



Grassroots

ACCELERATOR

Collaboratory Handbook

OCCIDENTAL ARTS AND ECOLOGY CENTER - OCTOBER 13-18, 2019

Introduction

Hello Leaders,

We are so excited to be together from your arrival on October 13th until your departure on October 18th. We have created a structure for our week together, as well as lots of space for organic connection and emergence. By weaving together our skills, tools, and knowledge, we will collectively accelerate our impact in the world. We are committed to hosting a nourishing, holistic experience so that you return to your work in your regions feeling inspired and replenished.

Please come ready to be open to sharing and learning from everyone in the group. We believe that partnerships, collaboration, and emergence are crucial to grassroots women's environmental leadership and therefore focus on creating a safe space for a community of learners to exchange, find ways to support and enhance one another's solutions, and to form deep relationships.

Come with both your questions and solutions. What do you need and what do you know that might help others in their work?

This document aims to answer general logistical questions in preparation for our time together. Please review it thoroughly and always feel free to reach out to the team at us2019@womensearthalliance.org with any additional questions.

Collaboratory "Home" Location

We are honored to spend the Collaboratory in the territory of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria at [The Occidental Arts & Ecology Center](#), located at 15290 Coleman Valley Rd., Occidental, CA 95465. OAEC is an 80-acre research, demonstration, education, advocacy and community-organizing center in Occidental, California. OAEC develops strategies for regional-scale community resilience and the restoration of biological and cultural diversity.

Accommodations

We have done our best to accommodate everyone's requests regarding accommodations. Because we are sharing rooms, we recommend bringing earplugs and eye-masks if you are a light sleeper. We will share room assignments upon your arrival to OAEC.

Food

OAEC cooks excellent vegetarian meals using produce from their organic gardens and local farms. For those of you who have indicated that you are vegan, gluten-free, dairy-free, or have any food allergies, we have planned meals accordingly. Please note that the OAEC kitchen is not a certified gluten-free facility.

Ground Transportation

For transport from the airport to Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, you will be taking Lyfts, using a code that we will provide you. We will connect you to a group of other participants who are arriving around the same time so that you can ride in the same Lyft together to Occidental. On the morning of the 18th, we will be shuttling you all into town where you will take Lyfts back to the airport in small groups according to your departure times. For those of us attending Bioneers, we will arrange carpools to the event.

We will not be able to cover ground transportation or lodging after the 18th, even for those attending Bioneers.

What to Bring

- A small object that represents your work (you will share about this object in the opening ceremony)
- A small container of water from where you work in the world - or water that is important to you (for the closing ceremony)
- Your Journal and all of the work you have completed thus far, especially your draft Strategic Framework
- Any materials you need for your knowledge/skill share session
- Laptop
- Clothing
 - Casual and comfortable clothing for workshop days
 - Any clothing you want to wear for a professional headshot photoshoot and video interview, as well as a community evening reception
 - Warm layers - evenings are always chilly. Please see weather [here](#)
 - A rain jacket in the slight chance of rain
 - Bathing suit optional for pond swimming, sauna, or hot tub (Note: Clothing is optional in pond, sauna, and hot tub)

- Personal items - medications, toiletries, insect repellent, sunscreen, hat, earplugs, eye mask (if needed for sound sleep)
- Refillable water bottle
- Refillable tea/coffee mug (optional)
- Regional treat or gift to share with 25-30 people (optional)
- Instruments, songs, poems, and prayers to share (optional)
- An open heart and mind

Staying on Site

We are planning to stay on site for the duration of the Collaboratory. Please come with everything you need from Sunday through Friday. We cannot accommodate guest visits on site as we have committed numbers of guests with OAEC. If there is anyone in the area with whom you would like to connect and share about your work, please let us know so that we can extend an invitation to them for the October 17th community event.

Wifi/Phones

Unrestricted wifi is available in every building on site at OAEC. Verizon gets great reception at OAEC, most others do not. OAEC provides landline phones for participants to use.

Hot Tub/Sauna/Fire Circle/Pond

OAEC has a lovely cedar sauna and a large hot tub at a bathhouse, a swimming pond, and an outdoor fire circle. Participants are welcome to use the bathhouse and pond.

