

# THE YOUTH & ELDERS PROJECT

FOSTERING CULTURAL MATURITY, MENTORSHIPS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE GLOBE



[WWW.YOUTHANDELDERS.ORG](http://WWW.YOUTHANDELDERS.ORG)

## EXCHANGES

There's a need to tap the untapped potential between youth & elders.

That's why we have made it our mission to help clarify the unique and diverse value in being human in all stages of life. Only by combining the push for change with the wisdom of maturity can we tackle the challenges of our time.



## OUR VISION

We have a vision for a future where we live in mature societies shaped by a mature culture; a tomorrow where individuals help each other step into their highest potential, where Youth act out their passion for shaping the realities they inhabit and where Elders step into their wisdom to hold space for the generations that are emerging. - - a world in which the dominant culture that we adhere to is not one of consumption or shallow self-satisfaction, but service of a greater common intention to shine brilliance on possibility in our world.

In support of this vision, we want to cultivate and facilitate active stewards; people who work to positively shape the world. We are making a space to hold a series of explorations of these crucial issues, inviting activists from all spans of life. We seek those ready to support each other's projects, and collectively illuminate a better future.

The exploration asks fundamental questions about our current culture through the lens of maturity. Are we acting as mature stewards of our planet? And if not, how can we individually and collectively step into our responsibility for each other and for the ecosystems of the planet we inhabit?

*"All organisms and systems progress through developmental stages from infancy to maturity. The immature and adolescent stages are characterised by expansion growth: increase in size and strength (and appetite and ambitions), by testing of limits and often by activity for the sake of itself, without reflection or awareness of impacts. At some point expansion growth shifts to growth of finer detail, of complexity and relationships. Activity does not stop and energy exchange continues, but it shifts towards increased resilience, understanding and complexity or relationships.*

*The basis of increased sustainability, in all sectors, includes a recognition of limits to expansion, and a re-focus of agenda towards resilience and relationships. Diversity and complexity are the hallmarks of this transition."*

## OUR MISSION

It's our mission to:

- Reinvigorate hope for sustainable responses to current crises;
- Build strong relationships between Youth and Elders, between fresh energy and passion and deep insight and experience;
- Renew the drive for wholeness in our actions, of embodying intergenerational exchange in our individual next steps.

We do this by creating and facilitating intergenerational exchanges for change makers from all walks of life. We create microcosms of the world we inhabit to allow our participants to personally experience some of the complex dynamics in play in our world. Together we explore the potential of intergenerational collaboration for sustainability, and seek ways in which we can step into our individual and collective brilliance. Coming back from a Youth & Elders exchange leaves you filled with ideas, a desire to collaborate and rich on embodied intergenerational exchange. Our exchanges inspire minds, hearts and will to be open while keeping grounded so we can learn how to move beyond concepts and words and into action.

The Youth & Elders project host journeys of self-discovery. They fill you with inspiration and send you home with new ideas and concrete steps to take. A journey of playful exploration and deep sharing - where youth and elders mirror and discover each other, and together step into their potential for contributing to a common goal.

Participants will:

- Challenge their assumptions and expand their horizons;
- Experience principles of dialogue and storytelling, of creativity and of decision making;
- Explore mentoring abilities and personal growth;
- Together define next steps into action that embodies the wisdom of all generations;
- Play, perform, create and be inspired

All our explorations seek to ripple out and form the basis for a culture of connectedness and stewardship, where people encourage each other to step into their highest potential in the service of creating the projects and ideas that will safeguard the planet we inhabit for generations to come.

## STRONG VOICES FOR THE PROJECT

*"I love to stay connected to this project, as the conversation about wisdom, walking towards maturity, eldership, stewardship and working together — as youth and elders, across all types of dimensions — really calls me."*

Mary-Alice Arthur, New Zealand  
Originator, Art of Hosting

*"I hope these voyages of discovery will seed a global movement to bring youth and elders together on behalf of our beloved planet and our common futures."*

Juanita Brown, San Francisco and North Carolina  
Co-Founder at The World Cafe

*"We live in a world that has lost the art of managing time. The more 'developed' we become, the more harassed and 'time poor' our culture becomes. We have lost the long view, the understanding of sustainability over at least seven generations. The Youth and Elder project honours the role of the elder in our culture and restores our appreciation of time."*

- Maddy Harland, United Kingdom  
Editor of the Permaculture Magazine

*"We the Maori believe in inter-generational teaching and learning. Communication is always across generations because we are all learners and teachers."*

Rangimarie Turuki Pere, Waikaremoana, New Zealand  
Maori Elder and Wisdom Keeper

To hear more about opportunities for intergenerational exchange, to support our project team or for more information about The Youth & Elders Project, contact:



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**“AN INTERGENERATIONAL CREW OF 30 PEOPLE, YOUTH AND ELDERS, LEAVE THE GERMAN SHORE TO NAVIGATE THE BALTIC SEA. THEY EMBARK ON THE EXPLORATION OF THE QUEST; HOW MIGHT WE CREATE A MORE MATURE SOCIETY?”.**

**EVERY NEW RELATIONSHIP IS A SEED OF  
HOPE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW**