

2022

Annual Report

Together we can do so much.



FOUNDATION FOR
INTENTIONAL
COMMUNITY



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**FOUNDATION FOR
INTENTIONAL
COMMUNITY**

Foundation for Intentional Community (FIC)

Established 1987

501c3 tax deductible non-profit

1 Dancing Rabbit Lane, Unit 23
Rutledge, Missouri 63563-9779, USA

Message from the Board

Community living came up in the most unexpected of places this year for me. In a statewide meeting of Directors of leadership organizations in March, someone who knew I was in this movement told me they have two staffers who have also lived in community. The mayor of my new city brought it up at a Chamber of Commerce event I was at. A road trip with staff from another organization wound its way to dreams of community without anyone in the car knowing that this is my jam. The world is literally talking about community.

And FIC is still, after nearly 40 years, right in the middle of the conversation.

As I look back on 2022, I'm incredibly proud of FIC. It's been a hard year, both internally and externally. I've watched the amazing staff and board dig deeper than ever, asking questions about how we stay relevant, about who we serve (and how that is sometimes different than who we WANT to serve), humbling ourselves to learn more and therefore become better guides and companions.

I've loved watching us do our first podcast (and am excited about season 2!), and experiment with how best to deliver online material through on demand courses. We've brought in more young and BIPOC folx to our leadership, and felt the deep and meaningful shifts that different life experiences are bringing to this old organization.

As economic and ecological disruptions become more common, we need each other more all the time. I'm celebrating another year of life off the beaten path, with hundreds of thousands of people around the world creating new ways (and preserving some old ones) of living every day that will get us through the challenges. Thank you for being with us and supporting our work.



Yana Ludwig

FIC Board Member



Mission

We uplift, connect, and empower all those venturing to join, grow, and learn from intentional communities.

Vision

We envision a just, resilient, and cooperative world where everyone has the opportunity to thrive in community.

Values

Cooperation – Relationships that recognize interdependence and create mutual benefit for all

Resiliency – Communities respond to adversity by regenerating social and ecological health

Liberation – Removing barriers to the resources and opportunities people need to thrive

I truly believe that communities of many different kinds are the way that we will overcome the turbulent times we now face. Please keep educating our society about the benefits of Intentional Communities!

— *Kacey, donor*





Reports & News

Intentional communities of mutual self-reliance and reciprocity are the wave of the future, and their currency is sharing.

- Robin Wall Kimmerer

As above, so below.

One thing I have learned living in and supporting intentional communities is the common misconception that intentional community allows us to escape the responsibilities and troubles found within the dominant culture.

Rather, intentional communities are often described as a microcosm. What we see in the dominant culture is reflected in the small ecosystems we create - our needs, our desires, our shadows, our fears, and our sense of abundance or scarcity. We are no more immune to power dynamics than we are to hunger.

And the Foundation for Intentional Community is no exception. We, too, have felt the impacts of our turbulent culture and financial fragility. What we feel in our hearts we bring with us everywhere we go, including to our communities and to our jobs.

In 2022, our staff and board committed ourselves to growing inclusivity and accessibility within our organization. And we still sometimes mess up. We began designing a conflict system and meanwhile experienced conflict among us. We spent moments this year admitting when an approach was no longer working and carefully pivoting toward new solutions. We experienced a decline in revenue, mirroring the conservative spending many of us have felt at home. But these aren't failures. These are our opportunities.

FIC is modeling the vulnerability and authenticity I want to see in the world. We show up humbly. We learn, and we expand our understanding. We continue to work toward our shared goal: to strengthen the intentional communities movement by creating a space where everyone belongs and everyone's contribution matters. And when we do the work at zone zero (to borrow a permaculture term), its impact ripples back out to the macrocosm.

I invite you to join us in this journey of curiosity, vulnerability, and discovery. Celebrate with us, explore what is possible, and contribute to our mission for a more just, resilient, and cooperative world.



