I find myself in a strange situation, because for many years, when I returned from the "underdeveloped" world to the West with news about the destructive impact of the global economy on culture and nature, people used to say: "Oh, things are not that bad!"

Now, it's as if the mainstream consensus has gone straight from denial to despair, without stopping to look deeper.

But from our perspective at Local Futures, there are important positive trends to be seen. Contact with grassroots groups around the world gives us ample news to share about the truly meaningful healing that happens when people reconnect with others and nature. In all kinds of community projects, we are seeing the bonds of interdependence between people renewed, leaving them happier and healthier as a result. And we are seeing the potential for the rapid restoration of ecosystems, especially through local food and farming projects that rebuild soil, sequester carbon, and bring back biodiversity, all while producing more and healthier food.

Much of the news that I get in my inbox sustains my faith in humanity, and convinces me that more and more people are ready for fundamental change. Covid, climate emergencies and the war in Ukraine have increased awareness of the problems with the global economy and its long-distance supply chains. The Economist, The Wall Street Journal and others have published articles questioning globalization, even using the L word: localization.

But their top-down 'localization' ignores the ecological dimension that is a foundation for the movement we are promoting. Corporate localization often means bringing the mega-industrial factories back from China and India, and simply replacing cheap labor with robots. They also talk about a '15-minute city', run by A.I. in the hands of large corporations, and thus dependent on vast systems of extraction.

The further we go down this techno-economic path, the more it discords with basic common sense and human needs, and the more people reject it and reach out for genuine alternatives. They reach out for connection to community, contact with nature, bottom-up empowerment, and stronger local economies.

For us at Local Futures, the question is: how can we bring the vision of economic localization to the forefront as the dominant system continues to fall apart? How can we make sure the grassroots movement is visible and supported?

I am proud of Local Futures for our consistent work in galvanizing countless initiatives and seeding this visionary movement. In 2021, conferences, online events and especially our World Localization Day campaign brought together grassroots civil society groups and perspectives from every continent to speak in unity against the techno-economic juggernaut, while...
celebrating the power of communities everywhere.

Meanwhile, our Localization Action Guide is equipping people with the vital information they need to join and start more community initiatives. It’s an invaluable tool for helping people connect to this movement and contribute to its growth.

Just as our engagement in this work gives us hope, we hope that keeping in touch with us helps to inform your own sense of cautious – and radical – optimism for the future.

Helena Norberg-Hodge
Director, Local Futures
Given the massive interest in World Localization Day (WLD) in 2020, when people from 192 countries tuned into our online program, we decided to build on this flagship celebration in 2021. As Covid-19 restrictions began to ease, it became possible to develop a hybrid program with online and face-to-face events. Our aim was to diversify and decentralize WLD, with events in many countries and languages, organized and hosted by collaborators – groups, organizations and networks from around the world.

WLD 2021 took place throughout June and had three components: events held by global partners; a week-long online program hosted by Local Futures; and a Local Food Feast campaign.

Firstly, beginning in early June, 80 partners in thirty countries on six continents organized virtual and in-person events under the WLD banner. Some of our partners went to extraordinary efforts to celebrate – with packed four-day online events in Japan and Brazil, for example. A great diversity of organizations joined in, from the national peasant farmers movement in the Philippines to a progressive television station in Cape Town, South Africa, and a holistic clinic serving victims of the Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal, India. Many were eager to participate in the formation of a worldwide localization movement: for example, more than a dozen groups in Mexico, including the well-known 35,000-member Tosepan Cooperative, formed a country-wide localization coalition in support of World Localization Day.

Secondly, in the lead-up to 21st June (World Localization Day itself), we – with the help of many of our partners and other activists – hosted a week-long online program, with twenty talks, debates and workshops. We published four videos of in-depth conversations between Helena Norberg Hodge and guests; by August 2022, the conversation between Helena and Gabor Maté had received more than 20,000 views on YouTube. Thirty-five video reflections on localization were provided by local partners and activists and well-known people such as Naomi Klein, Russell Brand and Charles Eisenstein. On June 21st, we had two inspiring concluding sessions (to accommodate different time zones) with our global partners.

Thirdly, we coordinated a Local Food Feast campaign encouraging the public to celebrate local food. More than 100 people in 26 countries hosted feasts, from online events to small family gatherings, to larger events with music and conference sessions, as local Covid-19 restrictions permitted.

