

CREATIVE CIRCLE[®]

2023 ERG Gift Guide

GIFTS YOU CAN FEEL GOOD ABOUT

If finding gifts for friends and family isn't your forte, you've come to the right place.

The season of giving can feel overwhelming, with pressure to find the perfect present. If you're looking for something unique, thoughtful, local, and impactful, we've got you covered. Six of Creative Circle's employee resource groups (ERGs) — Black Women of Creative Circle, Hola!, Leading Green, Parents + Caregivers, Prism, and Shalom! — have each curated a thoughtful collection of gifts and charitable organizations. We hope this guide will help you find the perfect pick for everyone on your list while aligning your spending with your values.

Happy Giving,
Creative Circle ERGs

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BLACK WOMEN OF CREATIVE CIRCLE



The *Black Women of Creative Circle* ERG is a community dedicated to elevating our voices to promote equity and a safe space for present and future employees. Supporting Black-owned businesses builds economic vitality and uplifts communities which in turn supports families, creates opportunities, and celebrates Black culture. We strive to foster an environment that encourages us all to be our authentic selves and supports movement toward positive systemic changes. We chose the following brands because they represent two integral parts of the Black experience: creating essentials for ourselves that are not available elsewhere, and providing for our community.



Home

ORGANIZATION

ABOUT

Bole Road Textiles

New York-based design studio featuring pieces handwoven by artisans in Ethiopia.

Fashion

ORGANIZATION

ABOUT

Pyer Moss

Luxury streetwear fashion.

ByChari

Delicate gold jewelry that everyone will love.

Beauty

ORGANIZATION

ABOUT

Bossy Cosmetics

Igniting confidence in women through exquisitely crafted clean cosmetics.

Juvia's Place

Vibrant, rich cosmetics.

The Lip Bar

Award-winning vegan beauty must-haves for all.

Yisrael Family Farm

Black family farm selling all-natural and homegrown farm-to-skin soaps.

Books & More

TITLE	ABOUT
"We Are A Haunting" by Tyriek White	Historical supernatural fiction novel by a Creative Circle family author!
"Don't Cry For Me" by Daniel Black	A Black father makes amends with his gay son through letters written on his deathbed in this wise and penetrating novel of empathy and forgiveness.
"Black Cake" by Charmaine Wilkerson	In present-day California, Eleanor Bennett's death leaves behind a puzzling inheritance for her two children, Byron and Benny: a black cake made from a family recipe with a long history, and a voice recording.

Philanthropy

ORGANIZATION	ABOUT
Black People Will Swim	Smashing the stereotype that Black people don't swim.
DreamGrlz	A Connecticut-based organization that works with school administrators, churches, community leaders, and parents to help girls ages 12 to 18 achieve their full potential.
Black Girl Ventures	Provide Black/Brown woman-identifying founders with access to community, capital, and capacity building.
Black Women's Health Imperative	The oldest national organization dedicated solely to improving the health and wellness of the nation's 21 million Black women and girls — physically, emotionally, and financially.

HOLA!



Hola!'s mission is creating opportunities to learn more about Hispanic/Latinx cultures through food, language, traditions, and discussions about topics that affect the community. Whether you identify as Hispanic/Latinx or enjoy our various colorful cultures and mouthwatering dishes, we invite you to check out some of our favorite gift ideas for your *amigos y familia* (friends and family)!

Books & More

TITLE	ABOUT
"Our Migrant Souls: A Meditation on Race and the Meanings and Myths of 'Latino'" by Héctor Tobar	What does it mean to be Latino? Héctor, the son of Guatemalan immigrants, takes an intersectional approach, exploring many of the different facets of Latinidad.
"The Haunting of Alejandra" by V. Castro	A mesmerizing, dark tale of what it means to be haunted by generational trauma. Following a woman who sees visions of La Llorona, she uncovers more than what she bargained for through therapy.
"For Brown Girls with Sharp Edges and Tender Hearts" by Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodríguez	Prisca tackles racism, colorism, classism, toxic masculinity, the immigrant experience, and more, inviting women of color to challenge the status quo and find pride in themselves.