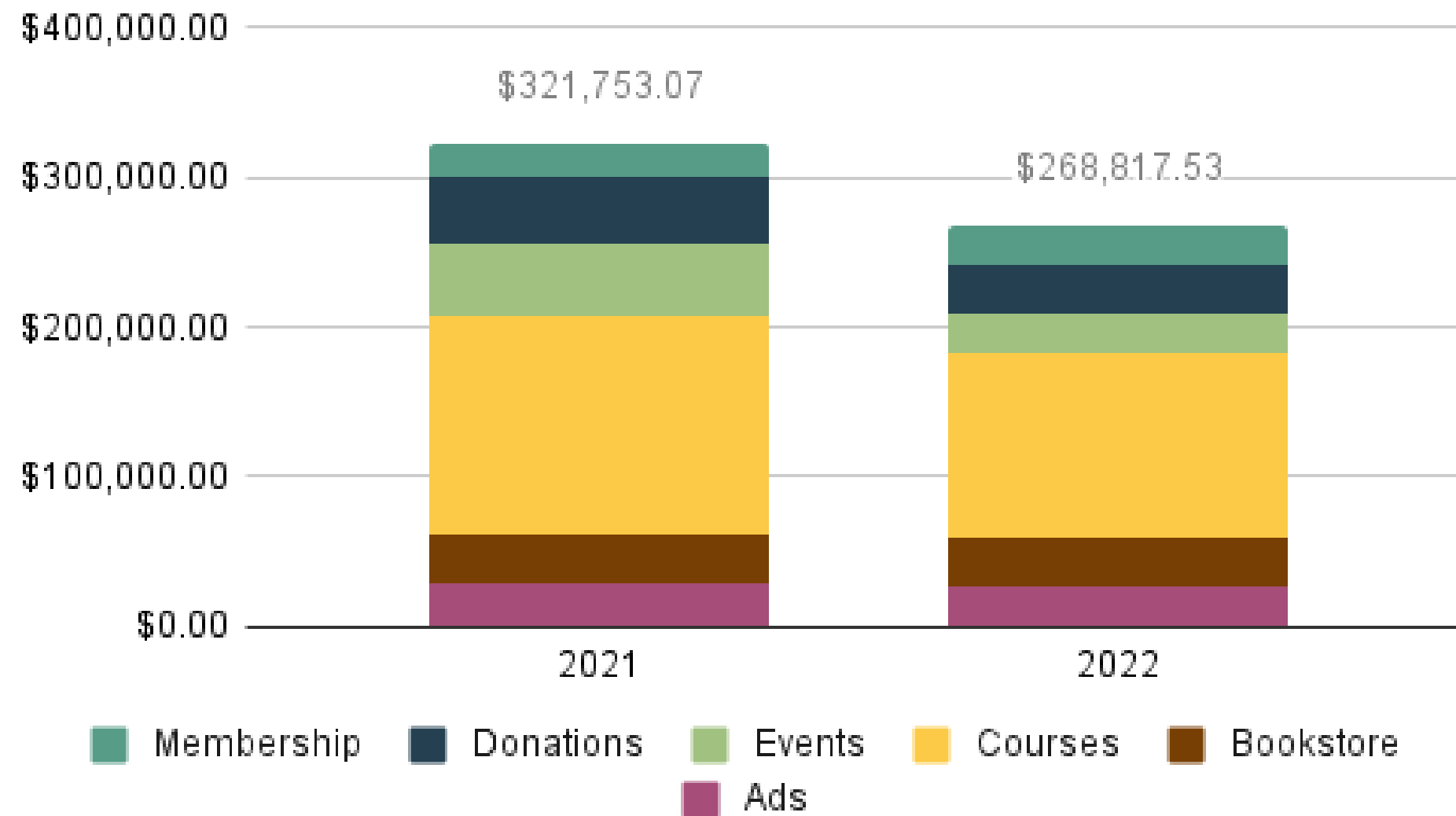
Kim Kanney

FIC Co-Director

FIC Financial Report

Revenue

January 1 - December 31



Stabilizing through uncertainty

Like many organizations, we experienced growth in the shadows of COVID. In the aftermath of post-lockdown, with a global economic recession and uncertainty unfolding, like others, we experienced a constriction throughout the second half of 2022.

With the boon in 2021's revenue, we spent time investing. We invested in increasing our staff and expanding our educational programs. We invested in *walking our talk*.

