

2021

# Annual Report

*Cultivating Community, Inspiring Communitarians*



FOUNDATION FOR  
INTENTIONAL  
COMMUNITY

# Contents



**Part 1**                      **Introduction**

---

**Part 2**                      **Reports & News**

---

**Part 3**                      **2021 In Review**

---

**Part 4**                      **2022 Projects**

---

**Part 5**                      **How to Support**

**Foundation for Intentional Community (FIC)**  
*Established 1987*

501c3 tax deductible non-profit

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

Cover photo: Bristol Cohousing



# Message from the Board

We live in uncertain times. The pandemic has shown us how fragile and inequitable the systems we depend on really are. The deepening divides in the US have shown us how precarious our democracy and social fabric is. The increase in disasters has shown us how real climate change is. The reminders of how much white supremacy and patriarchy still impact our lives keep coming. It's a difficult time to make plans, to think beyond the day-to-day of getting by. **It's a difficult time to have hope.**

Hope is tricky. Blind hope can create a false sense of security. But if we understand hope as the belief that we can change things for the better, it becomes a call to action. And it's easier to believe that we can change things if we're doing it *together*.

**Community is where a real sense of security and resilience can be found.** It's where we can be closely held with all the anxiety and grief we feel, and create space for joy and celebration. It's what the world needs, people coming together with a sense of shared purpose, in mutual support, to find ways to meet our collective needs and to care for everyone.

Whether you're looking for a community to join, looking for people to start a community with, or whether you live in a community that's looking to grow, it's time. It's time to choose community. *This is what the FIC is here for*, to make that choice easier, to make it seem more possible, to help make the steps on the path a little more clear.

**We're so grateful to all of you out there who made this movement what it is in 2021.** There wouldn't be a movement without hundreds of communities acting as beacons of possibility. There wouldn't be a movement without all of you who are leading and participating in our online courses and events. We wouldn't be able to continue developing new ways to support you in choosing community without the support you've given us. Thank you.



**Sky Blue**

Board Member, former FIC Director





**Your resource hub for the intentional communities movement.**

## 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.

*FIC's newly updated mission and vision statements are the culmination of a year's worth of reflection on our purpose at this time and the better world we strive to bring about. Thank you FIC board and staff members for your work on these core statements.*





## Have you noticed that it is getting a little crazy out there?

In these times where so many people are acting out of fear and ignorance, feeling alone and powerless, and denying our collective human traumas and climate catastrophes, it has truly been a blessing to interact with other intentional community members, founders, students, teachers and activists. We give special thanks for the sense of inspiration and possibility that we experience regularly from our connections with FIC. Thank you.

— *Michael and Angela, FIC Members*







# Reports & News

*There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about.*

- Margaret J. Wheatley



# FIC is Evolving

Our organization has changed significantly in the years since I joined as a Board member in 2014. We have a different brand identity, leadership structure, program focus, and financial reality. It's been both an exciting and nerve racking transformation. At times we weren't sure if FIC would make it. I remember heart wrenching conversations about the end game — *selling assets, closing shop, dying gracefully*.

**Thankfully we made it through those difficult times** due to countless volunteer hours from Board and Staff members, the generosity of grassroots donors, and an ardent belief in the intentional communities movement.

Just before Covid hit, FIC was in its apex of transformation – with a leadership team in place of Executive Director and nascent strategy focused on online programs. **We have seen expansive growth throughout the pandemic** as more and more people turn to intentional communities.

Thanks in large part to our educational programs, we've been able to increase FIC's revenue in a sustainable way. We've raised staff salaries and now offer benefits to support staff wellness. Our fully remote team has expanded to include a dozen communitarians from various parts of the United States and the world, including Brazil, Sweden, and Canada.

**We both promote intentional community and practice it.** Our focus is on building a cooperative and inclusive team culture. We are engaging in social justice training and continue to learn from TEAL, sociocracy, consensus, and more. Our experiment with a leadership structure centered on a small circle of Co-Directors has so far proven successful.

When I came on as Communications Director in 2018 it was the first time FIC had such a role and it was the **only** communications role. Now we have a communications team of five and I'm about to hand off one of my FIC roles to a new Communications Director. **I have full confidence that the next chapter in FIC's 35 year history will be the brightest yet!**