Philanthropy

ORGANIZATION

ABOUT

UnidosUS

UnidosUS is the largest Latino civil rights organization in the country. They seek to challenge and dismantle the barriers affecting the Hispanic Latine community.

Caminar Latino

Caminar Latino creates opportunities for Latino families to transform their lives and communities and works to change the social conditions that give rise to violence.

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice

Latina Institute centers and amplifies Latina/x voices to transform the systems and narratives to reclaim our bodies and our lives.

Fashion

ORGANIZATION

ABOUT

Tochtli

Cofounded by Yei Tochtli Mitlalpilli, Tochtli is a traditional apparel brand focused on celebrating Aztec culture and promoting ancestral cultural wear, artifacts, and dance.

Hija De Tu Madre

Founder Patty Delgado uses common Latine phrases and staples to celebrate Latinas everywhere and remind them of their culture and identities.

Home

ORGANIZATION

ABOUT

¡Ay Mujer! Papel Picado

Handcrafted by the Flores Family in California, ¡Ay Mujer! offers beautiful papel picado for life's ceremonies.

Velanegra Candles

Inspired by founder Aisha Cort's Afro-Cuban and Guyanese heritage, Velanegra candles are poured with 100% vegan coconut soy wax.

Beverage

COMPANY | PRODUCT

ABOUT

Yola Mezcal

Initially started around the 1970s by Yola Jimenez's grandfather in Oaxaca, Mexico, Yola Mezcal is now entirely staffed by women — from those running the business to the bottling facility.

La Gritona Tequila

La Gritona is a women-owned and operated distillery in Mexico. Additive-free, La Gritona Tequila is light on sweetness to retain the aroma of agave.

Beauty

ORGANIZATION

ABOUT

Nopalera

Founded by Sandra Velasquez, Nopalera offers botanical soaps, exfoliants, and moisturizing bars.

Bomba Curls

Founded by Lulu Cordero, Bomba Curls celebrates all curls with a variety of hair care products.

Alamar Cosmetics

Through its lip glosses and eyelashes, Alamar strives to celebrate founder & CEO Gabriela Trujillo's American and Latinx heritage.

LEADING GREEN



Leading Green is Creative Circle’s sustainability ERG. We are focused on instilling a culture of sustainable long-term planning and forward-thinking, with the goal of making sustainability integral to the fabric of Creative Circle. We chose the following shops and gifts as they feature sustainable or recycled materials, offer eco-conscious alternatives, and support environmental causes. No matter where you are on your sustainable living journey, the following gifts can help you live a more eco-friendly lifestyle.

♥ Philanthropy

ORGANIZATION	ABOUT
The Ocean Conservancy	Ocean Conservancy is working with you to protect the ocean from today’s greatest global challenges. Together, they create evidence-based solutions for a healthy ocean and the wildlife and communities that depend on it.
The Sierra Club	The Sierra Club is the most enduring and influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States. They amplify the power of millions of members and supporters to defend everyone’s right to a healthy world.
National Forest Foundation	Chartered by Congress, the National Forest Foundation was created with a simple mission: bring people together to restore and enhance our national forests and grasslands.



Books & More

TITLE	ABOUT
"The Future We Choose" by Christiana Figueres & Tom Rivett-Carnac	A cautionary but optimistic 2020 book about the world's changing climate and the fate of humanity, from two of the architects of the 2015 Paris Agreement.
"The Third Plate" by Dan Barber	"The Third Plate" charts a bright path forward for eaters and chefs alike, daring everyone to imagine a future for our national cuisine that is as sustainable as it is delicious.
"The True Cost"	"The True Cost" is an unprecedented film project that invites us on an eye-opening journey around the world and into the lives of the many people and places behind our clothes.



Home

COMPANY PRODUCT	ABOUT
Energy-Efficient Appliances and Home Improvements	If you make qualified energy-efficient improvements to your home after Jan. 1, 2023, you may qualify for a tax credit up to \$3,200. You can claim the credit for improvements made through 2032.
Zero-Waste Store	An online retailer delivering zero waste and sustainable everyday essentials.



