the Economics of Happiness Conference

February 27 - March 1, 2015

The Eliot Center
Portland, Oregon
CONTENTS

Conference program ................................................................. 2
Workshop descriptions ............................................................ 5
Sunday morning activities ......................................................... 11
Plenary speakers ................................................................... 12
Workshop presenters ............................................................... 14
Special guests ........................................................................ 16
About Local Futures ................................................................. 20

Map of The Eliot Center
Welcome to The Economics of Happiness Conference!

We’re so pleased you could join us for this ground-breaking event, hosted by Local Futures. For the last three decades, Local Futures has been raising awareness of the environmental, economic and social impacts of economic globalization, while promoting localization as a systemic solution to many of our most serious problems. In 2011, we released our award-winning film *The Economics of Happiness* to enthusiastic audiences around the world. The film pulls together the threads that unite all of those working for positive change in the world, illustrating that what is good for our local economies is good for people and the planet too. It has struck a chord with many thousands of viewers at hundreds of community screenings in more than twenty-five countries.

For us at Local Futures, it has been tremendously heartening to see the growing interest in shifting direction—from an economy of global inequality and exploitation to one of local abundance and renewal. We have been organizing Economics of Happiness Conferences to build upon this growing movement, bringing together presenters and participants from all over the world to explore an agenda for real change. We hope you will gain new insights, make valuable connections, feel more informed and inspired, and ultimately be able to engage more effectively in building the new economy. We are looking forward to sharing with you an exchange of knowledge, ideas and hands-on experience.

All plenary sessions will be held in the Sanctuary. The Saturday evening reception will take place in the Buchan Reception Hall (B102). Please check sign-up sheets for locations of workshops.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th, 2015

6:00pm to 6:30pm
Welcome and introductions

6:30pm to 7:00pm
Comedy by Yoram Bauman

7:00pm to 8:15pm
Panel discussion with Bayo Akomolafe, Manish Jain, Helena Noberg-Hodge and Michael Shuman
Chaired by Sarah van Gelder

8:15 to 8:30pm
Musical performance by Mississippi Cotten

8:30 to 9:00 pm
Break (refreshments served)

9:00pm to 9:20pm
“Connections Were Made”: Three true stories about disparate worlds coming together by Katrina Scatto di Carlo, Michael Shuman, and Bayo Akomolafe

9:20pm to 9:40pm
Presentation on The Happiness Walk by Linda Wheatley

9:40pm to 10pm
Flute performance by Larkin Stentz
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28th, 2015

8:30am to 9:15am  Grief Sharing Circle (see page 4)

9:30am to 11:00am  PLENARY 1

Dismantling the Myths that Support Corporate Rule
Chaired by Richard Heinberg

CAMILA MORENO: The Commercial Truth Behind the Climate Negotiations
MANISH JAIN: Western-style Schooling, Unemployment and Cultural Breakdown
CHET BOWERS: How the Worlds of Data Destroy Ecological Intelligence
ELLEN BROWN: Real Wealth - A Future We Can Bank On

11:00am to 11:30am  BREAK

11:30am to 1:00pm  PLENARY 2

Diversity, Beauty and Survival
Chaired by Kurt Beil

JIHAN GEARON: Navigating Contradictions: A Just Transition for the Navajo Nation
DEREK RASMUSSEN: Reweaving our Social Fabric and Stemming the Tide of De-Indigenization
SANDRA LUBARSKY: The Importance of Beauty
BAYO AKOMOLAFE: An Oríkì for Localization

1:00pm to 2:30pm  LUNCH

2:30pm to 4:30pm  WORKSHOPS (see page 5)

4:30pm to 5:00pm  BREAK

5:00pm to 6:30pm  PLENARY 3

New Structures for a New World
Chaired by Vicki Robin

MICHAEL SHUMAN: A World Without Wall Street
RICHARD HEINBERG: The Post Growth Economy
CAROL BLACK: Alternatives to Schooling
JANELLE ORSI: Law and the Next Economy

8:00pm to 10:00pm  RECEPTION

Live music by Sol Nectar
Drinks and food available for sale
SUNDAY, MARCH 1st, 2015

9:30am to 12:30pm  TOURS AND ACTIVITIES (see page 11)

2:00pm to 3:15pm  PLENARY 4

The New Activism
Chaired by Camila Moreno

DONNIE MACLURCAN: The Not-for-Profit World beyond Capitalism
CATHERINE INGRAM: Staying Cool in a World on Fire
CAMERON WHITTEN: Power is a #Hashtag
SEVERN CULLIS-SUZUKI: Our Common Ground: Indigenous & Environmentalist Partnerships

3:15pm to 3:45pm  BREAK

3:45pm to 4:50pm  WORKSHOPS (see page 9)

5:00pm to 6:30pm  PLENARY 5

Real Wealth
Chaired by Michael Shuman

HELENA NORBERG-HODGE: The Economics of Happiness
JOHN DE GRAAF: From GDP to Happiness and Well-being
VICKI ROBIN: Beyond Individualism: Community as Currency
CHARLES EISENSTEIN: Beyond Growth: Intimacy and the Qualitative