World Localization Day went far beyond our expectations, as we encouraged and benefitted from a wide variety of collaborations, and expanded our plans to support and tap into the energy for localization rising from all corners of the world.
In 2021, people from 26 countries participated in a local feast.
The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted for many people the need to localize, and the queries we received shifted from “why should I localize?” to “how can my community localize?”. We responded by creating a **Localization Action Guide**. Released in October, it offers nearly 140 concrete steps, large and small, that people can take to shift their communities and economies towards the local.

The Guide began as an online document but developed into a full website, featuring specific and practical actions for localization, each with its own page which includes an introduction, list of guides and resources, and inspiring examples from around the world. These vary from “transform your lawn into a garden” to “support fundamental change of the financial system”. The actions are nested inside pages on broader themes – for example, **business** or **community** – to give context to the readers, and to show how small actions fit into the big picture.

They are also organized by “actor”, meaning that people can look up actions suitable for **individuals**, **businesses**, **community groups**, **governments** or **institutions**.

The Guide received overwhelmingly positive feedback from beta testers, long-time Local Futures collaborators, and those new to localization alike. We are in the process of engaging with a digital strategist to boost the overall number of website views. Feedback suggests that the users of the Guide are highly diverse, including among others: a person in Portugal wanting to start a local currency and connect expats with local farmers; two former United States Marine colonels looking for ways to create community; a professor in Australia working with United Nations Youth Ambassadors; and a university guidance counsellor in the United Kingdom seeking to illuminate alternative career pathways for her students.
To further increase the usefulness of the Action Guide, we launched Voices from the Field, a webinar series that features people with hands-on experience of particular actions within the Guide. The first episode – about time banking and community food initiatives in the UK – went out live online at the end of 2021, and is available to watch via the webpage or YouTube. More episodes are due in 2022, including on cooperatives and transportation.
Despite the constraints imposed by Covid-19, especially at the beginning of the year, Local Futures continued with a full program of events and activities.

In April, Helena Norberg-Hodge taught on an online course with long-time collaborator Small Giants, an Australian non-governmental organization, while localization efforts around Byron Bay, Australia, saw Helena and staff member Henry Coleman hold numerous meetings with farmers and food activists to strengthen the local food movement in the area. These on-the-ground efforts are helping to lay the foundation for a potential localization institute in the Byron Bay area.

Together with the city government of Jeonju, South Korea, we organized an Economics of Happiness conference, our seventh in Jeonju and the second held online. The theme was “The Climate Crisis and Localization”, and the event featured international speakers as well as highly respected thought leaders from South Korea.

We participated in two civil society responses to corporate influence on the United Nations’ Food Systems Summit: we made a short film for the Global People’s Summit on Food Systems, and co-organized the People’s Food Summit with organizations that included IFOAM, Regeneration International, Navdanya and others.

Local Futures produced two short films: “Local Food Can Save the World” and “LOCAL: A Story of Hope”. The latter is a seven-minute introduction to the mechanisms of globalization and localization, and was created in partnership with well-known filmmaker Damon Gameau and Aboriginal storyteller Ella Noah Bancroft.
In late 2021, recognizing that podcasts are becoming increasingly popular, we revived our “Local Bites” podcast, rebranding the series “Local Futures Podcast” and releasing three new episodes. It is more popular than ever, with more than 1,000 views for each new episode – almost twice as many as most past episodes.

Among our writing efforts during the year were chapters in two published books. “Cosmolocalization & Localization: Towards a Critical Convergence”, a chapter in Cosmocal Reader, was co-written by Helena and staff members Alex Jensen, Henry Coleman, and Steve Gorelick. Alex and Steve also collaborated with Ann Chapman of GreenHouse Think Tank on “Localization vs. Globalization”, a chapter in the book Climate Adaptation: Accounts of Resilience, Self-Sufficiency and Systems Change.

Local Futures also published 29 blog entries offering critical insights on technology, agribusiness, the inner dimension of localization, and much more. Eight of these were authored by staff, including one written by our Ladakhi team (pictured below).

Helena participated in thirty events, plus sixteen interviews and podcasts, with Anja Lyngbaek, Steve Gorelick, Alex Jensen and Marjana Kos also giving talks, being interviewed or delivering presentations. These events ranged from participation in Renew Fest in Australia, to online talks to Aseem Shrivastava’s Ecosophy course participants, and a podcast interview for Go Green Local in the US.

Henry Coleman (L), Alex Jensen and Steve Gorelick

Jigmet Singge (L) and Kunzang Deachen

Anja Lyngbaek
It was a busy year for the Local Futures Ladakh team, who organized several informative, practical and celebratory events, with young people playing a prominent role.

