from gaming	9.		
	10. Net gain or (loss) on sales of inventory	10.	9,150	9,150
	11. Other revenue	11.	-129,475	-129,475
	12. <b>Total revenue.</b> Add lines 1 through 11	12. 730,743	535,206	-195,537
<b>Expenses</b>	13. Grants and similar amounts paid	13.		
	14. Benefits paid to or for members	14.		
	15. Compensation of officers, directors, trustees, etc.	15. 136,684	91,985	-44,699
	16. Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	16. 105,276	112,893	7,617
	17. Professional fundraising fees	17.		
	18. Other professional fees	18. 63,744	134,228	70,484
	19. Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	19. 37,442	22,579	-14,863
	20. Depreciation and Depletion	20.		
	21. Other expenses	21. 145,221	67,889	-77,332
	22. <b>Total expenses.</b> Add lines 13 through 21	22. 488,367	429,574	-58,793
	23. <b>Excess or (Deficit).</b> Subtract line 22 from line 12	23. 242,376	105,632	-136,744
<b>Other Information</b>	24. Total exempt revenue	24. 730,743	535,206	-195,537
	25. Total unrelated revenue	25.		
	26. Total excludable revenue	26. 253,589	5,901	-247,688
	27. Total assets	27. 476,034	598,042	122,008
	28. Total liabilities	28. 31,526	47,902	16,376
	29. Retained earnings	29. 444,508	550,140	105,632
	30. Number of voting members of governing body	30. 12	12	
	31. Number of independent voting members of governing body	31. 12	11	
	32. Number of employees	32. 7	6	
	33. Number of volunteers	33. 50	50	

Form 990

## Tax Return History

2019

Employer Identification Number  
52-2009938

Name

Touchstones Discussion Project, Inc

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Contributions, gifts, grants			228,629	473,074	529,305	
Membership dues						
Program service revenue			215,998	253,576	126,226	
Capital gain or loss			3	13		
Investment income				4,080		
Fundraising revenue (income/loss)						
Gaming revenue (income/loss)			30,000		-120,325	
Other revenue			474,630	730,743	535,206	
<b>Total revenue</b>						
Grants and similar amounts paid						
Benefits paid to or for members			160,633	136,684	91,985	
Compensation of officers, etc.			85,106	105,276	112,893	
Other compensation			49,609	63,744	134,228	
Professional fees			21,052	37,442	22,579	
Occupancy costs						
Depreciation and depletion			198,383	145,221	67,889	
Other expenses			514,783	488,367	429,574	
<b>Total expenses</b>			-40,153	242,376	105,632	
<b>Excess or (Deficit)</b>						
<b>Total exempt revenue</b>			474,630	730,743	535,206	
<b>Total unrelated revenue</b>						
<b>Total excludable revenue</b>			246,001	253,589	5,901	
<b>Total Assets</b>			214,856	476,034	598,042	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>			12,724	31,526	47,902	
<b>Net Fund Balances</b>			202,132	444,508	550,140	

# Federal Statements

52-2009938

FYE: 12/31/2019

## Form 990, Part IX, Line 11g - Other Fees for Service (Non-employee)

Description	Total Expenses	Program Service	Management & General	Fund Raising
In-Kind Consultants	\$ 7,589 117,055	\$ 7,589 89,366	\$ 20	\$ 27,669
Total	\$ 124,644	\$ 96,955	\$ 20	\$ 27,669

FLU1213 Touchstones Discussion Project, Inc  
52-2009938  
FYE: 12/31/2019

Federal Statements

Schedule A, Part III, Line 7a - Support from Disqualified Persons

Donor Name	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Various Individuals	\$ 36,000	\$ 51,600	\$ 15,300	\$ 255,170	\$ 15,060
Total	\$ 36,000	\$ 51,600	\$ 15,300	\$ 255,170	\$ 15,060



Federal Statements

Schedule A. Part III, Line 7b - Excess Gross Receipts

Donor Name	Total	Excess
2018	\$ 61,625	\$ 54,318
Total	\$ 61,625	\$ 54,318

