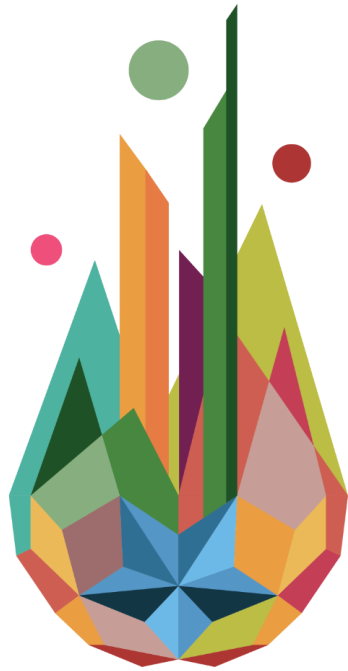


Welcome to Design Science Studio!



DESIGN
SCIENCE
STUDIO

- Enrollment Packet -
coheART 4 (2025-2026)

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Program Technology



Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions

Registration, Payment & Scholarships

Q: How much does the program cost? How do scholarships work?

A: The program cost is a sliding scale, pay what you can \$2,400-\$3,800 for the 7-month incubator. The Global South Solidarity tuition is \$1,200. Limited partial scholarships (25%, 50%, or 75% off) available. Aid is based on income, background, and personal situation.

Q: How do I apply for financial assistance or a scholarship?

A: Submit the financial aid form we provide. We'll review your circumstances and do our best to support you.

Q: Is this expected to be a yearly donation or a one-time payment?

A: Your payment covers the (r)Evolutionary membership for the coheART, which is a one-time payment. Afterward, there's an opportunity to join the Alumni Program on an ongoing basis.

Q: Can I pay in installments or create a custom payment plan?

A: Yes. We have installment options available with a co-signer (monthly plans or split payments). Custom plans may include a small admin fee to cover costs.

Q: Can I make extra payments if I'm able, or pay less upfront and finish later?

A: Yes. You can add extra payments anytime through the portal, or discuss reduced upfront + balance payments with us.

Q: Do both members of my team need to pay separately?

A: Yes, each participant must register and pay separately.

Q: What is the refund policy if I need to exit the program?

A:

- Full refund: up to the end of the first week.
- 50% refund: before the start of the third week.
- No refunds: after the third week begins.

Q: Where do I find all the essential program information after registering?

A: In the coheART portal. You'll receive your login info via onboarding email after being accepted into the program and completing registration.

Q: Can I sponsor someone else's scholarship?

A: Yes! Donations can be made directly through our portal. For contributions of \$10,000 or more, contact us so we can provide proper receipts.

Program Details & Commitment

Q: What's the time commitment for the program?

A: The curriculum runs mid-December through late-June 2026.

- Two mandatory group sessions per week., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 am-10 am PT
- Four online showcases per program.
- Optional special events: fireside chats, design sprints, hackathon, unconferences, retreats, critiques, etc.

Q: What does the curriculum look like?

A: The Design Science Studio is more than just a program — it is an incubator for art, design, and systems change projects. Our curriculum is intentionally experimental and integrative, designed to stretch creative practice while providing a strong foundation in systems-level thinking. We blend approaches such as design thinking, systems thinking, anticipatory design science, and a wide range of innovative frameworks to create a space where both deep learning and human flourishing can occur. This is not just about building knowledge — it's about cultivating a nourishing environment that supports your creativity, relationships, and overall well-being.

We explore **core meta-topics** and how those map to your work through learning segments called **Holons**. Holons are designed to give you both focus and community, balancing individual exploration with collective learning experiences. Within these groups, participants dive into themes and practices that expand both imagination and application.

Some of the areas you'll encounter include:

- **Futurism & Worldbuilding:** Envisioning possible futures and creating narratives that guide transformative action.
- **Activism & Culture-Shifting Art:** Leveraging art as a catalyst for social change and cultural transformation.

- **Planetary Challenges & Solutions:** Understanding the crises we face and developing regenerative responses.
- **Gamification & Participatory Design:** Making learning and collaboration engaging, accessible, and co-created.
- **Biophilic Design & Living Systems:** Reconnecting creative work with ecological principles and the wisdom of natural systems.
- **Buckminster Fuller's Principles:** Applying Bucky's tools for comprehensive anticipatory design science.
- **Traditional Ecological Knowledge & Decolonization:** Honoring indigenous and ancestral wisdom, and dismantling colonial frameworks.
- **Ontological & Experience Design:** Exploring how reality is shaped through perception, language, and lived experience.
- **Social & Systems Change:** Building capacity to influence structures, policies, and networks toward regenerative futures.
- **And more!**

Throughout the program, you'll engage not only with theory but also with practice: hands-on projects, showcases, peer critiques, and collaborative design sprints. The curriculum is built to meet you where you are — whether you bring an established project or are developing one during the program — and to give you the frameworks, tools, and supportive environment to take your work to the next level.

