

WHOLE THINKING

A WORKSHOP



A Whole Thinking workshop is an intensive two-and-a-half day session with diverse constituents. The curriculum is designed to create new coalitions and new approaches in order to address broad-level environmental and social change.

■ THE NEED

How is it that those who care about people and those who care about the land are often divided from one another? Why does environmentalism in our country include so few people of color? How do we collectively build upon what we care about most, rather than compete with and isolate one another? What is the new story for environmentalism and social justice in our country?

In order to live and work together with more health and resilience, our movements for change must model the world we want. This requires transformative leadership to overcome the narrow thinking that has separated the environmental and social justice movements. It requires the courage

“Provocative and profound.”

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

to confront unresolved issues around race, power and privilege through personal commitment to think and act differently.

Environmental organizations have settled into their own specialized “communities”: land conservation, environmental justice, food security, air and water quality, energy conservation. This specialization has made true collaboration and shared vision difficult. All of these concerns are critically important to the health of our landscapes and to our communities, and none will succeed without the other.

The central challenge is to re-imagine our communities whole, and then to work together to get there. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. told us that “we cannot walk alone.” Today’s land-use problems are cultural problems that cannot be solved by any organization, or sector, alone. Today, if we want to go far, not just fast, then we must build effective coalitions and partnerships.

■ WHAT WE OFFER

In response to this need, we offer Whole Thinking workshops: safe, trusted forums for leaders from very different organizations to learn together and to create a shared vision for action. Core questions addressed by the workshop include:

- **How can we go beyond strategies and tactics to a deeper understanding of the values we hold—and then work to honor those values?**
- **How can we rise above our limiting silos and collaborate with others toward larger common goals?**
- **How can we engage more meaningfully in public debate and play a stronger role in informing public opinion, thereby contributing to a broadly accepted land ethic and expanding our bases of support?**
- **What is your greater vision for your organization, your community and your landscape?**



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LOGISTICS AND COSTS

FOR INDIVIDUALS:

Whole Communities' workshops for leaders are offered at Knoll Farm in central Vermont and at other locations around the country throughout the year. For a full calendar of workshops, please visit our website at www.wholecommunities.org.

On our website you will also find our sliding scale of fees; through the generous support of our funders we are able to substantially underwrite the cost of many of our programs.

FOR ORGANIZATIONS:

Center for Whole Communities leads workshops for organizations seeking greater effectiveness or looking for new tools to help them catalyze broader change. We bring our faculty and curriculum to you and tailor our workshop to your specific concerns and goals. To talk further about how we can serve your organization through one of our programs, please contact:

Helen Whybrow, Educational Programs
Helen@wholecommunities.org
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ABOUT CENTER FOR WHOLE COMMUNITIES

Center for Whole Communities supports leaders who are building healthier, more just communities through stronger relationships between people, and between people and the land. Our objective is to strengthen movements for change by connecting diverse leaders from multiple disciplines, helping them to explore differences, to imagine our country whole again, and to move beyond sustainability to *relationship*.

For more information about our programs, our faculty, and our alumni, find us online at www.wholecommunities.org.



ALUMNI

Alumni of our programs include over 750 leaders from hundreds of organizations in 48 states, Canada and Mexico. Organizations we have served through our workshops include:

Barr Foundation
Big Sur Land Trust
Bay Area Open Space Council
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Funders' Network for Smart Growth & Livable Communities
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
Kulshan Community Land Trust
Land Trust Alliance
Larimer County Parks and Open Space
Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Massachusetts Audubon
Natural Lands Trust
New Jersey Audubon
New Jersey Conservation Foundation
Pennsylvania Land Trust Association
Sonoma County Open Space
University of Michigan • Flint
Wood River Land Trust

WHAT WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS HAVE SAID ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE ...

[This workshop] captured the hearts and minds of the staff, challenging their established ways of thinking stirring (and reviving) the root of their commitment to positive change, advancing new thought and new dialogue on story and values and partnering...

Numerous members of [our] staff told me that this was the best retreat they had ever experienced.

Roy Hoagland • **CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION**

Excellent! [The workshop] was thought provoking allowed me to see issues in a different light. I was inspired, moved and particularly enjoyed the collaborative spirit.

Incredible! This workshop was very useful to clear my mind, refocus my attention and feel a much closer connection to our open space network.

Participants • **BAY AREA "GREEN VISION GROUP" WORKSHOP**

Whole Thinking transformed a diverse pool of people with unique skill sets and molded us into a model community — where we ate, shared responsibilities, dialogued honestly and openly together. Togetherness is underrated in today's society. Yet, we recognized that together we are a force to be reckoned with.

Anthony J. Artis • **RUTH MOTT FOUNDATION**