

Community-Academic Partnerships to Advance Equity-Focused Climate Action



Integrating the Human Sciences to Scale Societal Responses to
Environmental Change: a NAS Workshop

Panel 4 Case Studies:
Achieving Climate Action through Community-Level Partnerships
Panelist Abby Reyes, J.D.
May 5, 2023

Case Study Purpose

To share how we are working with social movement frameworks and methods for community-driven climate resilience

Stance

Curiosity: might some of these frameworks and methods warrant a closer look in answering the workshop's charge?

Gist

- Communities can't wait
- Locus of knowledge production has shifted off campus
- We are in collective acceleration
- Accompaniment is a skill, learned in relationship
- Slow down to go fast



Abby Reyes

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECTS,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - IRVINE

At UCI, Community Resilience is a campus unit within the Office of Sustainability on the academic side of the house

- Teach at UCI Law on Law and Social Movements
- On campus: faculty and students in Law, Public Health, Chicano/Latino Studies, African American Studies, Anthropology, Dance, Social Ecology
- Off campus: resident leaders, community-based organizations and coalitions, non-governmental organizations, social movement intermediaries
- Across campuses: Through UC President's Global Climate Leadership Council
- Prior to UCI, lawyer working mostly with communities facing adverse effects of mining, oil, and gas projects

U'wa Nation vs. Colombia, Inter-American Court of Human Rights - filed 1997



U'wa Territory in northeastern Colombia



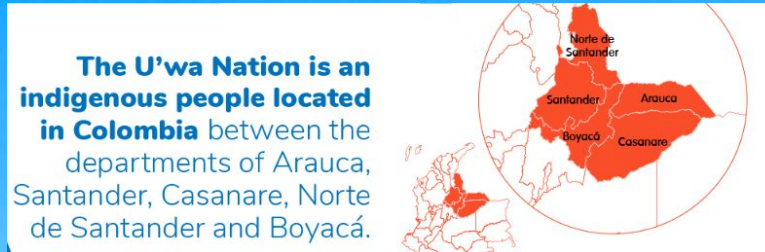
Our territory doesn't have a price. Ecopetrol out.



We are guardians of the earth.



Berito Cuwar'uwa demanding to meet with Occidental Petroleum CEO in 1997



justiciaparanacionuwa.com
earthrights.org

U'wa Nation vs. Colombia, Inter-American Court of Human Rights - hearing 2023



Above: Berito Cuwar'uwa demanding to meet with Occidental Petroleum CEO in 1997



Above: Berito Cuwar'uwa leading ceremony before the opening of the U'wa hearing in Santiago last week

Left: U'wa declarants Daris Cristancho and Ebaristo Tegria with legal team and longtime allies

How long has this complaint been before the Inter-American System ?

This case has been before the Inter-American System since 1997, that is, **more than 25 years!**

What is the current status of the case ?

It is currently at the Inter-American Court awaiting a public hearing to testify and present our arguments before this international tribunal.

justiciaparanacionuwa.com
earthrights.org

U'wa Nation vs. Colombia, Inter-American Court of Human Rights - decision TBD

What are the problems?



- 1 Non-compliance in the processes of expansion, regulation and titling of ancestral territory.
- 2 The exploration and exploitation of oil and gas without the guarantees of prior consultation and consent.
- 3 The overlap between the Cocuy National Park and the U'wa ancestral territory, especially the sacred site of Zizuma.
- 4 The granting of mining titles and the militarization of U'wa territory.



At Stake:

- What is the purpose of “development”?
- Who decides?
- Whose cosmovision prevails?
- Indigenous peoples as “rights-holders” not “stakeholders”
- Indigenous peoples as key stewards to avert climate catastrophe

Asserting community-driven climate resilience approaches in this forum since 1997

justiciaparalanacionuwa.com
earthrights.org

U'wa Nation vs. Colombia, Inter-American Court of Human Rights



2016: With new U'wa lawyer
Aura Tegria and Earthjustice
lawyer Martin Wagner



2020: Aura elected as mayor of Cubará,
an U'wa municipality in northeastern
Colombia



2018: Aura supporting continued
U'wa mass mobilization against
gas extraction on U'wa sacred site



2023: With Aura's mother, Daris Christancho, at the
hearing of Caso U'wa last week at the Inter-American
Court of Human Rights in Chile

justiciaparalanacionuwa.com
earthrights.org

UCI Community Resilience

Rooted at the University of California, Irvine, on ancestral lands of the Tongva and Acjachemen peoples, we foster environmental and social justice efforts on and off campus.



TRAINING + FACILITATION

We train UC & CSU students, faculty, staff & teachers, community collaborators, through a 3-day Leadership Institute for Climate Resilience. We co-design & facilitate community visioning & action planning.



COOPERACIÓN CURRÍCULO

We co-design courses with Cooperación Santa Ana for residents on worker cooperatives and for campus partners on shifting from community engagement to community ownership.



REGIONAL RESILIENCE

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NATIONAL

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We co-create communities of practice for students, faculty, and staff who are mobilizing for resilience and experimenting with cultural strategies for a just transition.



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**Student
Leadership
Institute for
Climate
Resilience**

UCI Community Resilience postcard (2019)

Resilience-Based Organizing

Source: Movement Generation

The purpose of a regenerative economy is ecological restoration, community resilience, and social equity. Community resilience is the process by which we create the conditions for the maintenance and protection of bio-cultural diversity in the face of disruption.

Resilience-based organizing includes applying our labor to directly meet our needs through shared work, democratic self-governance and, ultimately, confronting and transforming unjust policy. These are critical ingredients for ecological restoration and community resilience.