Q: What does the program offer?

A: A rich curriculum, an incubation container for your creative offerings, professional and peer mentoring, digital community platform, showcases, resources, opportunities through our pARTners and potential funding opportunities.

Q: Who is part of the team, and how was the program created?

A: The Studio was co-founded by Roxi Shohadaee, Amanda Joy Ravenhill, Faith Flanigan, and Nicolas Alcalá. The team also includes Bliss Alberts (Community and Program Manager), Eve Rose (Volunteer Coordinator), Ari Lazer (Administrative Design Manager), and many other team members and advisors/pARTners (e.g., Buckminster Fuller Institute, Burners Without Borders, Gray Area Foundation, Climate Designers, and more!).

Q: How do classes happen?

A: Classes and events are held online via Zoom, with recordings hosted in our digital community platform. Additionally, we offer a variety of in-person opportunities (such as retreats and workshops) that vary by cohort.

Q: What happens if I can't attend the classes? Can I still participate?

A: Yes. Recordings and notes are shared in the portal so you can stay up to date.

Q: When does the program start, and what should I prepare beforehand?

A: Onboarding begins December 16th, 2025, to frame the journey ahead and ground together before the holidays, and will continue January 6, 2026, through the end of the program. Once accepted, you will need to complete your registration, set aside time for weekly sessions, and jump in as soon as sessions begin.

Q: What are the mandatory and optional session times? Will they always be the same?

A:

- Mandatory: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8–10 am PST.
- Fireside chats: Fridays (not weekly).
- Wellness Wednesdays
- Major showcases: Becoming the Regenaissance, Dissolve and Bloom, Making the Invisible Visible, regen-era Rising

Q: Who will the professional mentors and instructors be?

A: A rotating roster of visionary speakers and mentors. Many from past years will return, with new ones added. In the past, we have had the honor of learning from Tom Chi, Deepak Chopra, Amanda Sage, Aaron Huey, Ben Von Wong, Tara Baswani, and Tony Patrick. If you would like to explore more, visit this link: [Team Δ Visionaries — Design Science Studio](#)

Q: Will there be help launching my personal project through the incubator during the program?

A: Yes, we are an incubator after all! You can expect support from our team, structures to work through, opportunities to move your project along and showcase progress, peer-to-peer support, and a few mentor days and sessions throughout coheART 4.

Q: Can I speak to a graduate about their experience?

A: Yes, we can connect you with alumni.

Q: Can you share examples of projects from past coheARTs?

A:

<https://www.designscience.studio/revolutionaries2020>

View projects from our first coheART here!

<https://www.designscience.studio/revolutionaries2021>

View projects from our second coheART here!

<https://www.designscience.studio/revolutionaries2023>

View projects from our third coheART here!

Q: What kind of teachers and activities are included?

A: A mix of visionary speakers, workshops, showcases, salons, exhibitions, critiques, exhibitions and fireside chats.

Funding & Support

Q: Do I need to fund my project myself? Will stipends or grants be available if I can't afford to continue?

A: You're responsible for seeking funding, but DSS will support you with mentorship, resources, and connections. As funding opportunities materialize, stipends and grants will be made available on a case-by-case basis.

Q: I (or someone I know) would like to contribute resources to support the program — how can I do that?

A: Thank you for your financial contribution to supporting Design Science Studio! For more details, please email connect@designscience.studio. Contributions of \$10,000 or more should be coordinated directly with our team.

Resources & Connections

Q: Where can I learn more about Buckminster Fuller and the Design Science Decade?

A: Explore our meta-topic docs (shared in the portal), BFI's website, and curated resources provided during the program.

Q: What's the best way to reach out to the team?

A: Email connect@designscience.studio — this inbox goes to the whole team!



Enrollment Information

Enrollment Information

Enrollment & Registration Process

Joining the Design Science Studio's next **coheART** is a journey in itself — one that begins the moment you feel the call to bring your creative vision into a community of (r)Evolutionaries. Below is a clear overview of what to expect as you move from **application to full enrollment** in the program.

1. Application

The first step is submitting your **coheART Application Form**. This is your opportunity to introduce yourself, share your creative background, and tell us about the project or idea you'd like to develop through the Studio. We encourage applicants from all disciplines and experience levels — artists, designers, educators, technologists, activists, and innovators of every kind.

Once your application is submitted, our team will review it carefully, considering how your work aligns with the spirit of the Studio and the upcoming coheART ecosystem. If accepted, you'll be notified of your acceptance by email.