We sent eight of our staff and board members to a month-long training in building equity & inclusion from both within our organization and also how FIC serves in the movement.

Our aim for 2023 is to stabilize our finances while continuing to navigate through uncertain times. Your support & participation is paramount to our success!

BIPOC Council Report

Over the past year, the BIPOC Council has made great strides in our mission to support and uplift Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) intentional communities. Our focus has been on creating a safe and inclusive space for BIPOC individuals to come together and share their experiences and struggles at our biweekly support calls.

We continued our support of BIPOC-led projects by granting \$15,000 in funds to three communities working across North America to support BIPOC, LGBTQI, and other oppressed groups through healing services, housing and work opportunities, and mutual aid. We also provided a forum for those interested in continuing anti-oppression work with a quarterly call named Continuing the Conversation.

Overall, I am proud of the progress we have made and the impact we have had on our community. As we look towards the future, the Council is committed to continuing our efforts to support and empower BIPOC intentional communities. We believe that by working together, we can create a more just and equitable society for all. Learn more and support the Council's work at www.bipocicc.org.

*FIC gives 10% of all its donations to the **BIPOC Intentional Communities Fund**, which is managed by an all BIPOC Council whose mission is to cultivate radically safe and inclusive communities for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) by providing inspiration, solidarity, and support to those seeking to find or found communities, and to those already living in community.*



Crystal Farmer

BIPOC Council Co-President
FIC Co-Director

Many thanks to Cynthia Tina

One of the many lessons of living in community is the understanding that nothing is permanent. We learn resiliency in impermanence and we develop the skill of finding opportunity even in change.

This lesson was delivered to us at FIC with the transitioning position of our beloved CoDirector and Communications Director, Cynthia Tina.

Cynthia's contributions to FIC elevated our organization with a new and updated brand, a visually and functionally improved website, and with the development of our now robust virtual programs. The success of FIC is in large part due to the contributions of Cynthia.

Fortunately for us all, she is never too far away! You can still see her face as host of our [Virtual Tour events](#) and as the course instructor for our [Intentional Community Basics](#) course. Cynthia is still contributing to FIC's resources with her design and writing skills.

Maybe you will see her out in the world still talking about intentional communities. As a speaker and community matchmaker, Cynthia traverses the globe talking about the thing she loves the most: intentional community living!

You can connect with Cynthia Tina at her Community Matchmaking website <https://cynthiatina.com>



Cynthia Tina

Community Matchmaker

2022 in Review

The times are urgent. Let's slow down.

-Bayo Akomolafe



Communities Directory

The Communities Directory is your first stop to find and engage with intentional communities of all kinds — ecovillages, cohousing, coliving, co-ops, agrihoods, and more.