6:30 to 7:00  CLOSING SESSION

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Friday, 8:30pm to 8:45pm: Dancing led by Manish Jain

Saturday, 8:30am to 9:15am: Grief Sharing Circle for Activists with David Goldstein
As activists, we inevitably encounter grief as we delve deeply into the personal and collective suffering of our world. In a culture that neither honors nor encourages this extremely human emotion, it is all too easy to leave our grief unacknowledged. Grief, ignored or suppressed, eventually dulls our alertness and stifles our joie-de-vivre, rendering us less effective as activists and less joyfully vibrant as human beings. In this sharing circle – along the lines of a “talking stick” ceremony – you will be witnessed and honored in a space of “tribal” respect, safety and support...great medicine for the soul!

Saturday and Sunday lunch breaks: Film screenings including The Economics of Happiness

(All above activities will take place in Sanctuary)
SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

Animating the Commons
with Paula Manley and Hannah Harrod
Room B203
This interactive and experiential workshop offers an introduction to our commons — the shared wealth we inherit, co-create, and pass on — and an exploration of the diverse means by which advocates and educators are already at work animating the commons, breathing life into our collective possibilities for social cooperation. Participants will jointly create a visual “map” of strategies and tactics that enliven and steward all that we share, from urban public places to cultural traditions to natural resources. The workshop will conclude with an opportunity to share stories and explore the utility of the “commons lens” across diverse fields and disciplines.

Block Repair! Economics of a Neighborhood Ecology
with Frances Michaelson and Matt Voedish
Room B304
This interactive design-game models transformative concepts and strategies that apply to local and global scales. Set on an actual model of an ordinary grid-based residential block in Portland, Oregon, this context enables people to “play” a transition from the present reality that many people inhabit to a stunningly different, more sustainable way of living that is more resilient, connected, and place-based. It will become clear that removing some fences, creating sustainable systems, and breaking old-fashioned assumptions will enable more socially-based “voluntary” economic behavior to emerge that does not depend upon the exchange of federal currency.

Corporate Personhood and Trade Treaties
with David Delk and Madelyn Elder
Daisy Bingham Room
Part 1: People’s democracy or corporate personhood: claiming our democracy from the plutocracy and corporate elites
When the rights of people are given away by Supreme Court justices to national and multinational corporations and wealthy elites, how can local people-centered governance prevail? This workshop will briefly explore how our rights and our political democratic processes have been captured by corporate elites with the effect that local governance is next to impossible, and what we must do to claim our democracy.

Part 2: How the Trans Pacific Partnership threatens local, state and national democracy and what we can do about it
Twenty years after the enactment of NAFTA, corporate elites and multinational corporations are pushing for its expansion with the Trans Pacific Partnership and Trans Atlantic Free Trade Agreement. This workshop will explore the meaning of the TPP in terms of expanding corporate rights and a new world government of, by and for corporations, and the push back by the 99%. What would the TPP do to democracy, to local decision making, to a free and open internet, to access to medicine? Options for defeating the TPP and other global trade agreements will be discussed.

DIY Policymaking for Resilient Communities
with Janelle Orsi
Room B301
What if every person takes charge of advocating for and passing just one law? To create economically resilient communities, we need to change or create millions of city, state, and federal laws. These new laws would remove barriers to and create incentives for local food production, renewable energy projects, local manufacture, worker-owned enterprise, shared housing, and other aspects of thriving communities. Janelle Orsi will present a road-map to passing high-impact policies, share her experiences introducing and passing legislation, and lead the participants in developing their personal policymaking goals and plans. Come away feeling empowered and ready to make new laws!
The Climate Agent of Change – Tools for the Grassroots Organizer
with Dick Roy and Lenny Dee
Room B202
Citizen-led efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change demonstrate discontent with “business as usual” and build solidarity in the climate movement. These actions, ranging from organized campaigns to less formal climate action team initiatives, create local and global pressure on decision makers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions without delay. Workshop co-sponsors, the Center for Earth Leadership and 350PDX, are currently piloting a six-session training in Portland for the Climate Agent of Change. This interactive workshop will explore strategies and actions for those who seek “to do something” aligned with the overarching goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.

The Community Economic Organizers Workshop:
Policies and Practices from North of 49
with Nicole Chaland and Brian Smith
Room B201
This workshop will examine two case studies from Canadian coasts: the social enterprise economy in Vancouver & localization of investment funds in Nova Scotia. Stories will highlight how these efforts to transition the economy are fundamentally about building productive and lasting relationships, working with people and sharing power (community organizing). In the second part of the workshop, you will be introduced to a framework for community organizing and given an opportunity to build your own strategy for organizing. You will walk away from this workshop with:
1. Two case studies of localization.
2. A conceptual framework for community organizing.
3. First draft of a practical framework for organizing for a change that you care about.
4. Organizers toolkit.
5. New relationships with others in the room.