Song and Dance

Music is so important! We will have several guitars, ukuleles, and some percussion instruments available. We value the sharing of songs, poems, stories, dance, and other forms of creative expression. We will have at least one campfire, as well as free time, so if you would like to bring a special instrument or a song to share, we encourage you to do so.

Collaboratory Schedule

The 2019 Grassroots Accelerator Promise: Together, we will gain skills, tools, strategies, and allies to realize the potential of our environmental and climate solutions in order to: a) generate greater impact, b) uplift more women environmental leaders, and c) create global ripples of change.

Please find below a schedule for our week together. This schedule is subject to changes, though it represents the overall flow for the week.

Time	Activity
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Arrival Day | Sunday, 13 October 2019

12.00 - 9.00	Arrive at OAEC & Check into rooms Transport by Lyfts to OAEC Participants will receive room assignments upon arrival
6.00 - 7.00	Dinner
7.00 - 9.00	Welcome & Introductions

DAY 1 | Monday, 14 October 2019 - Theme: WHY? A day about Purpose

7.30 - 8.55	Breakfast
9.00 - 11.00	Opening Ceremony To bring: Item that represents your work
11.00 - 11.15	Tea break
11.15 - 12.45	Collaboratory Orientation + Community Norms
11:45 - 1:00	Session 1: WOMEN: The Landscape of Gender Justice in the Climate/Environmental Movement
1.00 - 1.55	Lunch
2.00 - 3.30	Session 2: ALLIANCE: Ecology Groups - Working in Partnerships to Grow Movements
3.30 - 3.55	Tea Break
4.00 - 5.30	Session 3: EARTH: Reading the Land - Orienting to the Land and Earth Principles (tour of OAEC)
5.30 - 6.30	Free time: Pond, Swim, Farm Activities, Rest
6.30 - 7.25	Dinner
7.30 - 8.30	Sogorea Te Land Trust Case Study
8.30 - 8.45	Debrief and Overview of Next Day

DAY 2 | Tuesday, 15 October 2019 - Theme: WHAT? A day about vision and impact

6.30 - 7.30	Optional: Morning Practice, Meditation, Nature Walk, Swim
7.30 - 08.25	Breakfast
8.30 - 8.45	Check-ins, Introducing Today's Content
8:45 - 09.30	Morning Protocol and Circle

9.30 - 11.00	Session 1: Leading Consciously: From Reaction to Response
11.00 - 11.15	Tea break
11.15 - 1.00	Session 2: Strategic Framework Jam (laptops)
1.00 - 1.55	Lunch
2.00 - 3.00	Session 4: Advocacy and Lobbying Congress
3.00 - 3.30	Tea break
3.30 - 5.00	Session 5: Impact Frameworks (laptops)
5.00 - 5.45	Wild Wander: Garden time at OAEC in Ecology Groups
5.45 - 6.30	Free Time
6.30 - 7.30	Dinner
7.30 - 7.45	Debrief and Overview of next day
	CAMPFIRE

DAY 3 | Wednesday, 16 October 2019 - Theme: HOW? A day of sharing hands-on solutions

6.30 - 7.30	Optional: Morning Practice, Meditation, Nature Walk, Swim
7.30 - 8.25	Breakfast
8.30 - 8.40	Check-ins, Introducing Today's Content
8.40 - 8.50	Morning Protocol
8.50 - 10.00	Session 1: What Makes a Fire Burn? Personal Sustainability and Self-Care
10.00 - 10.30	Circling up for Self-Care
10:30 - 10:45	Tea break
10:45 - 10:50	Knowledge and Skill Share - Introductions
10:50 - 11:35	Session 2: Participant-led knowledge and skill sharing Option #1: Waste = Food: Humanure, Composting Toilets, and more Option #2: Guam Case-study - Overview of the environment, challenges, opportunities, and movements Option #3: How to Run a Policy Campaign - Successfully Transforming Sustainable Agriculture Policies Option #4: Consensus-Building
11:45 - 12:30	Session 3: Participant-led knowledge and skill sharing Option #1: Waste = Food: Humanure, Composting Toilets, and more