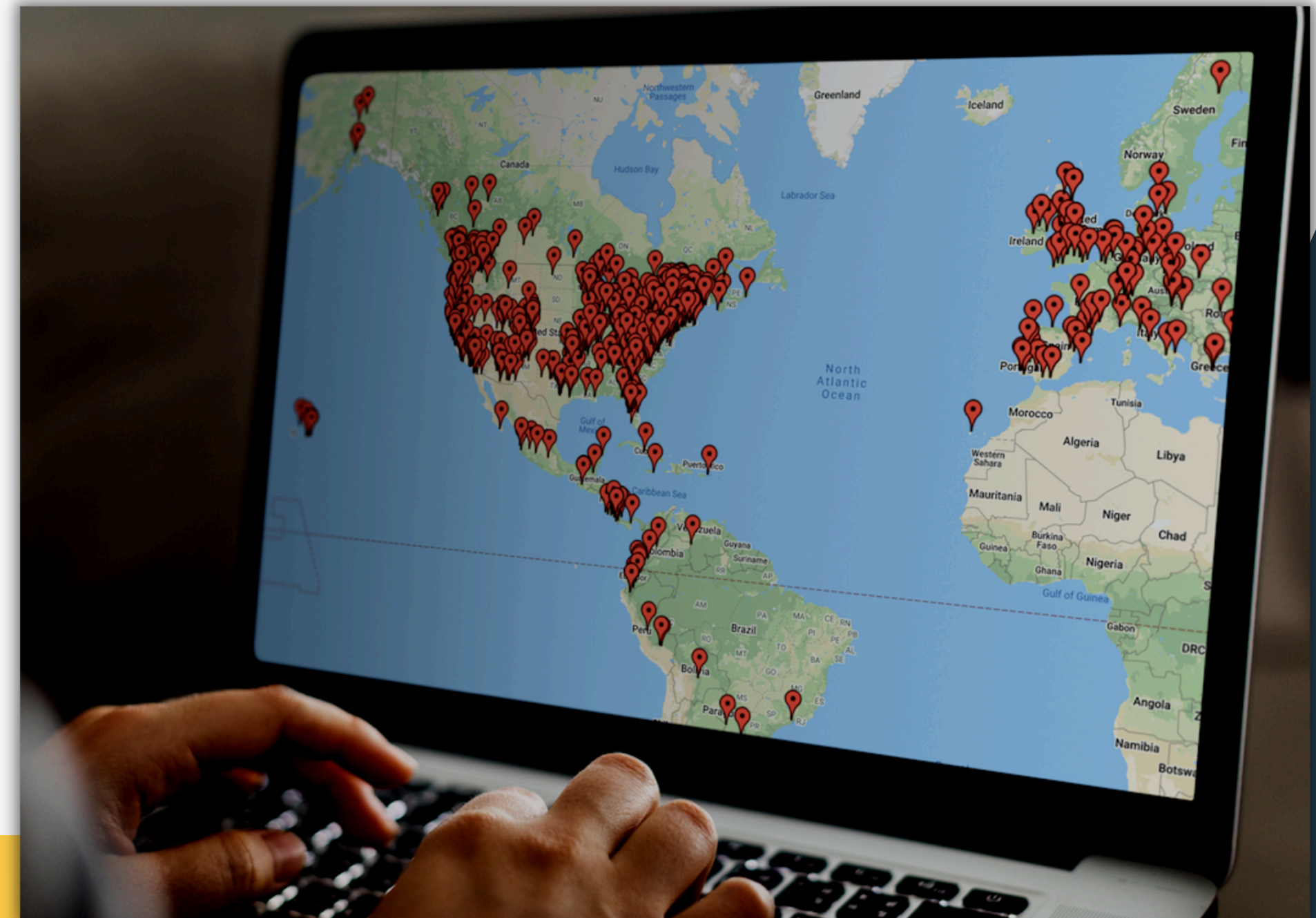
Visit ic.org/directory and see the full map of intentional communities worldwide.

In the Communities Directory you'll find....

608 established communities

369 forming communities

109 new to the directory in 2022!



SEARCH DIRECTORY

Online Programming

FIC's virtual events and courses continue to be the best way we can deliver the resources you are asking for! With over 700 learners in our courses and 6,500 of you participating in events, our online programs remain dynamic, responsive, and easy to navigate so that you can grow your toolkit in cooperative culture. We provided over \$22,000 in scholarships so that our courses are always accessible. See what's next!

EVENTS

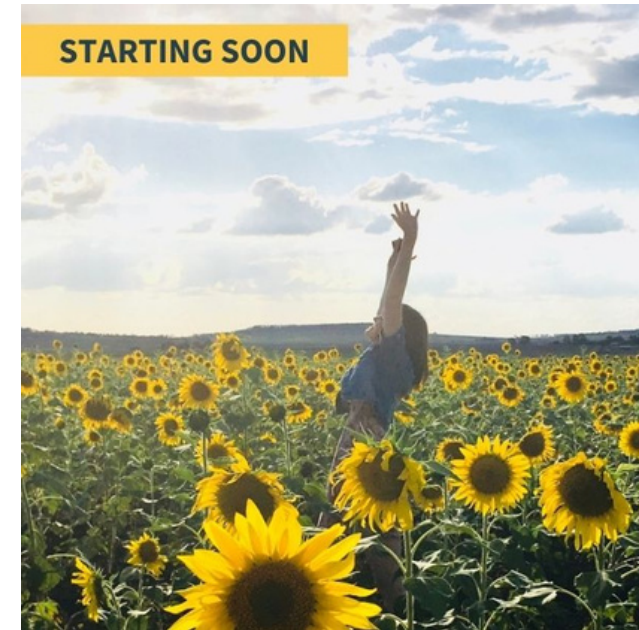
COURSES

Most popular courses in 2022

Did you miss a course this year? Your favorite courses will be repeated again in 2023!



