Narrative Artistry

An ILALI Living Praxis Community for Imagination and Initiation

Narrative Artistry Living Praxis Community

NARRATIVE ARTISTRY
imagination

ILALI's Narrative Artistry Living Praxis Community (NALPC) is dedicated to the transformative power of story, art, and cultural expression. Using diverse artistic media and transmedia storytelling, NALPC frames our planetary metacrisis as a rite of passage, inspiring narratives that re-imagine our personal and collective worlds. In doing so, it challenges us to ask: **What is dying, emerging, and blooming** in our cultural, socio-political, and ecological landscapes?

For NALPC storytelling is a way to explore, re-envision, and re-inhabit the world. We work with artists, poets, musicians, filmmakers, and community leaders to cultivate stories that:

- **Engage complexity**—honoring the nuances of history, identity, and place.
- **Reframe challenges**—transforming crisis into an invitation for growth and renewal.
- **Bridge worlds**—integrating diverse lineages of creativity, emerging paradigms, and healing.
- **Activate imagination**—envisioning liberatory futures that restore balance and kinship.

ILALI's plans for NALPC in 2025 include hosting three gatherings to formally establish NALPC, creating a performance venue (**"Heart Sprung Tongues"**) and launching an transmedia art project and ceremonial offering. This integrative offering will explore the **theme of initiatory imagination and regenerative futures** and feature a mural, interactive sculpture, music, dance, poetry, film, and graphic design.

March 2025 Inaugural Gathering | March 1, 2025 | 10am - 2pm | Landwell Upper Yurt

The March 2025 gathering at Landwell marks a pivotal moment for NALPC. ILALI, which is rooted at Landwell and co-stewards this ancient wetland valley, serves as a 22-acre wayfinding place for regenerative living, cultural innovation, and community resilience. During the gathering, participants will be introduced to ILALI and its wayfinding methodology. An arts facilitation process will guide an agenda centered on formation, fellowship, food, and futurism. This gathering follows and builds upon the day-long ILALI workshop for Landwell residents and an evening launch of ILALI's Hot Sprung Tongues performance venue. Confirmed attendees include: Ras K'dee, Jason Bayani, Lynne Morrow, Anita Stubenrauch, Carmen Leilani De Jesus, Julia Maryanska, Mari Shibuya, Miriam Bolender, Alexx Temeña, Alexander Kugler, Lo Brown, Amanda Nagai, **and** Mark Farrell

About ILALI

The Innovative Learning and Living Institute (ILALI) is a nonprofit organization and social ecosystem stewarding regenerative and equitable futures through **immersive learning and knowledge cultivation, coaching and consulting, and bioregional leadership initiatives**. At the heart of ILALI's framework is its **wayfinding methodology,** designed to help systems thinkers, change-makers, and community stewards navigate emergence and transformation.

Wayfinding is structured recursively around four distinct yet integrated elements:

1. **Generative Narratives** – Offering truthful, equitable, and aspirational narratives that reframe challenging life conditions as invitations for engagement and transformation.
2. **Embodied Practices** – Cultivating a deeper realization of self, others, and place through somatic, social, emotional, and ecological awareness practices that restore, resource, and build capacity.
3. **Enabling Perspectives** – Exploring, inhabiting, and integrating diverse worldviews to support sense-making and decision-making that depolarizes and bridges communities.
4. **Emergent Play** – Determining the next steps for engagement and co-creation by employing appropriate scientific, social, and sacred technologies (e.g., AI, liberating structures, meditation)

Wayfinding adapts to nonprofits, corporations, universities, think tanks, activist and Indigenous networks, retreat centers, and foundations. By centering the **metacrisis as both initiatory context and catalyst**, ILALI fosters new ways of learning and living, enhancing meaning-making, sense-making, and decision-making across diverse communities, organizations, and bioregions.

Living Praxis Communities

ILALI's eight Living Praxis Communities (LPCs) inform its four core initiatives in distinct ways. As a collective, LPCs operate as a multidimensional think-and-do tank for the **Navella Center**, which focuses on bioregional capacity building. **Wayfinders** translates this collective knowledge into immersive curricula for its residencies and workshops. **Landwell** incorporates these ideas as program areas for its public event offerings, informing their living model of regenerative practice. **Kinship Blooms** works with these insights through meta-inquiries that inspire/support movement actors. **ILALI's eight LPCs include**:

- **Narrative Artistry (Imagination)** – employs diverse artistic media to generate narratives that frame our planetary metacrisis as a rite of passage, inspiring innovative expressions that reflect and shape the dynamic cycles of what is dying, emerging and blooming in our worlds.