2. Acceptance & Next Steps

If you are accepted into the coheART, congratulations — you're about to embark on a seven-month journey of collaboration, experimentation, and creation! Your acceptance email will include detailed next steps, including your **registration form** and **tuition information**. Acceptance emails will be going out during the week of **December 8th**.

You'll also receive an invitation to attend the MANDATORY **Welcome Call**, where we'll answer any questions about the process and help you feel prepared to begin.

3. Registration Form

The registration form gathers essential details that help us personalize your experience: your contact information, project focus, access needs, preferred name/pronouns, and schedule considerations. This information allows us to place you in a **Pod**, a small project-based learning group where you'll collaborate closely with other participants.

Please complete your registration form as soon as possible after acceptance to secure your place.

4. Payment & Financial Aid

After submitting your registration form, you'll receive a link to complete your **program payment** (unless you've been granted a full scholarship).

We offer as many **tuition tiers and installment plans** as we can to make participation accessible. If you need financial support, you can apply for aid by completing our **Financial Aid Form** — our team reviews each application individually to offer as much assistance as possible.

To confirm your participation, both your **registration form** and **payment** must be completed by **December 16th**.

If you are able, full payment upfront is the most supportive for supporting you on this journey

5. Confirmation & Onboarding Access

Once your registration is complete, you'll receive a confirmation email with access to the **coheART Portal** — your central hub for all program materials. Inside, you'll find:

- Orientation details and live session links
- The program calendar and showcase dates
- Introductions to your mentors, facilitators, and fellow (r)Evolutionaries
- Resources and guides to help you prepare for your first Holon

6. Orientation & Community Connection

Your coheART experience officially begins:

- **Curriculum Sessions Begin** - December 16, 2025

These sessions help you meet your peers, get grounded in the program structure, and start weaving connections within our global creative ecosystem.

Refund Policy

We understand that circumstances can change, and we do our best to accommodate our community with fairness and care. If you need to withdraw from the program, you may

request a **full refund up until the end of the first week** of the coheART. Requests made **before the start of the third week** are eligible for a **50% refund**. After that point, **no refunds can be issued**, as funds are already allocated to programming, mentorship, and community infrastructure. Because our cohort size is limited and each space is vital to the collective experience, we encourage all participants to consider their commitment thoughtfully before enrolling.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

The Design Science Studio is committed to making participation accessible to creators from all backgrounds and circumstances. We offer partial scholarships and financial aid based on a combination of income, background, and personal situation. Applicants who wish to be considered for aid can complete our Financial Aid Form during or after the application process. Each request is reviewed individually, and we do our best to provide meaningful support within our available resources. If you are accepted into the coheART, your acceptance email will include information on how to apply for or confirm financial assistance. We encourage all participants to contribute what they are able in good faith, as this collective reciprocity helps us continue offering opportunities to others.



Mutual Agreements for CommUnity

Mutual Agreements for CommUnity

Community of Care

CommUnity: (Come / Common + Unity)

In an interconnected and woven tapestry of beings, all parts are interdependent and mutually beneficial in direct or indirect ways. The more we care for all parts of the ecosystem to feel nourished and safe, the stronger the community becomes, the more resilient it becomes, and the more it thrives.

A community of care understands that what one does to another, it does unto itself. This works both ways, for good and bad things. The more we care, the more we are cared for. The more we share, the more we are shared with. The more we give, the more we receive. The more we love, the more we are loved.

Some call this sacred math. We call it CommUnity.

Creating Safe Spaces

Radical Inclusion:

There are multiple pathways for you to continue engaging with our community and explore the rich tapestry of possibilities that lie ahead. We invite you to consider these options as part of our deeply held commitment to radical inclusion, where we prioritize creating a safe and empowering space for each individual's unique journey and needs.

We are committed to fostering an atmosphere of safety, consent, and respect, encouraging collaboration and growth while honoring all pARTicipants' diverse perspectives and experiences. Our long-term quest spans an entire decade, offering numerous opportunities for individuals from all backgrounds to participate, contribute, and thrive in their own unique ways.

Recognizing and valuing individuals from diverse backgrounds, including respecting their chosen pronouns, is fundamental to radical inclusion. By embracing this practice, we foster a welcoming environment where everyone's unique identity is affirmed, leading to a sense of belonging and empowerment.

Prioritizing pronouns and other diversity enhances mutual understanding, respect, and the collaborative spirit within our community.

Progressive Stacking:

We embrace the principles of progressive stacking as a means to amplify the voices of marginalized individuals and foster a more equitable environment. By acknowledging and addressing the historical power imbalances that have silenced and marginalized certain voices, we intentionally prioritize and uplift those traditionally excluded or overlooked.

Progressive stacking allows us to create a safe and inclusive platform where diverse perspectives and lived experiences can be heard, acknowledged, and valued. Through this intentional approach, we aim to honor the resilience of individuals, ensuring their voices are empowered, and their contributions are recognized as essential in shaping our collective understanding and creating change.