Community Rights in Action: Examining the Legal Tools of Civil Disobedience through Local Law-making
with Ann Kneeland
Room B101
Communities across Oregon and throughout the country are seizing their law-making authority to introduce laws that recognize rights to protect the health, safety, and economic well-being of our communities and that refuse to recognize corporate “rights” and privileges that authorize destructive industrial harms locally. What do these laws look like? Come learn how local initiatives – rooted in our inherent and inalienable right to local self-government – are structured and how they operate. Learn how more than 200 communities across the United States have written local ordinances banning fracking, factory farming, water extraction, mining and more. Learn about the legal challenges that these local ordinances provoke that will instigate urgently-needed systems change. Learn how two states are working to advance state constitutional amendments to recognize our right to local self-government. And learn how the community rights movement is growing nationally through the formation of nine state networks.

Hard to Swallow: Race, Class and Gender in the Food System
with Gillian Locasico and Marisa Hendron
Room B302
As we consider how to build a food system that works for everyone, it’s important to set clear objectives and account for how our food system currently operates. We’ll discuss the creation of the Food Sovereignty movement as a way to spotlight the intersection between people, their food, their culture, environments and economies and
hold ourselves responsible to the complexity of solutions that are necessary to build justice. In particular, we will focus on ways that the existing food system replicates and exacerbates forms of racial, class, and gender oppression and how a food sovereignty approach can inform our work to dismantle unjust systems and create inclusive solutions.

How to Run an Offers and Needs Market  
with Donnie Maclurcan  
Room B204
Imagine if, in just one hour, you could match hundreds of detailed offers and needs within a group of people, even if the group were all strangers. What if such an opportunity not only stimulated meaningful connections but had the potential to re-localize your economy and reduce your ecological footprint, all through a fun activity? Well, it is possible! Come along to this workshop to learn how to run an offers and needs market... by being part of one!

How Will We Feed the World? Teaching About La Vía Campesina, the Largest Social Movement You'll Never Read About in a Textbook  
with Tim Swinehart, Julie O’Neill and Chris Buehler  
Room A202
The global small farmers movement, La Vía Campesina, has 200 million members in its affiliated organizations. It has articulated a vision of food sovereignty as a direct challenge to the market-driven policies favored by corporations and governments in the “developed” world. In this workshop, we’ll explore a number of participatory activities from the recently published “A People’s Curriculum for the Earth: Teaching Climate Change and the Environmental Crisis”, designed to get students thinking about hunger, food, farming, and justice.

Local Community Self-Governance: The Next Step Towards an Economics of Happiness  
with Paul Cienfuegos  
Chime Room
We need not only local economies but also vibrant local self-governing communities that have the legal authority to prohibit (not simply regulate) harmful corporate activities, and to define the future they want, without interference by corporations claiming Constitutional “rights”. In the US, local governments are banned from exercising decision-making authority of this kind. Enter the Community Rights movement. Since 2000, more than 200 communities in nine US states have successfully passed laws that enshrine authentic local self-governance for the first time since the American Revolution. This local lawmaking is itself an act of civil disobedience against unjust laws. Let’s explore the Community Rights movement together!

Natural Imperatives: The Benefits of Contact with Nature in Our Lives and Times  
with Kurt Beil  
Room B310
We are intimately connected to the world around us, yet for many people that world is rapidly changing. In the modern era, reconnection with the natural environment is increasingly being seen as an essential component of balanced living, particularly in the urban context. This holistic, ecological approach to well-being provides increased opportunities for sustainable health for us as individuals, as communities and as a planet. This session will briefly introduce the historical, theoretical and empirical evidence of nature’s capacity to foster positive health outcomes. A discussion of current applications, personal experiences and future directions will be included.
Open Power: Electoral Reform & the Open Source Toolkit
with Robert David Steele
Room B303
The progressive world is fragmented across thousands of issues and even when agreed on a major issue, such as climate change, fragmented in behavior and consequently ineffective. There are two remedies for our public impotence, and both are converging in 2015. The first is Electoral Reform. The second is Public Empowerment with a free open source toolkit that makes possible information sharing and sense-making across all boundaries. The workshop will outline the specifics of the 2015 electoral reform campaign and the specifics of the new initiative to create a proactive public intelligence network. Recommended reading before attending: http://tinyurl.com/Steele-Reform.

Portland’s Artisan Economy: Beyond the Myth of Romantic Localism
with Charles Heying
Sanctuary
Evocative reports of Portland’s burgeoning artisan economy express the hope, in this time of deep concern over rapacious global capitalism, of a return to a local economy of self-sufficient yeoman entrepreneurs. Such images have sparked both parody and adulation suggesting a reality that is more complicated and interesting. In his presentation, Professor Heying, author of Brew to Bikes: Portland’s Artisan Economy, discusses his current research, what is obscured and revealed by available data and traditional economic models, and what can be learned by interrogating the myth of romantic localism.