- **Inhabited Learning (Habitat)** – engages in immersive, place-based learning that grows kinship and cultivates an embodied sense of home through restoration and the reintroduction of traditional ecological knowledge and ancestral skills.
- **Wisdom Economies (Currencies)** – explores emerging and alternative forms of value exchange by integrating insights from decolonized philanthropy, blended value frameworks, local and Indigenous economies, distributed ledger technologies, and money psychology
- **Integrative Technologies (Innovation)** – examines the epistemological, methodological, and ontological dimensions of rapid scientific technological developments, emphasizing the ethical importance and creative potential of integrating social and sacred technologies.
- **Sacred Architecture (Wisdom)** – unites wisdom-keepers from diverse lineage traditions to collectively explore how sacred technologies and subtle energetics can assess, heal, and cultivate healthy communities, organizations, and lands.
- **Social Ecotoning (Relationship)** – explores methods for healthy boundaries and bridging diverse communities through worldview literacy, shadow integration, and conflict transformation.
- **Kinship Leadership (Governance)** – studies and practices different forms of leadership and stewardship, adapting to different contexts, conditions, and worldviews.
- **Transformative Practices (Embodiment)** - explores diverse cultural traditions and transformative modalities that deepen the embodied realization of self, others, and place through various somatic, social, emotional, shadow, and sacred practices.

Together, these Living Praxis Communities form the dynamic foundation of ILALI's transformative work, converting collective knowledge into actionable strategies for regenerative futures. They embody our commitment to integrative learning, leadership, and stewardship.

ILALI Leadership Team

M. Rako Fabionar is a seasoned community educator, consultant, and leadership guide with over two decades of experience designing innovative learning environments. As Executive Director of ILALI, he bridges scientific, social, and sacred technologies to shape transformative programs for young adults, change-makers, and social entrepreneurs. He has developed educational centers within the California State University system, taught at Presidio Graduate School, and worked with leaders in organizations like Google, Cultural Survival and Esalen A founding member of the Guild of Future Architects and Salmon Nation, and an initiated medicine man in the Dagara lineage, Rako is a co-steward of Landwell, a 22-acre wayfinding place for regenerative living, cultural innovation, and community resilience.
Sonali Sangeeta Balajee is founder of SSoMA (Spiritual-Social Medicinal Apothecary) and Our Bodhi Project. As a mother, artist, organizer, and mindfulness instructor, she champions transformative change at the intersection of belonging, equity, and collective health through holistic strategies in youth

development, environmental justice, and resource mobilization. Sonali is a Bioneers board member and former senior fellow of the Othering and Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley

Zanette Johnson, PhD is a learning scientist, neuroscientist, dancer, and dharma practitioner who designs for life from a place of joy. Her two decades with Indigenous learning communities have shown her that values alignment, embodiment, and deep integration are keys to lasting transformation, inspiring her to create new patterns of relationship, resilience, and regenerativity in living systems design. She is the Co-Director of New Stories, an organization that holds a vision for amplifying the patterns of interdependence that will give rise to a regenerative future.

Gabi Jubran is a social entrepreneur, Bay Area native, and proud Palestinian dedicated to building the cultural conditions for liberation and prosperity. He reimagines education as a transformative journey of belonging, inspiring people to feel at home in every aspect of their lives—from their bodies and relationships to their neighborhoods, bioregions, Mother Earth, and the cosmos. As the founder of HAPPI (Helping Awesome People Prosper Intentionally), Gabi empowers communities to thrive, connect, and create intentional pathways for growth and healing.

Donna Morton is an artist, activist, and entrepreneur dedicated to regenerative finance and social justice. She co-created the Edge Finance Accelerator, served as entrepreneur-in-residence with Salmon Nation, and co-founded Change Finance, which launched the first 100% fossil-free, high social justice ETF, while earning recognition as an Ashoka, Ogunte, and Unreasonable Fellow.

Kelsey Moss, PhD is an assistant professor at USC's School of Religion, a scholar of religious encounter whose work spans African Diasporic and indigenous spiritual traditions, intersections of science and spirituality, and the reclamation of ancestral wisdom—drawing on her Black, Native, and European heritage to examine legacies of racial and spiritual violence. Her healing practice, informed by training in mindfulness, energy healing, somatic therapy, shamanic ritual, and neurofeedback, includes certification in Innerlight Energy Balancing Therapy and ancestral healing in the Dagara tradition.

Brenda Salgado is an author, wisdom keeper, and consultant specializing in transformative spiritual development, nonprofit management, and community health. Trained with elders in traditional medicine and holding degrees in Biology, Psychology, and Animal Behavior, Brenda draws on nature's healing power to guide her work. As Founder of Nepantla Healing and Consulting, she has led initiatives at the East Bay Meditation Center and Wisdom & Money while serving on multiple boards. Author of *Real World Mindfulness for Beginners*, Brenda is dedicated to fostering racial, land, and ancestral healing, sacred economics, and the integration of mindfulness with indigenous teachings.

Angelo Williams, EdD is the Chief Deputy Director of First 5 California, where he leads initiatives to improve the lives of children and families through policy, advocacy, and programs. With over 20 years of experience in public service, government, philanthropy, and education, he employs a holistic, collaborative approach to address complex issues in health, education, justice, and wealth. His executive roles include positions at the California Black Health Network, the California Student Aid Commission, the California School Boards Association, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and he also shares his

expertise as a faculty lecturer and adjunct professor. Angelo is dedicated to fostering strategic communications and workshops that engage diverse stakeholders and drive collective action.