**Cynthia Tina**

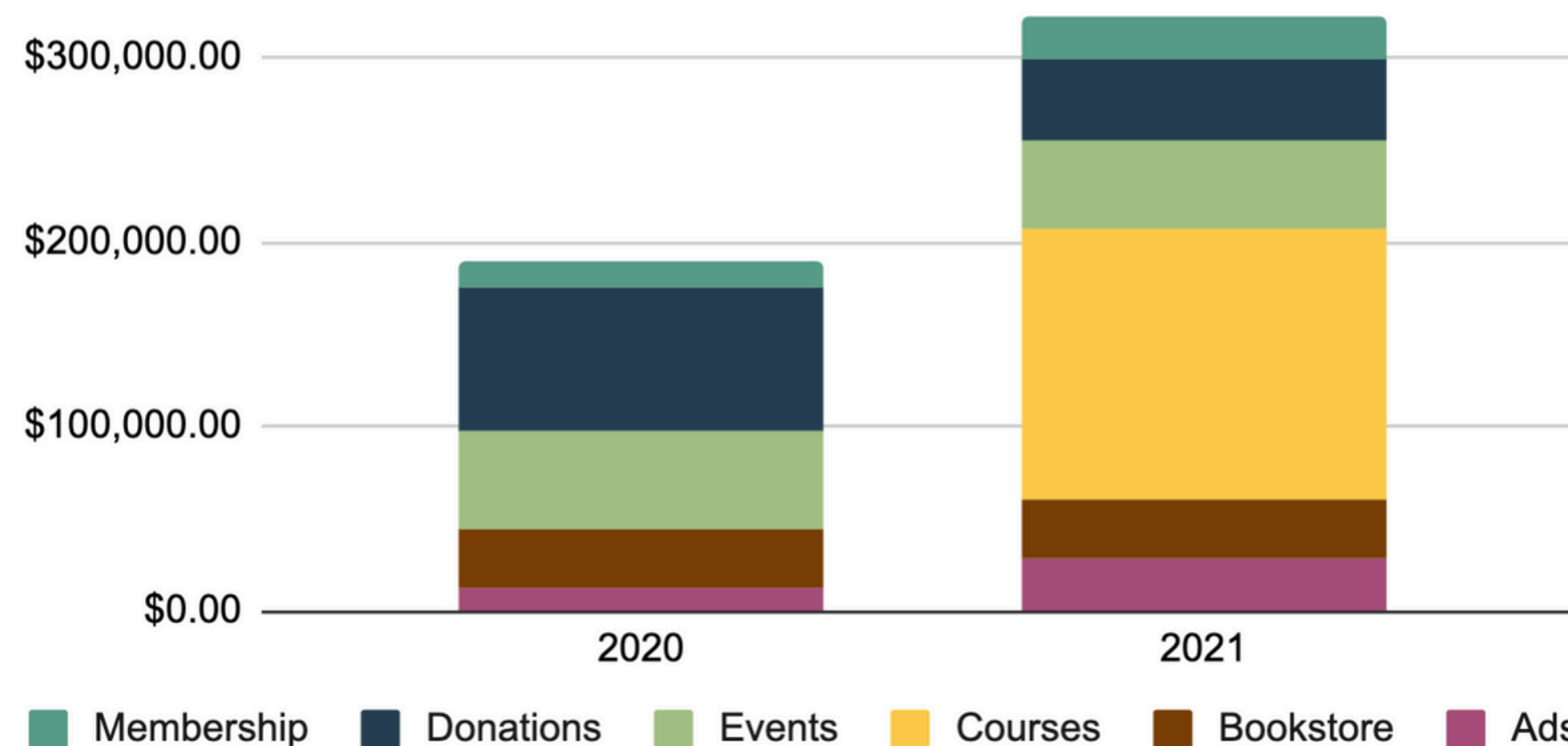
FIC Co-Director and Community Matchmaker



# FIC Financial Report

## Revenue

January 1 - December 31, 2021



**FIC had another strong year financially**, increasing gross revenue by nearly 70% since 2020. After an intentionally conservative year in 2020, FIC was able to invest more in programs, software and team members than ever before.

In January we launched our 5-week educational courses, now our largest generation of revenue for the organization and nearly half of our entire income. 2021 also saw increases in advertisement, sales of books, and membership subscriptions.

With the added financial support, we were able to hire 6 new positions to our team, thereby developing a robust IT team and marketing & communications team. We have been able to invest in better software to both organize ourselves and deliver stronger programs to you.

We anticipate another successful year in 2022, as we celebrate FIC's much deserved financial stability.



*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. Learn more in the report below.*

## BIPOC Council Report

The Council continues to grow, with 65 members from around the world, all with a strong desire for inclusive communities that support all parts of our identities. This year the Council launched a monthly support call in which to inspire, support & assist BIPOC and other socially disenfranchised groups to find, found, or create intentional community. Through these calls we host speakers to inspire others, share learnings from those with experience and build community to support the creation of new spaces.

The Council began a funding round in July and awarded grants to communities and individuals that had land or were ready to purchase land. We interviewed amazing community leaders including a Buddhist monk, a South African diversity trainer, Indigenous and queer spiritual workers, and many small business owners and visionaries. Read about [the projects](#) that received funding.