Strengthen your Neighborhood with Transition Streets
with Maggie Fleming and Mark Juedeman
Room B103
Transition Streets is a behavior-change project where neighbors come together with neighbors to implement simple no-cost and low-cost actions. These actions cut household energy use, reduce water and waste, change how we eat and transport ourselves, and strengthen our neighborhoods at the same time. Transition Streets, which will be rolled out across the U.S. in May, is one way for individuals to plug into the international Transition movement. Join us in this workshop to learn about Transition Streets and the movement to rebuild resilience and reduce CO2 emissions.

Toward a Caring Economy: Communities that Nurture Young and Old
with Grace Taylor and Steven Cahill
Room B102
Raising well-adjusted children and caring for each other in times of need is essential for social well-being, but our work as parents and caregivers can feel at odds with making a living. In this workshop we’ll explore how caregiving activities fit into economic assumptions about what is work, what is valuable and what creates wealth. We’ll consider creative solutions that can support parenting and caregiving and discuss how they might address larger systemic inequalities. Based in part on the Center for Partnership Studies Caring Economy campaign, we will offer tools and resources for change.
SUNDAY WORKSHOPS

Buddhist Meditations to Support our Activist Lives
with Derek Rasmussen
Room B302
A fun introduction to the 4 types of love in Buddhism (metta/friendliness; karuna/compassion; mudita/sympathetic joy; upekkha/equanimity), with an emphasis on sympathetic joy. An outline of meditations on the four types of love as antidotes to despair and anger for activists and others. We’ll look at the Buddhist innovation of teaching sympathetic joy as a stepping stone to joyful non-clinging (which does not mean detachment!). An introduction to how to practice this least cultivated of the four types of love—“sympathetic joy”—and one Inuit habit of practicing it—unnisuq—“positive gossip.” An introduction to healthy “self”-building through the sympathetic joy exercise of “footnoting” your strengths and successes and “sharing the merit.” An overview of “karuna”, the Buddha’s twin notion of compassion as action that removes suffering, and fosters empathy without being paralytic. We will also explore how an activist’s perspective can help support meditation communities to resist the exacerbated individualism of commercialized spirituality.

Bhutan’s Policy Tool for Gross National Happiness
with John de Graaf
Room B201
In this hand-on workshop, participants will learn about the tool Bhutan’s Gross National Happiness Commission uses to evaluate legislation, and participants will apply the tool to evaluate a current policy idea. You can use a form of this in any community or group! Find out how the GNH tool works in abbreviated form!

Decolonizing Partnerships
with Jihan Gearon
Room B304
The leadership of frontline Indigenous communities and communities of color in today’s movement for economic justice is paramount. As these communities build connections and potentially partnerships with mainstream and predominantly white economic justice movements, it’s imperative that we evaluate and improve these partnerships. This session will be a discussion around best and worst practices for partnering and supporting frontline Indigenous communities and communities of color.

Economies of Terroir
with Narendra Varma
Room B202
Our economic and financial systems are a pyramid scheme, our people and communities are afflicted by a cultural malaise, and between the twin challenges of climate change and peak resources, our children likely face a difficult future. This workshop will use Our Table Cooperative as a case-study for an alternative political and cultural economy – the ECONOMY OF TERROIR. Participants will discuss the structural flaws of corporate capitalism and its impacts on the contemporary food system. They will examine place-based alternatives based on a model multi-stakeholder cooperative that allows local communities to come together and take charge of their food and health.

The Eloquence of Stones: Excursions into the Remarkable Vibrancy of Things
with Bayo Akomolafe
Room B203
We are just as much a part of nature as everything else. I believe it is this kind of realization that makes for a deeply democratic politics, a different kind that respects the earth as an agent of change, as a living breathing
whole. In a sense, the more beautiful world our hearts say is possible is a world that the self could not survive – if we truly conversed with her. Tree, rock, stone and earth are not fodder for anthropocentric concerns (even our desires for a more beautiful world) – and it is this distance from the sensuousness of the material world that has occasioned our economic/political order. This workshop will focus on the vibrancy of things, leading participants into experiences and conversations that serve to disrupt the notion that the world is a dichotomy of sentience versus muteness, and that man is the center of consciousness and action.

Envisioning Local Learning
with Carol Black
Room B102
Most of us are so accustomed to the standardized institutional schools we grew up in that we can’t clearly see what the alternatives are. Bring your ideas, frustrations, questions, and dreams as we workshop a long-term vision for transforming our local public schools into vibrant community-based learning hubs.

The Genuine Progress Indicator: Recent Advances and Local Applications
with John Talberth and Michael Weisdorf
Room B101
Interest in the Genuine Progress Indicator is soaring at the international, national, state, and local level as more and more governments get serious about moving beyond GDP. The GPI is a measure of economic wellbeing that accounts for the benefits we receive from consumption of goods and service and essential capital and the costs economic activity imposes on society. This workshop will introduce participants to the basics about the GPI: why it is important, what it does and does not measure, and how it can inform policy making.