Community-Driven Climate Resilience

Source: Movement Strategy Center

Our vision of climate resilience is not about 'bouncing back.' Instead, it is about bouncing forward to eradicate the inequities and unsustainable resource use at the heart of the climate crisis.

Climate change mitigation + adaptation + deep democracy = climate resilience

Community Resilience

Source: Rooted in Resilience

Resilience is the ability to withstand and recover from shocks to the system. A system is only as strong as its weakest part. In the face of escalating and

enough to absorb shocks, and eventually to heal the damage? Resilient communities are regenerative. They can bounce back in the face of injury and disease, restoring health to their members and their ecosystems.

Resilient communities decentralize power and knowledge, defending against debilitating vacuums created by the loss of a single charismatic leader, a single electrical station, or a single institution that that concentrates information. They are also rooted in history, in community, and in place. A commitment to building resilience requires many leaders, many sages, a dense web of interdependence, and a deep capacity for healing and renewal.



Community resilience becomes possible when...

... the community has what it needs to create conditions to maintain and protect biological and cultural diversity in the face of disruption.

– Movement Generation Justice & Ecology Project
In *Pathways to Resilience* (2013)

Student Leadership Institute for Climate Resilience, Curriculum Manual,
UCI Community Resilience (2018)

Criteria	Description
Equity	Basic human rights are guaranteed for all regardless of race, gender, income, ability, and other factors.
Quality	Basic goods and services are of good quality: healthy food, clean water, comprehensive health care, and convenient transportation.
Ecology	Natural resources are used in ways that increase the earth's ability to keep producing them in the future.
Ownership	The community controls key resources and is involved in decision-making, for example publicly owned water rights.
Diversity	The community values and protects biological and cultural diversity, and uses a diversity of systems to meet human needs.
Self-Reliance	The community provides for their basic needs and shares necessities in emergencies.

Source: Community Resilience Toolkit 2.0, Rooted in Resilience, Kirsten Schwind

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Community Resilience

Source: Rooted in Resilience

Resilience is the ability to withstand and recover from shocks to the system. A system is only as strong as its weakest part. In the face of accelerating and deepening crises of culture, economy, and ecology, how can our communities become strong and versatile enough to absorb shocks, and eventually to heal the damage? Resilient communities are regenerative. They can bounce back in the face of injury and disease, restoring health to their members and their ecosystems.

Resilient communities decentralize power and knowledge, defending against debilitating vacuums created by the loss of a single charismatic leader, a single electrical station, or a single institution that that concentrates information. They are also rooted in history, in community, and in place. A commitment to building resilience requires many leaders, many



What communities need to create conditions to maintain and protect biological and cultural diversity in the face of disruption:

...eradication of the inequities and unsustainable resource use at the heart of the climate crisis.

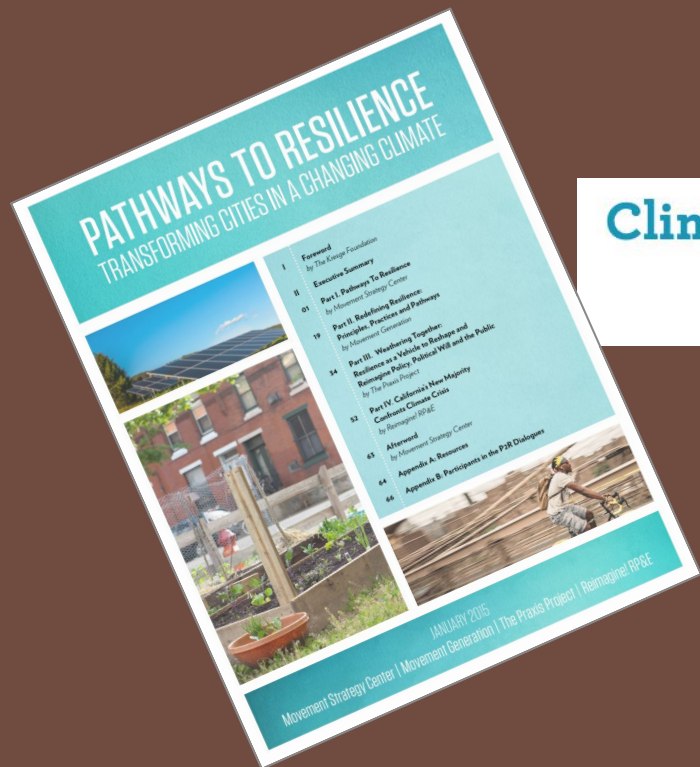
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Reframing Resilience



**Climate Change Mitigation + Adaptation +
Deep Democracy = Resilience**

*Pathways to Resilience: Transforming Cities in
a Changing Climate*, Movement Strategy
Center, Movement Generation, The Praxis
Project, Reimagine! RP&E (2015)



The opportunity for increasing community resilience is in the very process of developing a plan when those who are most vulnerable are at the heart of society's efforts to build a resilient future.

Community-Driven Climate Resilience Planning: A Framework, National Association of Climate Resilience Planners (2017)

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**Just Transition
Lawyering
Institute**

UCI Community Resilience postcard (2019)

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***Economía
Regenerativa
Comunitaria:
Santa Ana Shared
Financing
for Community
Ownership***

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**CAPECA
Pilot**

UCI Community Resilience postcard (2019)



CAPECA

WHAT: a 15-month training program in participatory, life-affirming research methods and partnerships

WHO: for 11 place-based teams of community leaders and researchers

WHERE: in climate vulnerable communities in California

WHY: to advance collaborative, community-driven, equity-focused climate action



CAPECA



**Facilitating
Power**

Partners for Collaborative Change

CSUDH

DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL WORK



THRIVE
TRAINING & CONSULTING



UCI

Community
Resilience



UC DAVIS

Center for Regional Change



UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

Carbon Neutrality
Initiative



CAPECA



CAPECA Project Team



CAPECA

PROJECT TEAM

- **Adriana Aldana**, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, CSUDH
- **Rosa Gonzalez**, Principal, Facilitating Power
- **Alana LeBrón**, Assistant Professor, Public Health & Chicano/Latino Studies, UCI
- **Abby Reyes**, Director, UCI Community Resilience
- **Levana Saxon**, Co-founder, Partners for Collaborative Change
- **Aryeh Shell**, Principal, Thrive Consulting



"Key to closing equity gaps and resolving climate vulnerability is direct participation by impacted communities in the development and implementation of solutions and policy decisions that directly impact them."

