



sagalucson.org



illustration by emmelt stone
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Monica Jones

Monica Jones is a Black trans woman, a social work student at Arizona State University, and a fierce activist for trans and sex worker rights. Shortly after protesting Project Rose (a Phoenix program that arrests sex workers in the name of “saving” them), Monica was arrested for “manifesting prostitution” in March 2013. She bravely decided to stand trial and fought her case with the support of the Sex Workers Organizing Project (SWOP). Her conviction was finally overturned in January 2015, which was a big win! But unfortunately these wack-ass discriminatory and anti-prostitution laws still remain, which disproportionately targets trans folks and Black and Brown folks living in poverty.

In 2016, Monica founded The Outlaw Project, which is named after Sharmus Outlaw, a Black trans woman who was an advocate for TGNC rights, sex workers' rights, and HIV patient rights. Monica has lead The Outlaw Project in distributing Covid relief funds and materials to trans women and sex workers; and making headway with harm reduction policy work related to HIV/AIDS. More recently, Monica has dreamed up and successfully started a tiny home project in Tucson by relationship building with someone who sold The Outlaw Project a quarter acre of land, which also includes a 3 bedroom house. These tiny homes will be for trans women of color whom many, like Sharmus Outlaw, disproportionately experience housing insecurity even if they are well known heroes/advocates.

If you are able to financially support Monica’s tiny homes project, please visit:

<https://gofund.me/358e3f7a> . Or, keep any eye out for Splinter Collective’s events to see when the next one is coming up to support The Outlaw Project! They are also looking for volunteers! People to garden, paint, clean, mix cement, build, etc... Follow Monica Jones @TSMonica and The Outlaw Project @TheOutlawProject1 on insta.

Image Description: A drawing of Monica in black ink on a white canvas. She is standing in front of a circular backdrop, with gothic style text reading “Monica” surrounded by sparkles above her in the top right corner. Her right hand is lifted and she is looking directly at the viewer while touching her hair. The SAGA logo is in the bottom right corner. The small text around it reads, “sagatucson.org” then, “Illustration by Emmett Stone @_homegrownstone on insta”. The drawing is based on Rachel Castillo’s (@workboxx) amazing photos of Monica!