Parameters of Consent

Within the Design Science Studio, we deeply value the importance of consent as an essential element in creating a trauma-informed and empowering environment. We acknowledge that past experiences of boundary violations and power imbalances can profoundly impact an individual's sense of safety and autonomy. Therefore, we prioritize the consent of all participants in every aspect of our interactions.

By centering consent, we strive to create a space where individuals feel empowered to make choices that honor their boundaries, promoting agency, trust, and respect. This commitment to consent allows for authentic and meaningful connections to flourish, nurturing a community that upholds the well-being and autonomy of each person.

Trauma-Informed Practices

We recognize that trauma can deeply impact individuals' well-being, sense of safety, and personal boundaries. We are dedicated to creating an environment where trauma-informed principles and practices are integrated, ensuring everyone's well-being and boundaries are respected.

Speaking with [Nonviolent Communication tools](#):

[The 4-Part NVC Process \[Downloadable PDF\]](#) can guide you to express how you are, or they can be used to empathically receive how another is.

Clearly expressed in “I” statements.. When you... I feel...
Sharing how I am feeling without blaming or criticizing..

4 parts:

Observations. What I observe..

Feelings. How I feel..

Needs. What I need or value...

Requests..Would you be willing to..

CommUnity Mutual Agreements

Relearning social agreements and behaviors takes time. We choose to practice these agreements that weave our social fabric as much and as often as possible until we have learned them instinctively, and they come out naturally to us.

1. **Respectful Communication:** We constantly affirm the importance of respectful communication. This means using language free from derogatory or offensive remarks and refraining from targeting individuals based on race, ethnicity, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, disability status, or any other differentiated characteristics they might have.
2. **Active Listening and Validation:** We prioritize active listening as a cornerstone of effective communication within our community. This entails offering our full attention, validating one another's experiences, and genuinely seeking to understand diverse perspectives. We commit to learning from one another with empathy and humility.
3. **Consent and Boundaries:** In line with our commitment to trauma-informed practices, we emphasize the centrality of consent in our community. We respect and honor personal boundaries, both physical and emotional. All community members must obtain explicit consent before initiating physical contact or sharing personal information with others.

4. **Cultivating Empathy and Compassion:** We value understanding the other's experience and expressing direct support or, at the very least, compassion towards it as we appreciate and validate the lived experiences and emotions of others without judgment. We strive to create an environment where individuals feel heard, free to express themselves authentically and feel supported and held.

Adhering to this Community Conduct Policy fosters a culture of mutual respect, trust, and inclusivity. We create a space where collective growth, healing, and empowerment can thrive.

Attendance Policy

Active participation is at the heart of the coheART experience. While we understand that life happens and schedules vary, we ask participants to make every effort to attend the two weekly live sessions and key events such as showcases. These gatherings are where collaboration, mentorship, and community synergy come to life. If you need to miss a session, recordings and notes will be available through the coheART Portal so you can stay connected and up to date. Consistent engagement not only supports your own growth but also strengthens the collective learning environment for everyone involved.



Program Technology

Program Technology

The Design Science Studio is a global ecosystem — and our digital tools are what make collaboration, creativity, and connection possible across time zones and disciplines. We use a combination of platforms to keep our community organized, inspired, and in flow. Each space serves a unique purpose, from hosting live sessions to sharing resources and sparking spontaneous conversation. Together, these tools create the infrastructure that supports your (r)Evolutionary journey.

The Portal

The Portal is your central hub for all things coheART. Here you'll find class links, schedules, resources, Holon materials, recordings, and contact information. It's the digital home base that keeps everything organized and accessible throughout your journey in the Design Science Studio.

Zoom

Zoom is where our live sessions, workshops, and showcases take place. It's the virtual gathering space for the global coheART community — where ideas are shared, collaborations unfold, and learning happens in real time.

Miro

Miro is our interactive whiteboard platform for visual collaboration and creative mapping. You'll use it to brainstorm, design systems, and co-create with your Holon. Think of it as a digital studio wall where imagination meets structure.

WhatsApp

WhatsApp is used for quick communication, reminders, and group coordination. It helps us stay connected between sessions, share updates, and celebrate wins — keeping the community's heartbeat alive day to day.

Signal

We are transitioning our community communication from WhatsApp to Signal, a secure, encrypted messaging app compatible with most phones and computers. Signal

offers a private, reliable space for real-time conversations, announcements, and creative exchange within the coheART.

Hylo

Hylo is our community lounge and collaboration portal — a space for deeper discussion, resource sharing, project collaboration and informal connection. It's where conversations continue beyond the sessions, collaborations emerge organically, and the network of (r)Evolutionaries grows stronger.