Technology

COMPANY PRODUCT	ABOUT
Pela Phone Cases	Plastic-free biodegradable phone cases.
Ecosia	The search engine that plants trees.

Kitchen

COMPANY | PRODUCT

ABOUT

Swedish Dishcloth

These reusable cloths help minimize paper towels in the kitchen. Available at Whole Foods, Trader Joes, and Amazon.

Beauty

COMPANY | PRODUCT

ABOUT

Common Heir

Their vision is to better the world, the beauty industry, and the shelf of your bathroom and boudoir.

Axiology

Low-waste, multi-use makeup.

Fashion

COMPANY | PRODUCT

ABOUT

Thousand Fell

These recycled rubber and biobased sneakers can be returned through the brand's recycling program.

Baabuk

Designed in Switzerland and made in Portugal, Baabuk shoes are flexible and water-repellent. Made from ethically and locally sourced wool, the classic styles are timeless.

Conscious Step Socks

Socks that give back! You can purchase socks that donate to different causes, depending on the recipient of your gift. Causes include: national parks, cancer treatment and research, women empowerment, ocean conservancy, and more.

PARENTS & CARE- GIVERS



Creative Circle's *Parents + Caregivers* ERG was formed to empower CC's parent and caregiver community with guided information and resources and to nurture healthy relationships with empathic support and safe spaces for discussion. The ERG aims to educate and raise awareness with crossfunctional conversation and action. We chose the following gifts that are perfect for both parents and caregivers, and for the kids.

For All

COMPANY | PRODUCT

ABOUT

Purifiers and Humidifiers

Relax and rejuvenate at home with this selection of purifiers and humidifiers.

BestSelf

Planners and activities for family connection and understanding.

Young Living

Aromatherapy essential oils and household items safe for the whole family.



Child

COMPANY | PRODUCT

ABOUT

Lovevery

Montessori-inspired toys and subscription boxes for babies and toddlers.

Little Passports

Monthly educational gift subscriptions.

Bookroo

Book subscriptions for ages 0-12.

Hatch Rest 2nd Gen

Rest is the dream machine that helps your child sleep at every age and stage.



Parents | Caregivers

COMPANY | PRODUCT

ABOUT

Heated Throw Blanket

Cozy up under this heated blanket with built-in safety features.

Spoonful of Comfort

Warm, thoughtful, and personal care packages for everyone.



Philanthropy

ORGANIZATION

ABOUT

Moms First

Movement fighting to get moms the support we deserve: child care, paid leave, and equal pay.

Family Caregiver Alliance / National Center on Caregiving

FCA supports and sustains the essential work of families nationwide who are caring for loved ones with chronic disabling health conditions.

PRISM



Prism is Creative Circle’s LGBTQ+ ERG. We work to cultivate an inclusive community that provides both safe space and support for our corporate lives. Just as a natural prism can be used to see all the wavelengths and colors of visible light — the mission of Prism is to help us see these differences in each of us, in a holistic way that positively recognizes each one of us for who we are: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or are inquisitive or questioning. We chose the following gifts as they are created by artists who identify as LGBTQ+ or support LGBTQ+ causes.

Fashion & Beauty

COMPANY PRODUCT	ABOUT
TomboyX	Inclusive underwear for all shapes and genders
Trixie Cosmetics	Trixie Cosmetics is committed to providing cruelty-free makeup that will make everyone feel like a legend, icon, and star.

Home

COMPANY PRODUCT	ABOUT
Tawa Threads	Tawa works towards identifying and dismantling systems of oppression by working with programs that encourage BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and people with disabilities to explore and advance their own narratives in outdoor spaces.