An Introduction to Local Investment
with Michael Shuman
Room B204
Right now, chances are very good that 100% of your long-term investment is going to Wall Street rather than to Main Street. Even though local businesses constitute half the economy (by output and jobs), are highly competitive and profitable, and are understood to be the best job creators in the country, they receive far less than half the capital deposited in banks and almost none of our savings in mutual, pension, or insurance funds. This workshop will show you exactly how you can change this and introduce you to such tools as local banks and credit unions; local CDs; public banking; new coop designs; “slow munis” (municipal bonds); donation, lending, and equity crowdfunding; local portals and stock markets; local investment funds; and community-focused personal investment strategies.

The Oldest Game in the World
with Cameron Whitten
Room B303
Whose side are you on? What is the role that you play?
Come to listen and engage in a workshop that seeks an honest portrayal of the challenges with building trust and understanding about the complexities of impactful social change movements. Former Occupy Portland organizer, hunger strike activist and mayoral candidate, Cameron Whitten, will share from his personal experiences and facilitate group conversation about what “active citizenship” means.”

The Promise and Comeback of Wisdom
with Melanie DewBerry
Room B301
In a world where the latest app or software program is considered smart and clever, we’ve begun to value intelligence over wisdom. However, we know that decisions that create sustainability, unity, and honor all life
come from the Wise Ones. Wisdom is making a comeback. Come to this highly interactive Wisdom Salon were you will work in community to evolve your consciousness on the topic of The Promise and Comeback of Wisdom.

The Space between Stories
with Charles Eisenstein
Sanctuary
We are in a transition between worlds. The old narrative of scarcity, domination, and separation is falling apart—along with the economic system that embodies it. More and more people are leaving that story behind, and with it, the sense of identity and meaning that story had provided. This workshop offers an opportunity to explore this process: the breakdown of the sold story, the entry into the space between stories and the emergence of a next story.

Taking the 10-Day Local Food Challenge; How Local Can We Go? And why?
with Vicki Robin
Room B103
The 10-Day Local Food Challenge is simple: for 10 days in October, eat food produced within 100 miles of your home, allowing 10 exotics, foods from afar you can’t live without. We invite eaters who are anywhere from curious to passionate about eating local food to put their “mouth where their mouth is” by taking the Challenge. For some it’s a devotion. For others an adventure. For others like a 10K run. We test ourselves in the company of others for the purpose of learning, health and self- and societal – transformation. Hear the surprising outcomes of the 2014 pilot with over 100 people – the most common insights, obstacles, exotics and new commitments, all of which inform the 2015 Challenge, soon to be launched. How local can you go? What would change if you made a commitment to the Challenge? How might joining the 10-Day Local Food Challenge forward the work of your organization or network – or life?

SUNDAY MORNING TOURS AND ACTIVITIES

From 9:30am to 12:30pm, several tours and activities will be offered in and around Portland. If you haven’t already signed up for one, please visit the partner organization tables or registration desk before the end of Saturday to do so. Descriptions of tours and directions are on our website: www.localfutures.org

Guided Tours and Activities:

• The Declaration of Interdependence Brainstorming Session
• Dharma Rain Zen Center tour
• DIY PDX tour (offered by Know Your City)
• Fruits of Diversity Community Orchard tour (offered by Portland Fruit Tree Project)
• Multicultural Portland tour (offered by Know Your City)
• Our Table Farm tour
• Right 2 Survive Rest Area tour

Other recommended activities:

• Portland State University self-guided “Sustainability Walking Tour” (download map from www.pdx.edu)
• Sunday service at the Unitarian Church: “Credo: For Now, At Least for Now”
• Stroll through Tanner Springs Park, a recreated wetland in the heart of the Pearl District, North of The Eliot Center
Plenary Speakers

Bayo Akomolafe (PhD) is an ethnopsycho-therapeutic researcher, lecturer and author from Covenant University in Nigeria, as well as Coordinator of the International Alliance for Localization. His is an emerging voice in the world calling for a new form of consciousness by turning to each other in small ways, and reconnecting with our “shamanic effusiveness and utter magnificence.” He is writing his second book, And We Shall Dance with the Mountains and a novel, The Boy Who Stayed Outside.

Carol Black is an education analyst, television producer and director of the film Schooling the World.

Chet Bowers is an esteemed thinker in the fields of education, ecology, technology and the commons. He is author of Let Them Eat Data and Revitalizing the Commons.

Ellen Brown is an attorney, founder of the Public Banking Institute, and author of twelve books, including the best-selling Web of Debt. In The Public Bank Solution, her latest book, she explores successful public banking models historically and globally. She has also written nearly 300 articles on this subject, posted on her blog at EllenBrown.com.

