



ECOLOGICAL BELONGING

WHAT IS ECOLOGICAL BELONGING?

We are in a moment that is being described as one of crisis or polycrisis that will require many responses. But all of those responses will be limited and inadequate without a shift in how we live *in relation* to the rest of the natural world and to each other. A sustainable human future depends on changing our orientation.

Ecological belonging is living in an ongoing interconnected relationship with ourselves, each other and our broader natural world. For most of human history we have done that through storytelling, ritual and practice. This ‘invisible architecture’ made meaning, focused attention, connected communities with themselves and their natural environment, and enabled respectful relationship with all life.

It centered relationality and interconnection.

In the last three to five hundred years the world has lost this invisible architecture, either entirely or in ways that have largely emptied it of meaning. Our great societal challenges are a direct outgrowth of this loss. The need for renewing ecological belonging, meaning and purpose, has never been clearer.

This work is about exploring and **renewing** this invisible architecture, re-weaving it into our daily lives, and **re-centering** relationships—with communities, the land, and the planet—as core to a hopeful future.

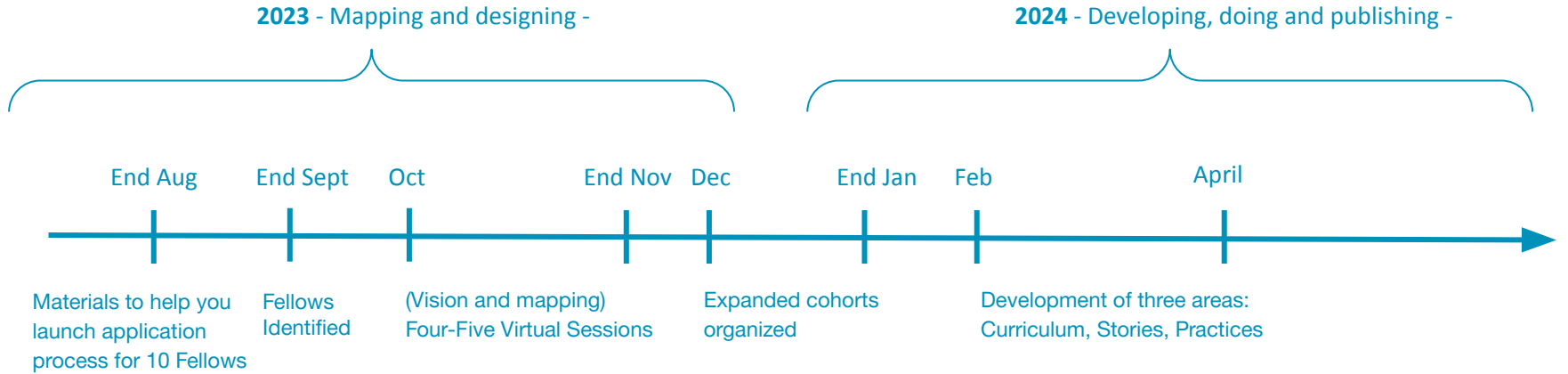
ECOLOGICAL BELONGING (2023 - 2026)

- **Stories**
 - How might we create a positive environmental narrative of the future?
 - How does that translate into the stories we tell ourselves?
- **Practices**
 - How might we change the way we live?
 - How might new and revitalized *rituals* help capture new relationships among people, communities and the planet?
- **Learning**
 - How might these be woven into a new ecological paradigm of education to support the people that are building new ways of living?
 - How to support new kinds of changemakers weaving this invisible architecture ?

WHAT IS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS?

- **Fellows**
 - 10-15 students at each of the 5 universities to be chosen as Fellows.
 - Opportunity to do a deeper dive:
 - Longer program with dives into topics that may eventually become part of curriculum.
 - Leadership role to engage a broader community of 40-50 students at their University.
 - Possibility of an in person meeting in 2024.
 - Attendance at the Global Wellbeing Summit in 2025.
 - Certificate for the Fellowship from Georgetown University and credit from their universities.
- **Expand to up to 40-50 students and several faculty at each campus**
 - Opportunity to participate in a structured way into cutting edge interdisciplinary work ranging from mapping to experimentation.
- **Expand to the broader group of 100 universities (mid 2024)**

TIMELINE



Development of three areas: Curriculum, Stories, Practices

- The Arts will be woven in from the outset with a large scale collaboration with MIT Media Lab. This will involve an exploration of individual, organisational, societal and planetary wellbeing in the form of conversation and music that will be translated into an ongoing piece of music.
- Other partners are developing work to go alongside this work that will include research (e.g. Stanford University) and gatherings (e.g. Regional Wellbeing Summits focused on Ecological Belonging)

ECOLOGICAL BELONGING PANEL



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Thank you