The Council also desires to serve as a resource for majority white communities and those who are interested in social justice work. Here's how you can get involved:

- Add your community or resource to [our directory](#).
- If you are a professional who wishes to offer your services to our members at a discount, you can join our [Partnership Program](#).
- For all others who want to support us, stay tuned for our membership program! You can continue to [donate to us through FIC](#). We are grateful for the over \$10k our Fund received in 2021.



**Crystal Farmer**

Council representative, FIC Board Member,  
and [Course Instructor](#)



# Intentional Community in the Media



## Older Women Living Together to Avoid Homelessness

[Article by ABC News](#)



## The Allure of Pocket Neighborhoods

[Article by Forbes](#)



## Is Community Living the Future of Parenting?

[Article by The Guardian](#)



## Tiny Houses Could Aid Homeless

[Article by Star Tribune](#)



## Life in an Ecovillage

[Northern Beaches Advocate Podcast Episode](#)



## Windsong Celebrates a Quarter-Century of Cohousing

[Article by The Tyee](#)





# 2021 in Review

*If you always do what you've always done,  
you'll always be where you've always been.*

- Henry Ford



# Communities Directory

[ic.org/directory](https://ic.org/directory)



**The Communities Directory continues to be the #1 resource** for people to find and engage with intentional communities of all kinds — ecovillages, cohousing, coliving, co-ops, agrihoods, and more. We continue to make improvements to the search features of the Directory to make it easier for folks to find their people and build community.



## Intentional Communities by the numbers...

- **592 established**
- **398 forming**
- **167 NEW this year!**



# Online Events

We hosted over 100 online events in 2021. Including webinars, workshops, trainings, and networking opportunities — all for free or on sliding-scale donation. Over 10,000 attendees from all corners of the world were able to connect with each other and learn from the best of our community's facilitators and teachers. See what's next on the calendar at [ic.org/events](https://ic.org/events).

## Top Events in 2021

Miss one of our most popular events or just want to watch it again? Check them out below!



**Co-Buying Property with Friends**

**WATCH AGAIN**



**Introduction to Ecovillages**

**WATCH AGAIN**



**Aging in Community**

**WATCH AGAIN**



# Online Courses

It's hard to believe that FIC launched some of its first online courses just at the start of 2021. This program has become an integral part of our offerings and has benefited the lives of nearly a thousand students who have enrolled. Thanks to the generosity of donors and full-paying students, we were able to give out \$10k in scholarships to low-income individuals in 2021. Give the gift of knowledge by donating to the [scholarship fund](#).

## Courses for Community Builders

Have you yet to experience one of our courses? Get learning and grow your network through one of our programs. Explore them all at [ic.org/courses](https://ic.org/courses).



**Starting an Intentional Community\***

\*Now available as an on-demand course!