Severn Cullis-Suzuki is a culture and environmental activist and writer. She is the host of the APTN TV series Samaqan – Water Stories, board member of the Haida Gwaii Higher Education Society and the David Suzuki Foundation, and a council member of Earth Charter International.

John de Graaf is Executive Director of Take Back Your Time, as well as co-founder and senior partner of The Happiness Initiative. He is a frequent speaker on issues of overwork and overconsumption in America. John is the co-author of Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic (2001). His newest book, What’s the Economy For, Anyway? Why It’s Time to Stop Chasing Growth and Start Pursuing Happiness, was published in 2011. His current interest is in a campaign to measure happiness in American communities and colleges.

Charles Eisenstein is a speaker and writer focusing on themes of human culture and identity. He is the author of several books, most recently Sacred Economics and The More Beautiful World our Hearts Know is Possible. His background includes a degree in mathematics and philosophy from Yale, a decade in Taiwan as a translator, and stints as a college instructor, a yoga teacher, and a construction worker. He currently writes and speaks full-time. He lives in Pennsylvania with his wife and four children.

Jihan Gearon is Executive Director of Black Mesa Water Coalition. Jihan is Diné (Navajo) and African American and works on connecting the issues of energy development in Indigenous communities to larger social justice movements and common strategies.

Richard Heinberg is a Senior Fellow of the Post Carbon Institute and is widely regarded as one of the world’s foremost Peak Oil educators. He has authored scores of essays and articles that have appeared in leading journals, web sites and many film and television documentaries.

Catherine Ingram is the author of Passionate Presence, In the Footsteps of Gandhi, and A Crack in Everything. A former journalist specializing in issues of consciousness and activism, she has led international retreats and public sessions of Dharma Dialogues since 1993 and is founder and president of Living Dharma, an educational nonprofit organization.

Manish Jain is the coordinator of Shikshantar: The Peoples’ Institute for Rethinking Education and Development, and co-founder of Swaraj University, which is dedicated to the regeneration
of local culture, economy and ecology. He is the editor of several books on such themes as learning societies, unlearning, gift culture, community, and tools for deep dialogue.

Sandra Lubarsky is chair of the Goodnight Family Department of Sustainable Development at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina where she teaches courses on beauty and sustainability, environmental humanities, and strategies for reenchantment. She has authored three books and currently writes on aesthetics and sustainability as well as sustainability and higher education.

Camila Moreno works with social movements in Brazil and Latin America on the social and environmental dimensions of biotechnology and agribusiness expansion in the region. Her study, writing and activism in recent years have focuses on the territorial impacts of development policies and emerging schemes associated with the green economy.

Helena Norberg-Hodge is the founder and director of Local Futures. A pioneer of the “new economy” movement, she has been promoting an economics of personal, social and ecological well-being for more than thirty years. She is the producer and co-director of the award-winning documentary The Economics of Happiness and the author of Ancient Futures: Learning from Ladakh.

Janelle Orsi is a lawyer, advocate, writer, and cartoonist focused on cooperatives, the sharing economy, urban agriculture, shared housing, local currencies, and community-supported enterprise. She is Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Sustainable Economies Law Center and author of Practicing Law in the Sharing Economy.

Derek Rasmussen is a meditation teacher and activist. He lived in Iqaluit, Nunavut, for twelve years, and he provides policy and legal research for the Inuit group Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. His PhD research studies ways activists and educators can cultivate compassion, loving-kindness, sympathetic joy and equanimity—the four emotional meditations of Buddhism.

Vicki Robin is co-author of the perennial best-seller, Your Money or Your Life, and author of the new book, Blessing the Hands that Feed Us: Lessons from a 10-Mile Diet. She created the 10-Day Local Food Challenge to help eaters kick-start their local food shift. Her TEDx talk is on “Relational Eating.”

Michael Shuman is director of research and economic development at the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE), and a Fellow of the Post Carbon Institute. The author of Local Dollars, Local Sense, he leads community-based economic development efforts across the country.

Sarah van Gelder is co-founder and editor in chief of YES! magazine. Sarah leads the framing and development of each issue of YES! and writes a column introducing each issue. She also heads up the online editorial work and blogs at YES!, and Huffington Post. As part of her community involvement, Sarah co-founded Suquamish Olalla Neighbors, which builds bridges between Native and non-Native residents of the Port Madison Reservation. She is co-editor of the book Sustainable Happiness.

Cameron Whitten is a civic entrepreneur, storyteller, and economics student at Portland State University. His passion of advocating for human rights and underrepresented voices was catalyzed in 2011, the year the Occupy Movement was born. Cameron engages his community in social justice through his service as Board President of Know Your City, and a number of other nonprofit, civic, and political causes in Portland.
Workshop Presenters

Kurt Beil is a professor, naturopathic & Chinese medicine practitioner, and public health consultant in Portland, Oregon. He specializes in researching the health-promoting and stress-reducing potential of natural environments. He has published and lectured nationally and internationally on utilizing the potential of green space for sustainable urban development and public health promotion.