This level of participation can unleash much needed capacity, but also requires initial capacity investments across multiple sectors to strengthen our local democracies through systems changes and culture shifts."

– Rosa Gonzalez, Facilitating Power

CAPECA

Social movement frameworks that inform our approach





WHAT is the National Association of Climate Resilience Planners?

The NACRP is a multi-stakeholder, peer-learning, resource, and referral network dedicated to advancing the principles & practices of community-driven climate resilience planning.

- Members
- Facilitators
- Partners

PROBLEM



DISCONNECTION

Policies, Systems and Programs are often not rooted in the knowledge of the communities they are meant to serve

APPROACH



EQUITABLE COLLABORATION

Community-university partnership models that are rooted in equity & social justice incorporate equity into each phase of the collaborative process

OUTCOME



INFORMED ACTION & CHANGE

The goal of community-university partnerships is to use research to inform action & change

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN RESEARCH



- **POWER & CONTROL**
- **RESPONSIBILITY & OWNERSHIP**
- **PARTICIPATION**
- **INFLUENCE**

Adapted from: Hacker, K (2012) Harvard Clinical and Translational Science Center
Accessed July 2, 2012 website:
http://www.usc.edu/admin/oprs/private/docs/oprs/CER_HarvardCat.pdf

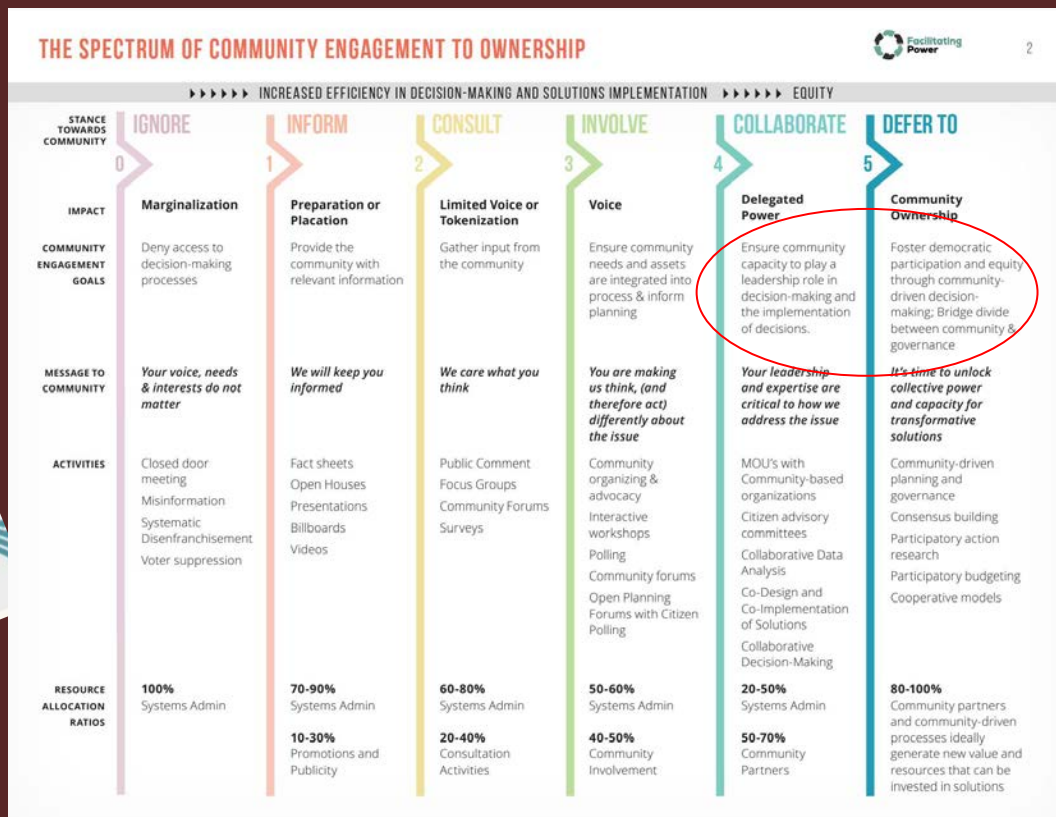


“ There is a critical difference between going through the empty ritual of participation and having the real power needed to affect the outcome of the process.....

(P)articipation without redistribution of power is an empty and frustrating process for the powerless. It allows the powerholders to claim that all sides were considered, but makes it possible for only some of those sides to benefit. It maintains the status quo.