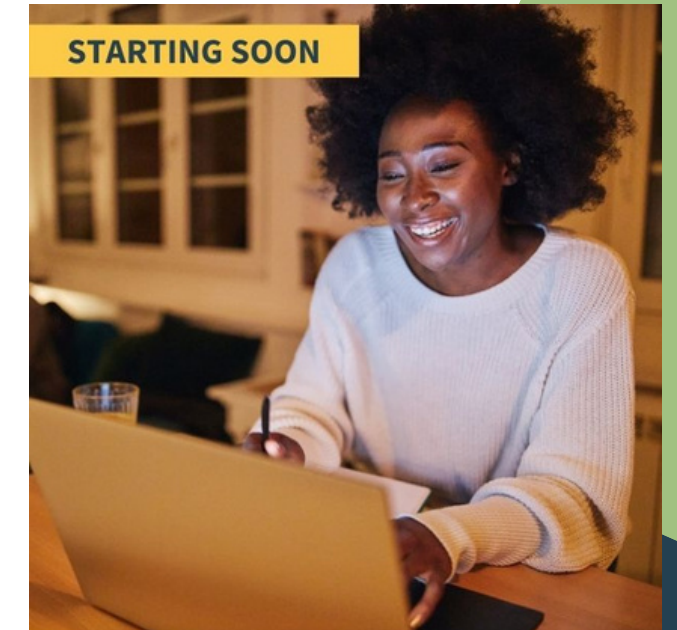
Designing a Community Membership Process



Becoming a Communitarian



Aging Gracefully in Community



Legal Basics

On-Demand Courses

We launched our first three on-demand courses this year!

- **Intentional Community Basics** - for those new to intentional community and wanting to learn more
- **Finding your Community** - for those looking to visit and join an intentional community
- **Starting a Community** - for those looking to create an intentional community



On-Demand courses provide 90 days access to pre-recorded videos and other class resources as well as homework assignments to deepen your learning. You will also have access to our Forum where you can ask questions of the instructor and engage with other students taking the courses. Like our live courses, you will have access to free bonus events and receive a certificate of completion at the end of the course.

Over 100 people have participated in on-demand courses in 2022 and we're looking forward to helping more of you on community journey in 2023!