Stephen Cahill is a faculty member at the Bainbridge Graduate Institute, where he teaches alternative economics, systems thinking, innovation and business planning to MBA students seeking to create sustainable systems. He is a passionate farmer, and loves working with technology.

Nicole Chaland is the director of Simon Fraser University’s Community Economic Development Program – a part-time leadership program that examines the theory and practices of local living economies. Nicole most recently co-founded The Dock: Centre for Social Impact, and LEAP! (Local Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program).

Paul Cienfuegos is a leader in the Community Rights movement which works to dismantle corporate constitutional “rights” while enshrining local self-governance. Based in Portland, Oregon, he travels widely giving talks and workshops. His speeches have been broadcast nationally on David Barsamian’s show, “Alternative Radio.” He co-founded CommunityRightsPDX.org.

Lenny Dee is Co-Founder and Climate Declaration Coordinator for 350PDX. For the past ten years he has led Onward Oregon with an e-mail list of over 40,000 activists, and he was instrumental in the growth of Coalition for a Livable Future, a coalition of over 100 groups addressing regional issues.

David Delk is co-chair of the national Alliance for Democracy as well as Portland chapter president. His work has focused on ending corporate domination. In 2006, he was a chief petitioner for Ballot Measures 46/47 for campaign finance limitations. He has worked in opposition to corporate trade agreements and heads the Portland Move to Amend affiliate.

Melanie DewBerry is in the business of human potential. Leaning on the wisdom of her Native American leaders she speaks, writes and coaches on consciousness. She is the curator of Wisdom Salon where community meets and becomes a tribe, and she believes We Belong to One Another.

Madelyn Elder is a past President of CWA Local 7901. Besides being a lifelong activist, she is also the Fiscal Specialist at Oregon Tradeswomen, helping women succeed in construction trades.

Maggie Fleming is Co-Director of Transition US, the US arm of the worldwide Transition movement. The organization is a catalyst and a resource for communities building sustainability in the face of climate change, diminishing natural resources, and economic instability. Maggie is passionate about community organizing, leadership development, and environmental activism.

Hannah Harrod is a recent graduate of the Educational Leadership and Policy masters program at Portland State University, where she studied the connections between ecology, justice and the current system of mass incarceration. She currently works in program development at Sponsors, Inc. Reentry Services in Eugene. She loves plants, sweets and participatory education.

Marisa Hendron is a longtime food justice advocate. She currently runs a gardening business as part of her ongoing work to build social and ecological resilience. She is propelled by fascination with the interdependence of all life. Marisa is a volunteer facilitator of Educate for Action workshops sponsored by Community Alliance for Global Justice, a grassroots organization based in Seattle.
Charles Heying is Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Planning at Portland State University. His current research combines his interest in craftwork with his passion for community-based economic development. In Brew to Bikes: Portland’s Artisan Economy (2010) he explores how the transformation to a post-industrial economy is being articulated in the trend-setting edges of Portland’s artisan production.

Mark Juedeman grew up on a ranch in Montana where he acquired a life-long commitment to environmentalism. In addition to his 30+ year career as a geophysicist, he is a founding member of Transition Houston, a Transition US trainer and board member, and an executive committee member of the Houston Food Policy Workgroup.

Ann Kneeland, a Eugene-based attorney, represented Chief Petitioners in three Oregon counties seeking to pass community rights initiatives. She works actively to secure and protect the people’s fundamental rights at the local and state levels. Previously, Ann has practiced land use, civil commitment and family law for the public interest.

Gillian Locascio is a longtime food justice advocate. Gillian currently works for Washington Fair Trade Coalition and has a background in agroecology and environmental health. She has worked extensively in the Southeast US and Central America, and is passionate about community-driven solutions. Gillian is a volunteer facilitator of Educate for Action workshops sponsored by Community Alliance for Global Justice, a grassroots organization based in Seattle.

Donnie Maclurcan is a passionate advocate for all things not-for-profit. Using an asset-based approach, he has assisted over 250 organizations in scaling their impacts with extremely limited budgets. He is currently Executive Director of the Post Growth Institute and Affiliate Professor of Social Science at Southern Oregon University.

Paula Manley sees the commons as the animating force in her work with leaders, organizations and communities to create a more equitable and sustainable world. She is an artist, community educator, and consultant to nonprofits across the U.S. As co-founder of The Learning Commons, she convenes workshops and partners with Portland State University on a capstone class, Reclaiming the Commons, which engages students in service learning.

Frances Michaelson has been creatively engaging in a culture of activism since 2008 when she encountered The City Repair Project. Since then she has utilized many tools to explore our collective potential to effect and evolve a vibrant world. Frances lives at the Planet Repair Institute.

Dick Roy is Co-Director of the Center for Earth Leadership. Over 1,000 Portland-area individuals have taken the Center’s cornerstone training on “How to Be an Agent of Change.” Dick and his wife Jeanne are co-founders of the Center, the Northwest Earth Institute, and the Natural Step Network.