”

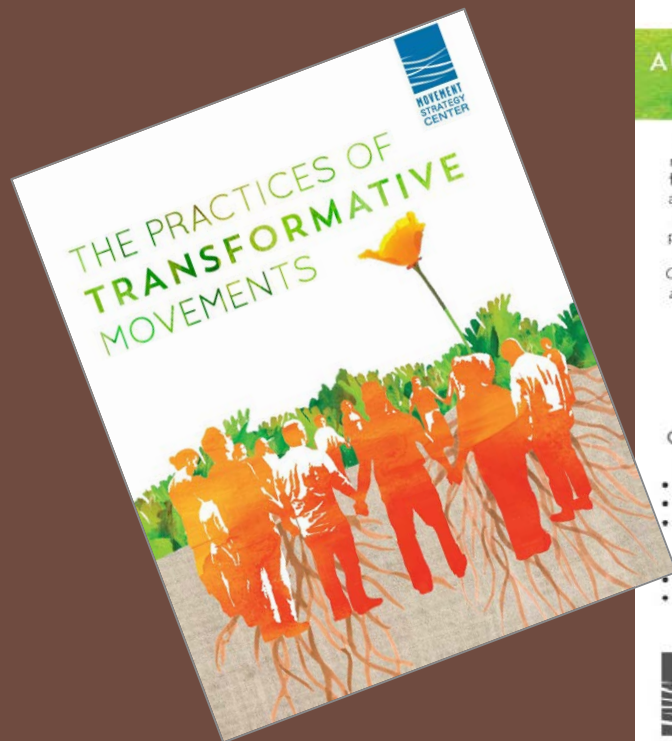
(SHERRY ARNSTEIN, LADDER OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (PAGE 216).



WHAT ARE THE PRACTICES OF TRANSFORMATIVE MOVEMENTS

That Generate Connection, Community, & Transformational Resilience?

Strategic Navigation is the capacity to generate collective direction and action in complexity and uncertainty. Strategic Navigation becomes possible when we have audacious vision & commitment, deep embodiment, and radical connection.



AUDACIOUS VISION

Transition practice recognizes that the future can guide us and that we are not constrained to the present or the past.

Q: What do we want and how deeply do we want it?

VISION & COMMITMENT PRACTICES

- Core purpose
- Wholeness
- Courageous responsibility
- Possibility
- Future narrative
- The long view

EMBODIMENT: WHOLE PERSON / PROACTIVE STANCE

Transition practice recognizes that embodiment is crucial to ensure that we have access to all the capacities we need.

Q: Who do we need to be to bring about the world we want and need? What do we need to consciously practice to be the people who reflect the vision?

EMBODIMENT PRACTICES

- Broad awareness
- Proactive stance
- Generate and move energy
- Agility
- Rhythm
- Relational Power
- Creativity and play
- Interrupting habits and redirecting towards a path forward

RADICAL CONNECTION

Transition practice recognizes that everything gets done through relationships and nothing gets done without them.

Q: How are we connected? How do we honor our connections? What is the "We"?

RELATIONSHIP PRACTICES

- Margins to Center: Recognizing and reversing exclusion, isolation, and marginalization.
- Radical connection and Love
- Build the "Bigger We" and move with those who are ready (small teams)
- Recognition of interdependence
- Recognition of / making space to heal from harm

STRATEGIC NAVIGATION

Commitment to practice & action! The three foundational transition practices make strategic navigation possible.

Q: How do we make choices that bring our whole selves, whole communities forward within changing and unpredictable conditions?

NAVIGATION PRACTICES

- Many Paths up the Mountain
- Big Leaps
- Networked Action
- Setting & re-setting; learning as we go and adapting as we learn
- Decisiveness
- Stories of navigation
- Leadership for the whole
- Translating values into technical implementation





Roles

within community-university partnerships for community-driven research

Roles

within community-
university partnerships
for community-driven
research



Roles	Definition
Local Community Researchers	Community members directly impacted by the issues, including community scholars
Facilitators	Whoever is taking responsibility to guide each meeting and ensure the goals for that meeting are met
Allied Collaborators	Experts in the field, academic researchers, other stakeholders, community leaders, current or potential future coalition members and community members who may or may not have the capacity to commit to the entire process but want to support when they can
Team	All Local Community Researchers, Facilitators, Allied Collaborators
Allies	Relevant supporters and peers, not part of the team

CAPECA Content Overview



Community expertise

How to **honor existing expertise** and **build capacity** of community-based leaders who are rooted in impacted communities that are directly affected by local, city, or municipal climate planning



Partnership

How to **connect** community-driven climate justice and resilience efforts with university researchers and students, and **strengthen** those partnerships



Co-created methods

How to co-create various methods to establish **community-driven analysis to inform strategies** rooted in **community knowledge** through meaningful participation in research project design and throughout project execution