	<p>Option #2: Guam Case-study - Overview of the environment, challenges, opportunities, and movements</p> <p>Option #3: How to Run a Policy Campaign - Successfully Transforming Sustainable Agriculture Policies</p> <p>Option #4: Consensus-Building</p>
12.30 - 1.15	Lunch
1.15 - 1.20	Knowledge and Skill Share - Introductions
1.20 - 2:05	<p>Session 4: Participant-led knowledge and skill sharing</p> <p>Option #1: Planting Techniques in Relationship to Self, Land and Community - Prep, Planning, Process, and Harvesting</p> <p>Option #2: Embodiment Work - A framework to ground what success feels, looks, smells, sounds, and tastes like in order to rethink the way we envision the future</p> <p>Option #3: Building and maintaining effective coalitions - Case Study of Gulf Future (60+ Gulfwide Coalition) and CEER (20+ Regional Coalition)</p> <p>Option #4: Campaigning Techniques: Bird-Dogging/Lobbying etc.</p>
2:15 - 3:00	<p>Session 5: Participant-led knowledge and skill sharing</p> <p>Option #1: Planting Techniques in Relationship to Self, Land and Community - Prep, Planning, Process, and Harvesting</p> <p>Option #2: Embodiment Work - A framework to ground what success feels, looks, smells, sounds, and tastes like in order to rethink the way we envision the future</p> <p>Option #3: Building and maintaining effective coalitions - Case Study of Gulf Future (60+ Gulfwide Coalition) and CEER (20+ Regional Coalition)</p> <p>Option #4: Community Building and Service Learning through Workshops</p>
3.00 - 3.10	Tea break
3.10 - 3.15	Knowledge and Skill Share - Introductions
3.15 - 4:00	<p>Session 6: Participant-led knowledge and skill sharing</p> <p>Option #1: Seed-keeping and Sovereignty - How seeds are leading our indigenous communities back to language, ceremony, land claims, and intertribal connections</p> <p>Option #2: Speaking about climate change from a faith perspective</p>

4:15 - 5:00	<p>Option #3: Solar Power - Strategies that communities are taking to achieve energy democracy and using Solar to build community power</p> <p>Option #4: Environmental Justice Organizing</p> <p>Session 7: Participant-led knowledge and skill sharing</p> <p>Option #1: Seed-keeping and Sovereignty - How seeds are leading our indigenous communities back to language, ceremony, land claims, and intertribal connections</p> <p>Option #2: Speaking about climate change from a faith perspective</p> <p>Option #3: Solar Power - Strategies that communities are taking to achieve energy democracy and using Solar to build community Power</p> <p>Option #4: Environmental Justice Organizing</p>
5.00 - 5:45	Session 8: Working in Ecologies to Practice our Presentations
5:45 - 5:55	Healing clinic, debrief, and overview of next day
6:00 - 9:00	HEALING CLINIC (& Free time to enjoy OAEC) Clinic Sessions: 1) 6:00-6:50, 2) 7:00-7:50, 3) 8:00-8:50
6.30- 7:30	Dinner

DAY 4 | Thursday, 17 October 2019 - Theme: Telling Your Story

6.30 - 7:30	Optional: Morning Practice, Meditation, Nature Walk, Swim (arrive to breakfast ready for headshots and videos)
7.30 - 8.25	Breakfast
8:30 - 9:00	Morning Circle
9:00 - 9:15	Orientation to Photo and Video Shoots
9:15 - 10:30	Session 1: Pitching our Projects
10:50 - 12:05	Session 2: Grassroots Fundraising Strategies: Case-studies and Discussion
12:10 - 12:40	Lunch (shorter lunch due to early community event)
12.45 - 2:00	Session 3: Getting the word out: Traditional and Digital Practices, From Press Releases to FB Live OR Digital Art as Social Outreach: Memes, Boomerang, Canva, and More
2:00 - 2:45	Session 4: Ecology Work: Presentation Preparation
2:45 - 3:30	Tea break and free time

3.30 - 4.00	Greet guests arriving for community gathering
4.00 - 5:00	Community Gathering: Introduction to Accelerator and Participant Ecology Presentations
5.00 - 6:30	Community socializing with 6:30 guest departure
7.00 - 7.55	Dinner
8:00 - 9.00	Closing Circle To bring: Water from your region
9.00 - 10.00	Packing and organizing to depart

DEPARTURE DAY | Friday, 18 October 2019

7.30 - 8.30	Breakfast at OAEC
8.00 - 12.00	Participant check out and departure

The Opening Ceremony

On Monday morning, we will form a circle, each bringing an object that represents our work to place in our circle. Each of us will have 3 minutes to speak, at which point we will ring a bell and move to the next participant. During this time - please tell us about your object, about the work that you do, and why you do it.