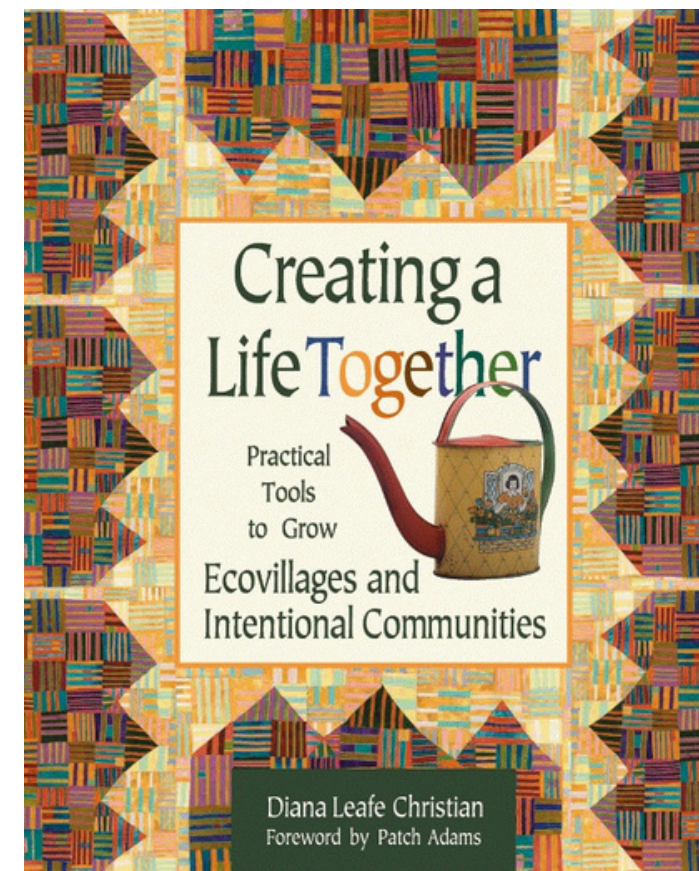
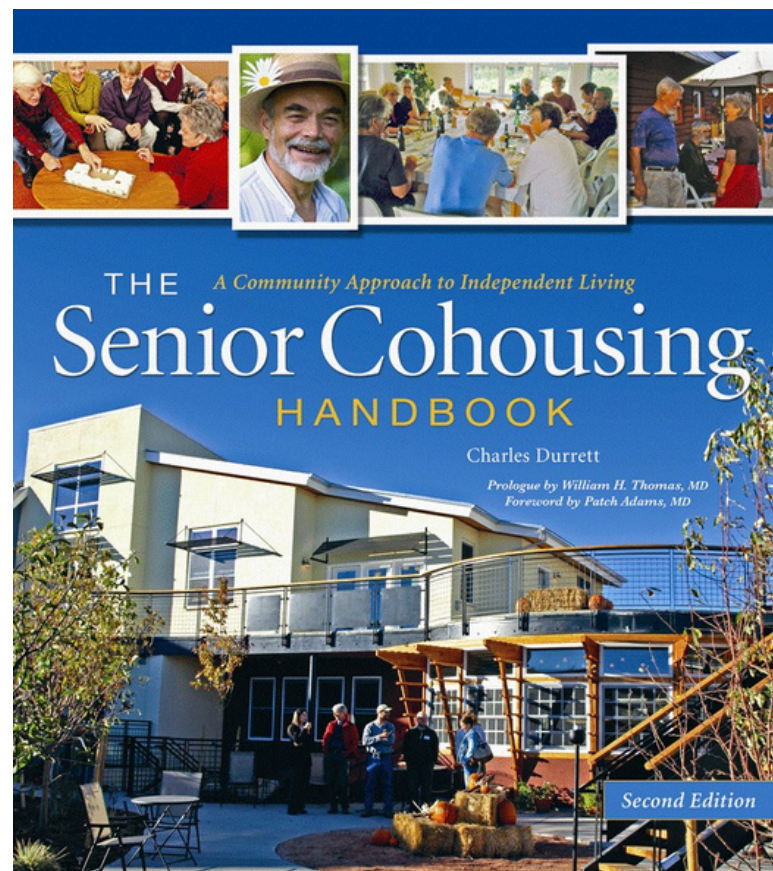
Community Bookstore

Our online bookstore provides books, e-books, videos, and free resources on topics relevant to intentional community and cooperative living. Over 7,000 books were purchased or downloaded in 2022!

The FIC bookstore was also able to attend an in-person event this year. Serving as the event's bookstore at the Cohousing Conference in Madison, WI, we distributed over 20 different titles to cohousers from across the globe.

2022 Top Sellers

Click the books below to catch up on any new reading you may have missed! ic.org/bookstore



New Membership Program



We expanded our membership program with more benefits and greater mutual support. Join now or upgrade your current membership and receive the benefits!

[JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP](#)

Inside Community Podcast

FIC completed Season 1 of the Inside Community Podcast in partnership with podcast host, Rebecca Mesritz.

We produced 15 episodes diving into the technical, practical, personal elements of creating and sustaining intentional community.