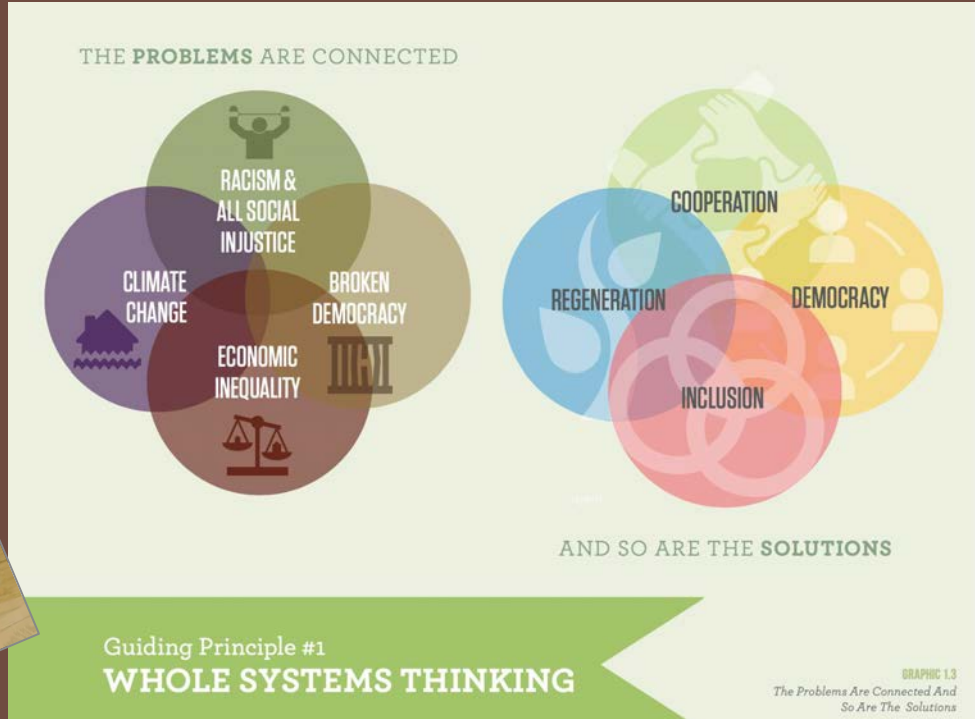
community voice

How to surface and give voice to the **priorities, visions, goals and strategies** of impacted communities as they relate to equity-focused climate action

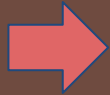


whole systems thinking

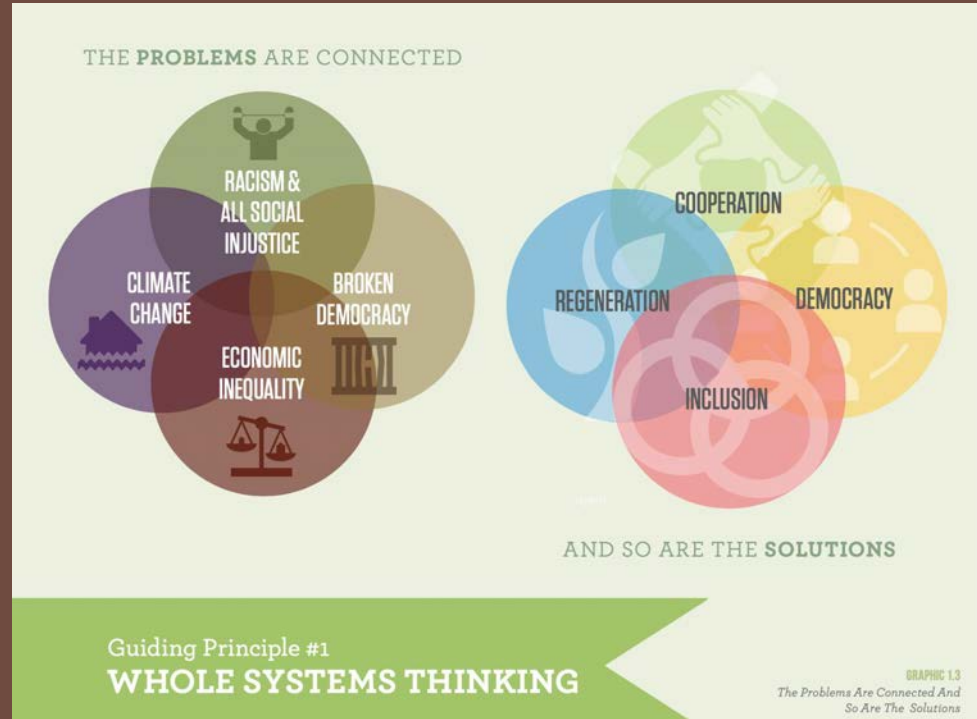
How to support the cohort to **expand** what issues are included in “climate” and “climate justice” research and action, who gets to participate, and how; how to **"de-silo"** and see the interconnections between people, places, and systems



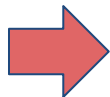
Community-Driven Climate Resilience Planning: A Framework, National Association of Climate Resilience Planners (2017).



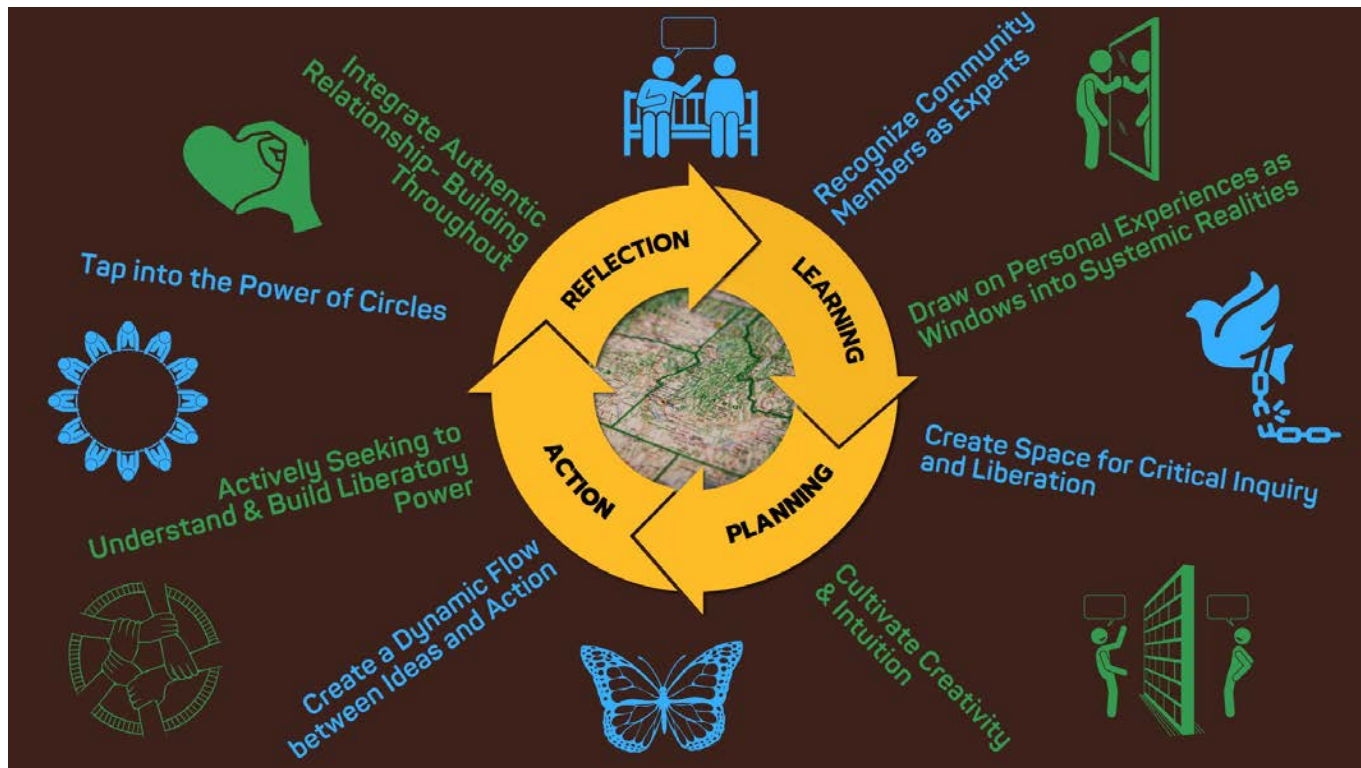
But how do people get at whole systems thinking?