Brian Smith is Executive Director of the Community Futures Sunshine Coast. He has founded or co-founded several enterprises including Persephone Brewing, Hastings Crossing Business Improvement Association and SOLEfood Farms to name a few. Brian teaches Social Innovation with Simon Fraser University’s Community Economic Development Program.

Robert David Steele is a former spy, honorary hacker, #1 Amazon reviewer for non-fiction (reading in 98 categories), and a former candidate for president (Reform Party). He is the author of The Open-Source Everything Manifesto: Transparency, Truth and Trust. His recent profile in The Guardian has received 58,000 likes and put Open Source Everything into the meme pool.

Tim Swinehart teaches social studies at Lincoln High School in Portland. He also teaches in the Masters in teaching program at Lewis and Clark College. He is a co-editor, with Bill Bigelow, of A People’s Curriculum for the Earth: Teaching Climate Change and the Environmental Crisis, published in 2014 by Rethinking Schools.
John Talberth is President and Senior Economist at the Center for Sustainable Economy. John holds a Ph.D. in International and Environmental Economics from the University of New Mexico and an M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon. His areas of expertise include non-market valuation, international trade, public policy, benefit-cost analysis, forest management, sustainable development, sustainability indicators and land use planning.

Grace Taylor is a widowed mother, exploring how to make a living while being present for her kids. She’s certified as a Caring Economy Conversation Leader through the Center for Partnership Studies and former Program Director at Rural Organizing Project. She holds an MA in Organizational Leadership from Pinchot University.

Narendra Varma was born and raised in India, and is a graduate of Brown University. After a career at Microsoft Corporation, Narendra and his wife Machelle founded Our Table Cooperative as an effort to reimagine our food system around the principals of Permaculture Design and Biodynamic agriculture.

Matthew Voedisch is a middle school outdoor education teacher for the Ivy School, a Montessori Charter. He works to inspire students to appreciate nature in urban contexts through the principles and ethics of permaculture. Matt lives at The Planet Repair Institute.

Michael Weisdorf is a scholar at Portland State University, where he has earned degrees in Social Science and Systems Science. His work has focused on the intersection of ecologic and economic systems, and presses toward a new understanding of economic life as a complex of forms of human ecological behavior.

Yoram Bauman is an environmental economist and professor at the University of Washington, co-author of The Cartoon Introduction to Climate Change, and the world’s first and only “stand-up economist.”

Mississippi Cotten (aka Kyle Tigges) is a songwriter and music educator from Brooklyn, NY. He is a certified “Music Together” teacher and a guitar instructor at The Brooklyn Guitar School. He is the organizer and host of a live music and comedy series called “a tinyHOUSE Collective” which aims to raise support and awareness for organizations like Doctors Without Borders and Local Futures. He loves sharing music and ideas with people of all ages and backgrounds.

Katrina Scotto di Carlo is co-founder and Creative Director at Supportland, co-founder of the Portland Made, and a performance artist and storyteller.

Larkin Stentz is a flute player and local farmer. He has taught sustainable agriculture in Mexico and designed gardens for homes, estates, and commercial installations. He runs a sustainable living center teaching young people how to live more lightly on the earth.

Sol Nectar is a local Portland band, featuring Mikaela Schey, Marc Tobin, Eva Riversong, Terry Tomei, and David Jacob. Sol Nectar uses music, media, and events as a vehicle to help pollinate the blossoming consciousness of holistically vibrant culture.

Linda Wheatley co-founded Gross National Happiness USA (GNHUSA) in 2009 following a trip to Bhutan. She owns a small meaningful-travel company, Sweet Mango Tours, and has served as Associate Director for the Peace Corps in Thailand. Along with Paula Francis, Linda embarked on The Happiness Walk in 2014, described as “two women with walking shoes and recorders, crossing a big country, reporting on happiness and what really matters in life.”

Wifi network: First Unitarian Guest Password: Portland
Local Futures – International Society for Ecology and Culture is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote systemic solutions to today’s environmental, social and economic crises. Our in-depth educational work seeks to reveal the root causes of those crises — from unemployment to climate change, from ethnic conflict to loss of biodiversity — while promoting grassroots and policy-level strategies for ecological and community renewal.

For over three decades Local Futures, and its predecessor, The Ladakh Project, have organized, hosted and delivered hundreds of lectures, film screenings, workshops and international conferences across the world — from the Tibetan plateau to the UK, from Australia to South Africa, Japan and the USA.

Our staff experts regularly participate in events ranging in size from informal community meetings to large international gatherings. We also produce books, articles, pamphlets and films. Our materials are used in high school and university classrooms internationally and have been invaluable resources for individuals and organizations in every corner of the world. In total our books and films have been translated into nearly 50 different languages.

Founder and Director: Helena Norberg-Hodge
Advisory Board: Wendell Berry, Fritjof Capra, Diana Rose, Jonathan Rose, Vandana Shiva, Michael Shuman
David Suzuki, Alice Waters