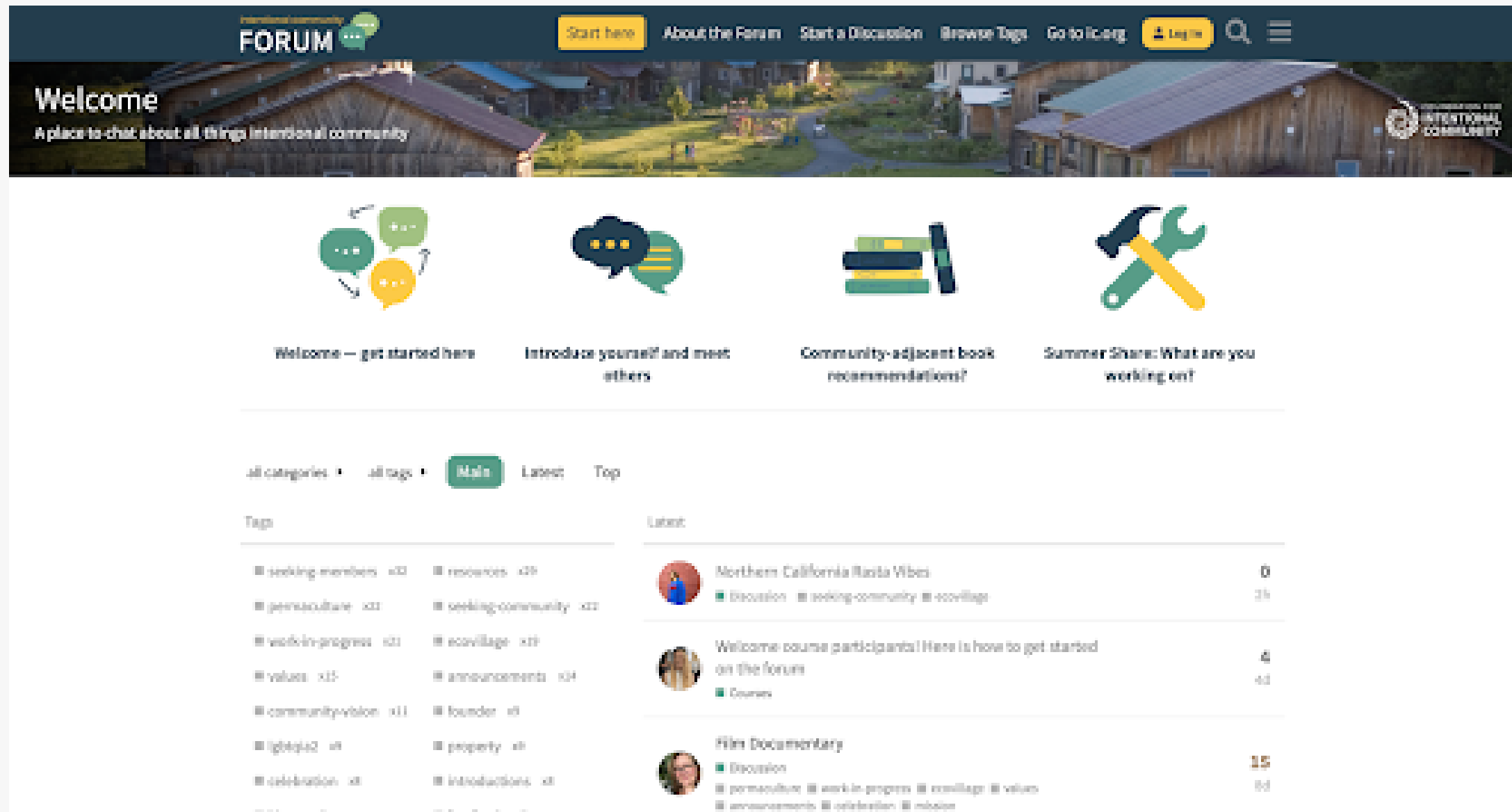
Rebecca covers topics from creating vision and values to legal frameworks; from addressing conflict to techniques in sociocracy.

Inside Community Podcast has been played 20,000 times and listened to in 51 countries. For 858 fans, it is on their top 10 list!

[LISTEN](#)



Intentional Community Discussion Forum



At the beginning of 2022, we launched our Intentional Community Discussion Forum!

Now with 1,000 users and nearly 4,000 posts you can join our forum to discuss all things related to intentional community with curious people just like you.

Explore by topic, start a new discussion, introduce yourself, and build community online.

GET STARTED

I've spent 50 years living in intentional communities but
there's always something new to learn.

I value being a part of a co-learning network, virtual
though it be. Much thanks to FIC for being the glue.