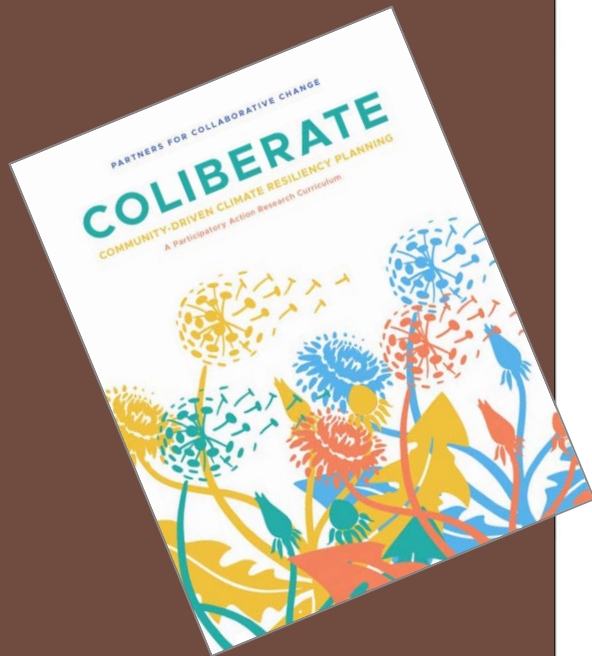


Community-Driven Climate Resilience Planning: A Framework, National Association of Climate Resilience Planners (2017).



Design Principles of Popular Education





WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH?

To explain what Participatory Action Research is, let's break down what is meant by each word. In this context:

Participatory means that the people who are most impacted, sometimes called frontline communities, participate in every single aspect of the whole project as early as possible. Action Research, without Participatory can mean that the people with the greatest stake are brought in half-way to give input and conduct surveys - but they didn't write or conceive of the project themselves.

Action means that the plans or reports you produce can't just sit on a shelf collecting dust. Action means that something is changed because of this work, in a real way.

Research means getting your questions answered really well. By really well we mean that you talk to a lot of people and gather a lot of perspectives, experience and wisdom. Then you look at it all together to find patterns in what you learned to inform your actions.

It's a model of community organizing that builds the capacity of people on the frontline of a problem to take leadership in creating the change they want.

PAR comes from Popular Education

WHAT IS POPULAR EDUCATION?

Popular education is an approach to education where participants engage each other and the educator as co-learners. It begins with sharing what is most pressing on peoples' hearts and minds, and finding commonalities among the group. It then connects those shared struggles with patterns and structures found in society in order to develop a critical understanding of why those shared issues exist and what might be done to overcome them.

The words "Popular Education" are often misused to describe any education "for the people" where the educators take complex information and simplify it or make it entertaining in order to facilitate easy "absorption". But this is the opposite of Popular Education. This simplifying and "watering down" of content is rooted in the idea that the educators are experts while the students are empty, passive memorizers. With Popular Education, the educator and learners are all peers, exploring together and making meaning of their personal and collective challenges in order to overcome them. See the section on Facilitation for Collaboration on pg. 39 for some Popular Education principles.

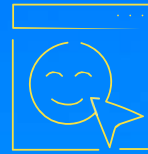
Coliberate Methods



Creative Inquiry



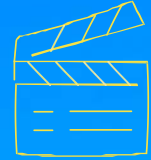
Systems Thinking



Photovoice Gallery



Interviews



Forum Theater



Asking Questions to Power



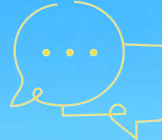
Team-Building



Story to Strategy Mapping



Community Re-Mapping



Focus Groups



Community Events



Funalysis

FORUM THEATER

ORIGIN Theater of the oppressed, Augusto Boal

PURPOSE Community-driven problem solving

CONTENT Based on real-life situations yet exaggerated to shine a light on subtle yet harmful dynamics