The Sisters Stoned	Two best friends turned their soy candle obsession into a soy candle-making obsession.
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♥ Philanthropy

ORGANIZATION	ABOUT
Daybreak Arts	Daybreak Arts (formerly “Poverty and the Arts”) is a social enterprise nonprofit that creates artistic and economic opportunities for people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity by providing them access to the creative resources needed to achieve personal fulfillment and success.
Ali Forney Center	The mission of the Ali Forney Center is to protect homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth from the harms of homelessness and empower them with the tools needed to be independent.
Brave Trails	Brave Trails is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to LGBTQ+ youth leadership.

📖 Books & More

TITLE	ABOUT
Unabridged Bookstore	For 40+ years, Unabridged Bookstore has been Chicago’s premier go-to-bookstore for LGBTQ literature.
Jenifer Prince	Illustrator specializing in women-centric art.

♥ Donates Proceeds

COMPANY PRODUCT	ABOUT
Charity Pot Body Lotion	100% of proceeds are donated to various national nonprofits.
TOMS Fitzpatrick Sunglasses	Commits one third of profits to support people working to build equity at the grassroots level.
Alder New York Cooling Mineral Hydro Mist	10% of sales are donated to the Ali Forney Center.

SHALOM!



Shalom! is Creative Circle's ERG celebrating all things Jewish culture and tradition. Comprised of Jewish and non-Jewish members alike, *Shalom!* is a safe space for Circlers to come together to learn, share, have fun, and support each other. We're excited to participate in this year's holiday guide and share some of our families' favorite Hanukkah traditions!

Hanukkah Traditions

TRADITIONS

ABOUT

Lighting the Menorah

During the eight days of Hanukkah, we light the Menorah (a special candelabra with eight arms) each night to commemorate the miracle of the Maccabees overcoming the Seceulids and taking back the temple. After the battle, the oil found was only enough to last one night but miraculously burned for eight days.

Eating a special festival meal with loved ones

In conjunction with lighting the Menorah, family and friends gather to tell the story of the Maccabees, sing songs, have a delicious meal with latkes and sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts), and play dreidel games.

The Story of the Maccabees

From 167-160 B.C.E., the Maccabees were a group of Jewish fighters who fought against the Greeks to regain control of their land and religious freedom. They were successful in their revolt and established their own independent state.

♥ Philanthropy

ORGANIZATION

ABOUT

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels delivers nutritious meals to senior citizens who are homebound, isolated, and/or living in poverty. This is an especially important form of Tzedakah during the holiday season as we keep in mind those who may not have the resources or loved ones to celebrate with.

Jewish Family Service

JFS is a nonprofit human services organization that serves anyone in need — regardless of their circumstances or religious beliefs. We believe in a shared responsibility to support impactful changes throughout our community. Founded more than 150 years ago, they currently offer more than 30 programs and services.

Eight Nights of Giving Back

A Creative Circle family tradition! The perfect way to teach kids the importance of giving back.

📖 Kitchen

COMPANY | PRODUCT

ABOUT

Russ & Daughters

Started in 1904 by Joel Russ, a Polish Jewish immigrant, as a herring cart on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. For over 100 years, Russ & Daughters has been serving bagels, lox, and appetizing foods to New Yorkers and beyond.

Fishs Eddy

Vintage dishes, household goods, and more.

🍴 Recipes

TRADITIONS

ABOUT

Latkes

This is a Creative Circle family recipe!

Sufganiyot

This is a Creative Circle family recipe!

Fashion

COMPANY | PRODUCT

Susan Alexandra

ABOUT

With a bead-packed studio in NYC, Susan Alexandra strives to create a warm, welcoming, and inclusive home for creativity and design. Each item is made by hand in NYC, creating a myriad of sustainable jobs.

Games, Music, & More

TRADITIONS

The Dreidel Game

ABOUT

Legend has it that when the ancient Greeks outlawed the study of Torah, Jewish people would outsmart them by playing with a spinning top while learning Torah orally.

The Magic Dreidel

A Creative Circle family tradition! Celebrate Hanukkah with The Magic Dreidel, a large homemade dreidel that magically fills with gifts for the family every night of Hanukkah.

"I had a Little Dreidel"

Listen here.



"Hanukkah O Hanukkah"

Listen here.