Ecologies

As you know, everyone is in a sector-specific “Ecology” based on your application preferences. Ecologies will foster small group work and activities during the Collaboratory and beyond. We recognize that all of our work is intersectional and have designed the program to support deep explorations of intersectionality. Ecologies are as follows.

Climate Ecology

Angel Amaya, Mishka Banuri, Brittany Bennet, June Farmer, Lyrica Maldonado, Jordan Macha, Melody Zhang

Energy Ecology

Huda Alkaff, Dee Dee (Dolores) Belmares, Crystal Huang, Liz (Elizabeth) Chun Hye Lee

Indigenous Lifeways Ecology

Loke (Ruth) Aloua, Sabina Perez, Kealoha Pisciotta, Elizabeth Roach

Regenerative Agriculture

Brynn Foster, Camille Hadley, Monica Ibacache, Tosha Phonix, Magaly Santos, Erin Foster West

Healing Clinic

We are excited to share that we will have a healing clinic on the evening of Wednesday, October 16th organized by our friend, Mo Washburn. Mo coordinated healing clinics for the fire-fighters and evacuees during the Sonoma County Fires last year and generously offered this gift to our group. The healing clinic offerings are optional and will include 50-minute massage and bodywork sessions (including acupuncture), as well as 25-minute sessions with an herbalist. There will also be a yoga practitioner who will be giving breathwork sessions to small groups.

More details will be shared at the Collaboratory, along with a short survey to identify your requests and schedule your sessions. For those of you who will get bodywork during the dinner hour, we will coordinate to save dinner for you. When not in a healing session, you may wish to try out the hot tub and sauna at OAEC.

Headshots and Videos

On Thursday, October 17th, we will have a professional photographer and videographer on site to take headshots, portraits, and video interviews of each of you so that you can use these going forward. In the morning of the 17th, please wear the clothing that you'd like to be interviewed and photographed in, since participants will step out of sessions throughout the day to complete these.

Several of us will be on hand assisting you, the photographer, and videographer with whatever you need to get the photos and interviews that you desire. The videos will be edited to 2-3 minute video shorts and, along with the headshots and portraits, they will be yours to use to share your message and your work. We will also feature them on your profile page and through our media outreach. The photos will be downloadable high-resolution photos so if anyone ever asks you to speak or present and needs your bio and headshot, you can just send them to one place. Here is an example of a profile page of one of our Indonesian Grassroots Leaders: [Lia Putrinda](#), complete with all of this collateral.

Community Gathering

In the afternoon of Thursday, October 17th, we will invite colleagues and friends from the Bay Area community to come meet you, hear about your work, and connect. Time is built into the Collaboratory to prepare short 1 minute presentations in your Ecology groups. After each Ecology presents, we will have a short question and answer session, followed by informal time to connect with the group and share food

and drinks. Guests will leave before dinner and then we will have dinner and a closing circle together.

Leading Workshops

Many of you are leading workshops during the Collaboratory. Sarita is coordinating these offerings. If you need anything special for your workshop, please let her know. If you have an idea for a workshop that is not on the schedule, please reach out to Sarita at sarita@womensearthalliance.org. If we can not fit it into the Collaboratory, perhaps we can offer it for a group call in the future.

Closing Circle

For our closing circle, we ask that you bring a small container with water from your region. We will add this to our collection of waters from grassroots women leaders from all over the Earth. Each of you are welcome to take a bit of this powerful water back home with you if that would be meaningful for you.

Prayer, Blessings & Ceremonies

We recognize that we represent many different faiths and backgrounds and that some of us identify as atheist or agnostic. This diversity makes us powerful and provides us the opportunity to grow deeper in our understanding of others and of the ocean in which we swim. There will be various moments throughout the Collaboratory to share prayers, blessings, or moments of gratitude in whatever ways are personally meaningful. Before meals, we will ask if anyone would like to share a blessing, prayer, or gratitude. This moment of reflection is an opportunity to give thanks for our nourishment. We look forward to giving thanks in diverse ways and learning from each other. Our opening and closing circles are designed as sacred moments of connection between us all.

Participant Contact List

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