PROCESS

1) Show the problem,



2) analyze the problem



3) try out interventions



4) Choose interventions to apply in real life



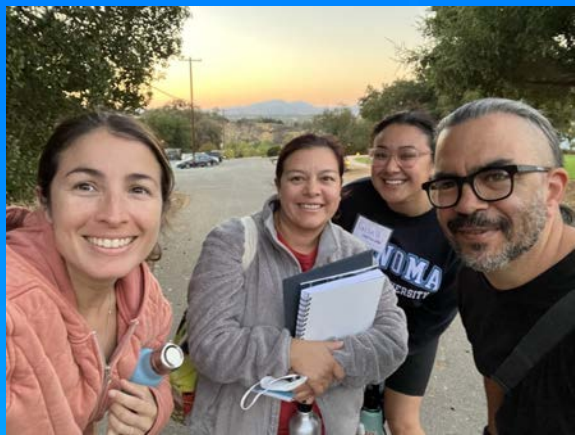
11 CAPECA Teams



Del Paso Heights Growers' Alliance
Communities for a New CA Education Fund
Mycelium Youth Network
Pacoima Beautiful
Groundwork San Diego (Earth Lab)
THRIVE Community Land Trust; CRECE
North Bay Organizing Project
San Joaquin COG; Reinvent S. Stockton Coalition
Regeneracion Pajaro Valley
West Oakland Cultural Action Network
Yolo County Climate Action Commission

Sacramento
East Coachella Valley
San Francisco
Los Angeles
San Diego
Santa Ana
Santa Rosa
South Stockton
Watsonville
Oakland
Yolo County

UC Davis
UC Irvine
CSU Dominguez Hills
UC Los Angeles
UC San Diego
UC Irvine
CSU Sonoma
UC Davis
UC Santa Cruz
UC Berkeley
UC Davis

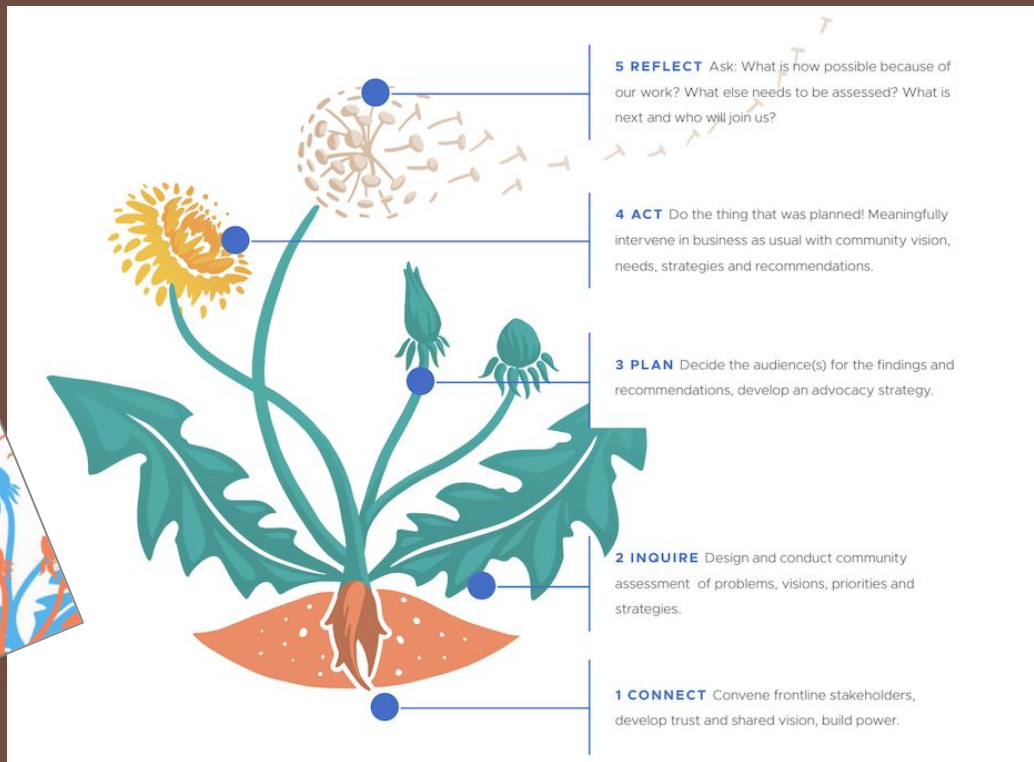
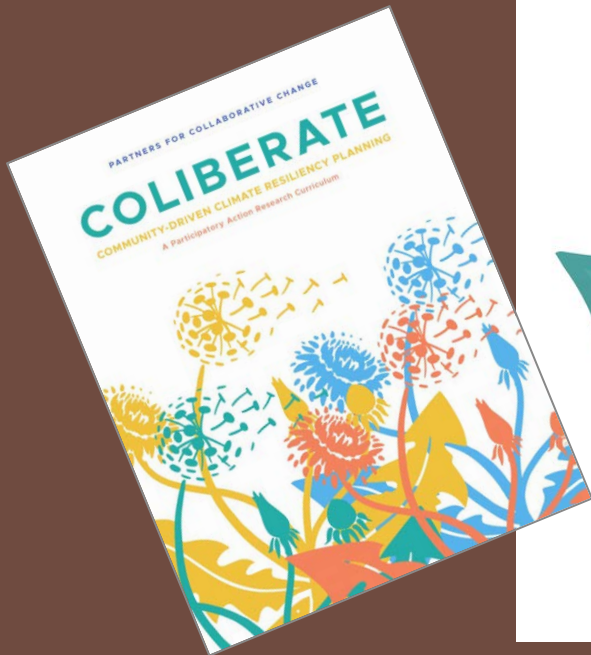


Some of the CAPECA Teams



Images from a CAPECA training, Fall 2022

Coliberate Flower of Praxis



CAPECA TIMELINE

October 2022 - June 2024

Monthly mini-trainings, peer consultancies, coaching & site visits (virtual + in person)



