



# The Art of Participatory Leadership: Building Resilient Community and Organizations ~ Creating Change

March 7-9, 2014  
EarthRise Retreat Center @ IONs  
Petaluma, CA

The Art of Participatory Leadership is an intensive 3-day event where you will experience and practice a set of simple yet powerful approaches for hosting powerful conversations, building strong organizations and communities, and leading change. Come explore how to unleash our collective intelligence and build adaptive, resilient communities.

We're excited to bring together engaged and diverse leaders, organizers, activists, and change makers: Leaders from Transition US Initiatives, Restorative Justice Community, local economy and local food networks, permaculture and green building, Impact HUBs in Oakland and SF, sustainable enterprise, leadership training programs and more.

We are intentionally building strong Art of Participatory Leadership skills and capacity in California to support local and committed leaders working to positively shape the future of our regions. We also invite passionate friends from other areas who want to learn with us and create transformative change.

Our hope is to create powerful ways to learn together, build effective core teams and partnerships, and create innovative solutions that include diverse voices in their co-creation.

Rooted in the Four Fold practice of the Art of Hosting, this event teaches a participatory approach for leading, convening, and engaging groups. This means leadership that scales from the personal to the systemic, using personal practice, dialogue, facilitation, and the co-creation of innovation to address complex challenges.

## Who Should Attend?

**Individuals and teams** who are eager to build stronger teams and partnerships with each other and within their communities. People who are dedicated to creating many facets of resilient and sustainable communities from permaculture to local economies to sustainable enterprises.

**Community leaders, social entrepreneurs, organizers, young leaders, policy makers, sustainable business leaders, and practitioners** who believe in the power of collective creativity, intelligence, and collaboration to improve their communities, teams, and organizations.

## Why You Should Attend?

- **CONNECT** with other leaders of the sustainability and resilience movement and explore how we can work more powerfully together.
- **DEEPEN** our individual and collective capacity to engage teams, organizations, and community stakeholders in meaningful conversations that promote resilience, belonging, innovation, and contribution
- **ENHANCE** our skills and abilities to host strategic conversations and be agents of change through the use of methods such as Circle, World Cafe, Open Space, and Proaction Café.
- **IMAGINE** and plan for how we can use these practices in our individual and collective work in the months and years ahead.

## Costs

**\$350** - Grassroots Community Organizer, Volunteer Activist  
**\$250** - Transition US Initiative Leader, Students \*  
**\$650** - Not for Profit Leader and Individual  
**\$950** - For Profit and Business Leader

*\* Note: additional scholarship \$ is available for Transition US leaders working directly with Transition initiatives, core groups, & board. Thanks to a grant from the Threshold Foundation.*

## Lodging/Meals/Materials:

\$300/person - This residential experience includes shared double lodging in twin rooms, healthy delicious meals, materials and the three day onsite experience. Some single rooms are also available at an extra cost of \$125.

## Generosity Circle:

If you can offer a little more to support others who can't afford to pay the fee we invite you to practice creative generosity. A \$50 generosity gift would help enable others to participate that wouldn't be able to attend otherwise.

## Your Hosts



**Jeff Aitken** loves the Art of Hosting as a comprehensive way to bring out our leadership potential in these times of great change. He has coordinated several adult education programs in leadership and the healing arts, and facilitated dozens of Open Space and World Cafe 'conversations that matter' across the US. Jeff has been influenced by teachers from many traditions and his own Celtic and Jewish cultural roots. He was a coordinator of Sustainable Sonoma County, a trainer for the Social Movement Empowerment Project, and a coordinator for Indigenous/Western dialogues in New Mexico.



**Chris Corrigan** has 20 years experience hosting conversations in indigenous communities, not for profits, faith based and philanthropic organizations across North America and in Europe, Oceania and South Africa. He specializes in Open Space Technology, and design for large scale initiatives to work in high levels of complexity. He is a poet and a traditional Irish musician.



**Heather Manchester** is an educator, trainer and convener. She has over 15 years of experience facilitating leadership, community engagement and restorative justice programs both in rural and urban settings throughout the Americas and Europe. At the core of her work she partners with young people and adults to create spaces for meaningful dialogue and build more equitable and resilient communities. Currently she is convening restorative justice practitioners to explore how theater of the oppressed techniques enhances restorative justice efforts in Oakland.



**Dana Pearlman** designs and facilitates action learning experiences that embody the transformation that is needed in our world. Her academic background is in clinical psychology and strategic leadership towards sustainability. She uses participatory processes and powerful questions that enable deeper learning and unearth what is at the heart of the matter. Her sweet spot is at the intersection of authentic leadership, community building and manifesting a world this is just and abundant for all.



**Teresa Posakony** works with organizations and communities who are seeking to put to work the ineffable qualities of community to bring high levels of effective engagement, creative design and deep resilience to work. She was a long time member of the Berkana Institute, worked 13 years in high tech doing leadership and organizational development, and now 12 years deeply engaged in hosting process in a breadth of non-profit organizations and community driven efforts.



**Sam Ruark** is the Sonoma County Energy Watch Program Manager where he facilitates clean energy projects for municipalities, NGOs, special districts, and small businesses throughout Sonoma County. He has worked in the field of sustainability for non-profits, small business and local governments for 16 years. He previously served as a Sustainability Planner for Marin County and is LEED Accredited and a certified Permaculture Designer. He serves on the Board of Daily Acts, volunteers for creek and river cleanups, tends honey bees, and is a fermentation enthusiast.



**Carlyne Stayton**, co-founder and Co-Director of Transition US, is a strong proponent of community empowerment and engagement. She has seen that when the creative brilliance within a community is focused and freed up it can solve complex problems with a distinct and endearing local flavor. Carlyne was Director of New College's North Bay Campus for Culture, Ecology and Sustainable Community and has a master's degree in Nonprofit Administration from USF.

## Sponsors