— *Terry Bergdall*



2023 Projects

*Alone we can do so little
Together we can do so much.*
-Helen Keller

Building Belonging: Your Guide to Starting a Land-Based Intentional Community



We will be kicking off 2023 with the completion of a new FIC publication, authored by Yana Ludwig

As someone who has been involved with starting four communities, Yana is familiar with the best practices and tools for successfully getting a community off the ground. She leads our self-paced course on the topic, and has previously led 5-week-long virtual courses as well.

Yana brings a unique perspective to the topic of starting a community. Although there are existing resources on creating intentional community, this new book will include topics relevant to needs we understand today - such as ethical considerations with land ownership, the importance of diversity and social justice work, and how privilege and power show up in communities.

We believe the intentional communities movement is needing and is ready for an updated guide for successfully starting an intentional community. **Stay tuned for our launch announcements!**

Inside Community Podcast: Season 2

We will be launching season 2 of the Inside Community Podcast!

With new guests and fresh topics, host Rebecca Mesritz will once again explore the beautiful and messy realities of creating and sustaining an intentional community.

Themes may include raising children in community, aging in community, inclusivity and accessibility, and continued conversations about the state of the IC movement.

Podcast operations are completely based on donor support. Please consider making a donation.



[SUPPORT THE PODCAST](#)

Website Improvements

Our IT Team is working hard to improve both the functionality of our website and your user experience.

We want you to come to ic.org and find your belonging there. We want you to access what you need, build your skillset, and create community within our network.

We strive to make our website more accessible for all users and provide content that represents you.



And More...

We have so much more in store for 2023! Including...

- **New Virtual Events and Courses** -- We will be offering new topics to our virtual learning, including raising children in community, power & leadership, and sustainability
- **New and Improved Ad Spaces**— We are working on improving our classified ads and banner ad spaces so that you can get even more reach
- **Online Directory Improvements** — We continue to improve our free directory to help you better search and find the communities you are looking for
- **More Resources for your IC Learning** —We will be adding more books to our online store and delivering the best resources for your community education
- **Fiscal Sponsorships** - We will continue to provide support to start up communities and organizations, particularly focused on supporting marginalized groups



How to Support

*We see the other until we develop a kinship.
We see the other until we develop community.
We see the other until we are able to establish
some sense of who we are together.*
~ Resmaa Menakem

Donate

We couldn't do our work without the generosity of supporters like you!


Thank you for your gifts in 2022 and beyond. Our organization is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, so your donations are tax deductible and provide the foundation for everything we are able to do here at FIC.

Contribute to the FIC in one of the following ways:

- Make a contribution online at ic.org/donate
- Mail a check to 1 Dancing Rabbit Ln, Unit 23, Rutledge MO 63563-9779, USA
- Leave a positive legacy with a planned gift. Learn more at ic.org/planned-giving

10% of your donation automatically goes to the BIPOC Intentional Communities Fund.



A person is seen from behind, standing in a vast field of sunflowers. Their arms are raised high towards a cloudy sky. The scene is captured in a soft, slightly desaturated light, giving it a dreamy and hopeful atmosphere. The sunflowers are in full bloom, and the horizon is visible in the distance.

Thank you so much for your wonderful organization,
website and podcast which has helped me learn so much
and is leading me to research joining an IC which is in the
process of formation.

— *Josephine Wright*

The FIC Team



Staff of 2022

Bianca Riet Villanova
 Corissa Saint Laurent
 Crystal Byrd Farmer
 Cynthia Tina
 Dasha Morrison
 Emlyn Crocker
 Gail Davidson
 Guilherme Geronimo

Kim Kanney
 Kim Scheidt
 Lauren Hugel
 Neil Planchon
 Osa Isacson
 Rodrigo Braga
 Ryan Lett
 Todd McCall

Board of 2022

Cassandra Ferrera
 Crystal Byrd Farmer
 Dave Booda
 Destiny Hagest
 Harvey Baker
 Ivy Summer

Kaison Tanabe
 Marty Klaif
 Neha Sharma
 Sky Blue
 Yana Ludwig

Meet the current team at ic.org/team
 Learn about open positions at ic.org/fic-jobs



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