2023 Training Schedule

January 19 1:30 - 4 pm	• <i>Refresher on Team Formation + Training on Budget Planning and Fundraising</i>
February 24 1:30 - 4 pm	• <i>Peer Consultancy + Mini Training on Building Power from the Outset and Sustaining Energy/Momentum</i>
March 15 1:30 - 4 pm	• <i>Group Facilitation Skills and Principles with a focus on Climate Justice Framing, Power Dynamics, and Transformation of Conflict</i>
April 7 10 - 11:30 am	• <i>Peer Consultancy on Facilitation Challenges</i>
April 24 1:30 - 4 pm	• <i>Community-Driven Climate Resilience Planning and Research Design</i>
June 10 - 12	• <i>In-Person Training on Entering Stage 2: Research Methodology and Design</i>
Monthly Ongoing	• <i>Coaching Sessions</i>
July - December 2023	• <i>TBD sessions on Stages 2 (inquiry), 3 (planning), and 4 (action) of the CAPECA Process</i>
Beyond December 2023	• <i>Option to continue in CAPECA Cohort to complete Stages 4 (action) and 5 (reflection)</i>

**COMMUNITY-ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS TO
ADVANCE EQUITY-FOCUSED CLIMATE ACTION**

CAPECA



IN-PERSON TRAINING: JUNE 10-12, 2023

Research Methodology & Design
for Community-Driven, Equity-
focused Climate Action

PURPOSE & DESIRED OUTCOMES

The purpose of this training is to prepare your team to go back to the wider community in the near term and facilitate a process to co-design your research process.*

Desired Outcomes

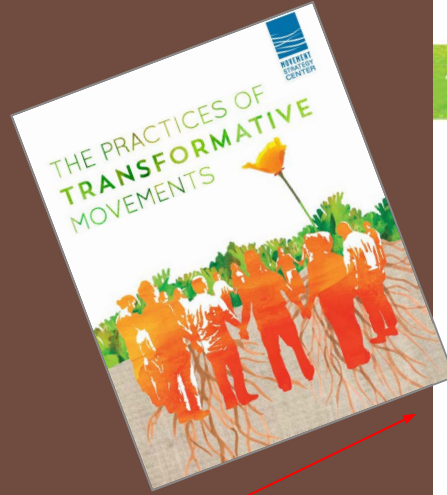
Rooted in your team's ongoing efforts to lay the groundwork (CAPECA Stage 0) and connect (CAPECA Stage 1), this training will focus on methods of the inquiry stage (Stage 2) of the CAPECA Process.

- **Tools and techniques** for collaboratively developing research questions, goals, methods, and process for collecting and analyzing data
- **A POP statement** (purpose, desired outcomes, and proposed process) for co-developing your research design in community
- **An increased sense of who** to continue to recruit to inform your research design process

**NOTE: there is no expectation that teams will already be entering the inquiry stage. Wherever you are in the process, this training will prepare you to begin the inquiry stage with your team when it is time.*



Designing for Transformation



Through popular education and community-driven PAR methods

Through stance of accompaniment

WHAT ARE THE PRACTICES OF TRANSFORMATIVE MOVEMENTS That Generate Connection, Community, & Transformational Resilience? <i>Strategic Navigation is the capacity to generate collective direction and action in complexity and uncertainty. Strategic Navigation becomes possible when we have audacious vision & commitment, deep embodiment, and radical connection.</i>			
AUDACIOUS VISION	EMBODIMENT: WHOLE PERSON / PROACTIVE STANCE	RADICAL CONNECTION	STRATEGIC NAVIGATION
Transition practice recognizes that the future can guide us and that we are not constrained to the present or the past. <i>Q: What do we want and how deeply do we want it?</i> VISION & COMMITMENT PRACTICES • Core purpose • Wholeness • Courageous responsibility • Possibility • Future narrative • The long view	Transition practice recognizes that embodiment is crucial to ensure that we have access to all the capacities we need. <i>Q: Who do we need to be to bring about the world we want and need? What do we need to consciously practice to be the people who reflect the vision?</i> EMBODIMENT PRACTICES • Broad awareness • Proactive stance • Generate and move energy • Agility • Rhythm • Relational Power • Creativity and play • Interrupting habits and redirecting towards a path forward	Transition practice recognizes that everything gets done through relationships and nothing gets done without them. <i>Q: How are we connected? How do we honor our connections? What is the "We"?</i> RELATIONSHIP PRACTICES • Margins to Center: Recognizing and reversing exclusion, isolation, and marginalization. • Radical connection and Love • Build the "Bigger We" and move with those who are ready (small teams) • Recognition of interdependence • Recognition of / making space to heal from harm	Commitment to practice & action! The three foundational transition practices make strategic navigation possible. <i>Q: How do we make choices that bring our whole selves, whole communities forward within changing and unpredictable conditions?</i> NAVIGATION PRACTICES • Many Paths up the Mountain • Big Leaps • Networked Action • Setting & re-setting; learning as we go and adapting as we learn • Decisiveness • Stories of navigation • Leadership for the whole • Translating values into technical implementation

Through community-driven climate resilience planning approach

Through roles definition and practice

Curiosities

Where do social movement frameworks and popular education methods fit in answering this workshop's charge to enable a resilient civic body?

What would it take to scale a pilot like CAPECA?

Observations and Paradoxes

- Communities can't wait
- We are in collective acceleration - need to move with those who are ready
- Many academics use these methods - need to find, support, and learn from them
- Accompaniment is a skill and a stance learned in relationship
- Slow down to go fast
- 'Locus of knowledge production has shifted off campus'
- Shift of power includes shift in material resources



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