The team produced a short film – Young Farmers in Ladakh – and this was launched on March 20th, along with a panel discussion, and lunch with traditional food. The attention of the panel, which featured local growers, thinkers, activists and government representatives, was on devising and implementing policies to promote the local food system. It was agreed that there is an urgent need to focus on sustainable agricultural practices that prioritize local needs first, and to restore traditional food systems and practices that have been undermined or neglected. Several practical recommendations were made, from promoting locally sourced food in restaurants to suggestions on how to encourage organic farming.

Two workshops – on vermicompost and mushroom cultivation – were held in different villages during the spring and were very well received, while World Localization Day celebrations included traditional music and home-grown-food-related events.

Local Futures Ladakh has been organizing Help with the Harvest events for many years, bringing in volunteers to work on the harvest with local families, as migration to urban areas has resulted in fewer villagers being available to help. Unlike previous years, this year’s group was mainly young Ladakhi students, many of whom had never experienced this kind of work before. A short film, with accompanying article, was made and beautifully illustrates the harvest.

The Ladakh Vikalp Sangam (‘Alternatives Confluence’), co-organized by Local Futures Ladakh, took place on 19th–20th September 2021, as part of the overall series of such events within the India-level Vikalp Sangam process. This aims to highlight, encourage, celebrate and provide network opportunities for initiatives across the country that are working towards positive social-environmental transformation. The Ladakh event included agriculture-related folk songs, discussions, film screenings, local food meals, and tours to local farms.
Communicating the localization message is a key activity for Local Futures, and, in 2021 we benefitted greatly from the engagement of eleven interns from Wellesley College, a respected women’s liberal arts college in Massachusetts, US, for the month of January. They worked on a range of projects, including translations, website audits, research, and providing feedback on a forthcoming collection of our best articles, book chapters and blogs.

Translating our many resources into as many languages as possible remains a vital tool in reaching out, and in 2021, twenty of our works (two books, eight films and videos, ten blogs) were translated from English into eighteen languages. Two of these, Bosnian and Marathi, are new languages for Local Futures. Spanish-English translation of World Localization Day resources in Mexico was also undertaken. This was all thanks to our excellent team of volunteers and our Translation Coordinator, Victoria Clarke.

The International Alliance for Localization (IAL) continued to grow, with a jump in membership taking place after WLD, leading to nearly 1,400 individual and organizational members by the end of the year. Forty IAL Weekly emails were sent out, before it changed to IAL Fortnightly on 21st December to avoid causing email fatigue among the recipients. This mail-out highlights events, articles, books, and thoughtful perspectives and analysis relating to localization.

Having struggled with the WLD website platform for the last few years, a major project in 2021 was the transfer of the website to another – more user-friendly – one. Twenty-two core pages have been completely updated.

We continued developing and improving our social media outreach through activity on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. World Localization Day helped with this: during the WLD period we gained an extra 4,000+ followers on Instagram and reached 8,000 Twitter followers, up from 7,200. Our messages are often shared on social media by celebrities, notably Russell Brand, significantly expanding our reach.
FINANCIALS

TOTAL REVENUE
$533,941

* Includes $31,074 earmarked for organizations for which Local Futures (ISEC) is the fiscal sponsor.

TOTAL EXPENSES
$461,407

Green and blue segments = Local Futures programs

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Sale of publications and videos</td>
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<td>Interest and investments income</td>
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<td>Administrative support fees</td>
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47,739
15,905
104,753
19,150
57,839
26,916
189,105

Grassroots localization support
International Alliance for Localization
WLD and Economics of Happiness Programs
Ladakh Programs
Management and administrative
Fundraising
Global to Local Education Programs
# TEAM MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Helena Norberg-Hodge</th>
<th>Carly Gayle</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Founder and Director</td>
<td>Project Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Page</td>
<td>Victoria Clarke</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Programs Director</td>
<td>US Administrative Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Gorelick</td>
<td>Samantha Salmon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Managing Programs Director</td>
<td>UK Administrative Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anja Lyngbaek</td>
<td>Jonny Tomlinson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Programs Director</td>
<td>Social Media Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristen Steele</td>
<td>Anja Light</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Special Projects</td>
<td>Social Media Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marjana Kos</td>
<td>Kunzang Deachen</td>
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<td>Executive Assistant</td>
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<td>Laura Tyley</td>
<td>Chozin Palmo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Jensen</td>
<td>Jigmet Singge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Researcher and Project Coordinator</td>
<td>Ladakh Project Associate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Coleman</td>
<td>Bertrand Raguet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Coordinator</td>
<td>Audio and Visual Editor</td>
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Written by:
Jane Ricketts Hein
Helena Norberg-Hodge
Alex Jensen
Anja Lyngbaek
Designed by: Cathy Martin

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