**Becoming a Communitarian**



**Legal Basics for Forming Communities**



**Art of Facilitation for Cooperative Groups**

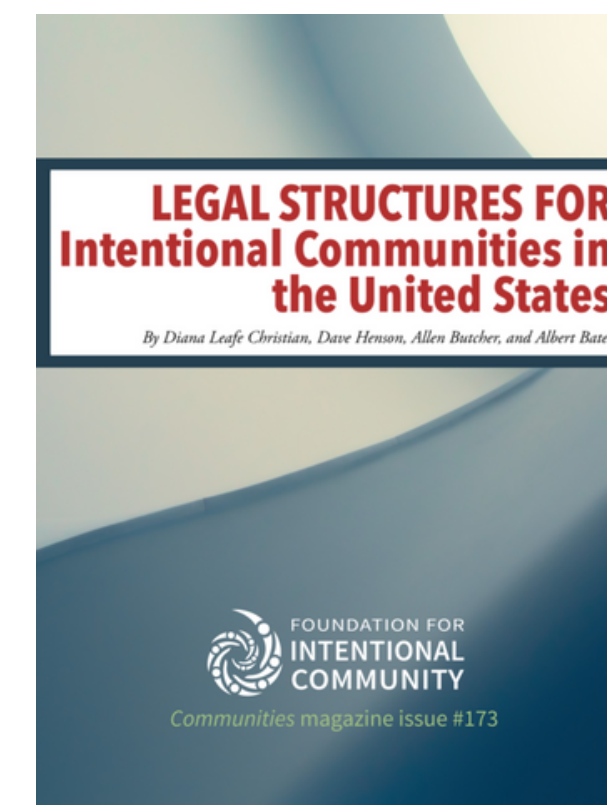
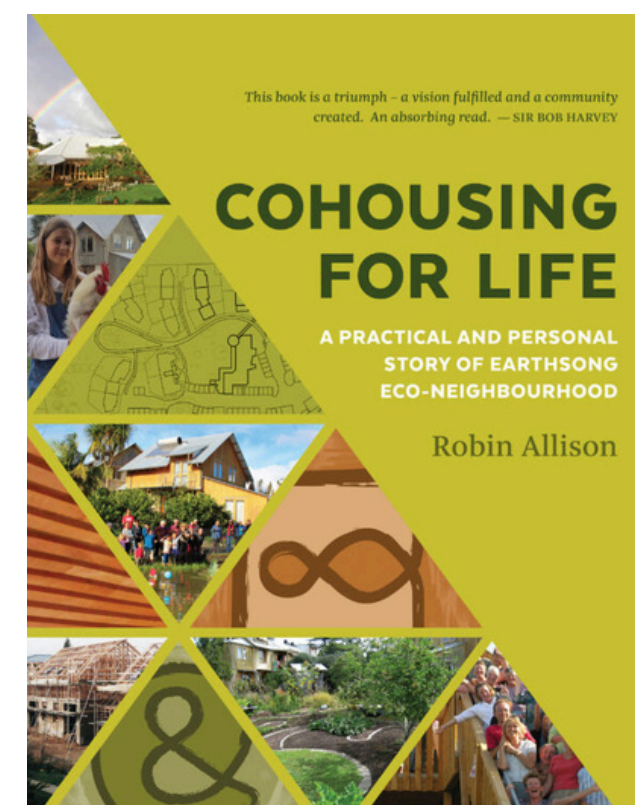
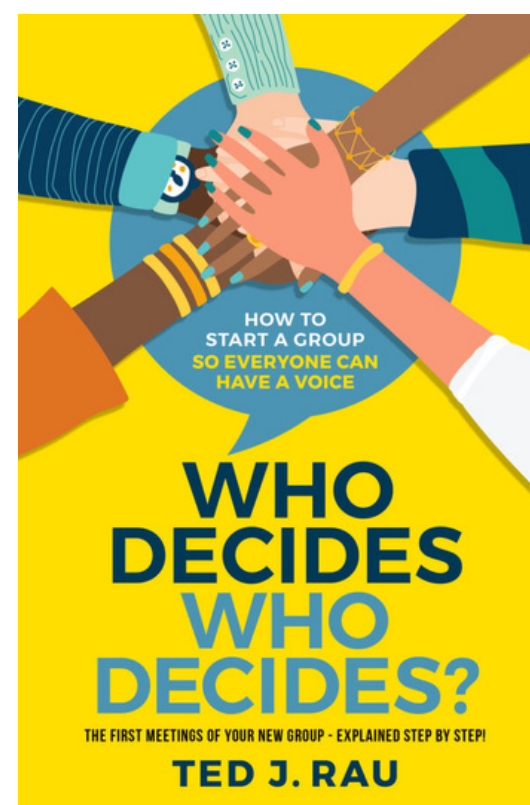
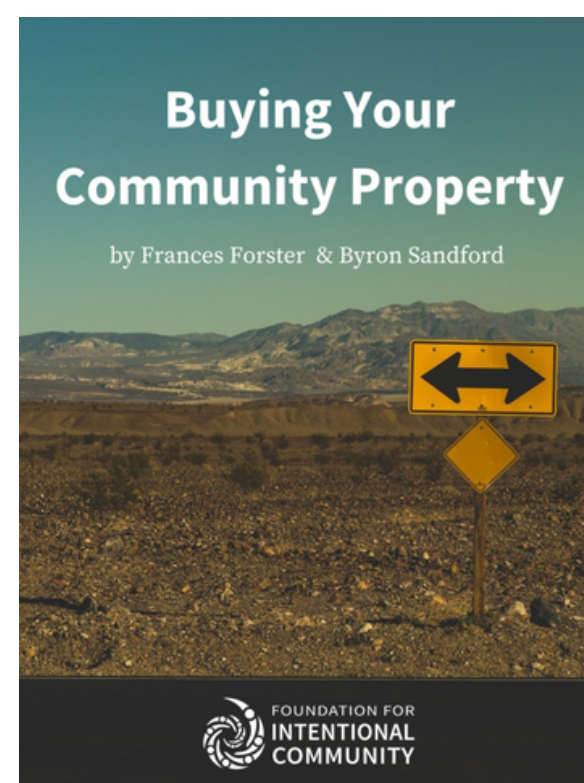


# Community Bookstore

Our online bookstore continues to provide books, e-books, videos, and more resources specifically about intentional communities and for communitarians. Over 2,000 of these resources were purchased or downloaded in 2021. Plus we added several new titles you can learn about below.

## New Titles in 2021

Click the books below to catch up on any new reading you may have missed! [ic.org/bookstore](https://ic.org/bookstore)





# New Starter Guide

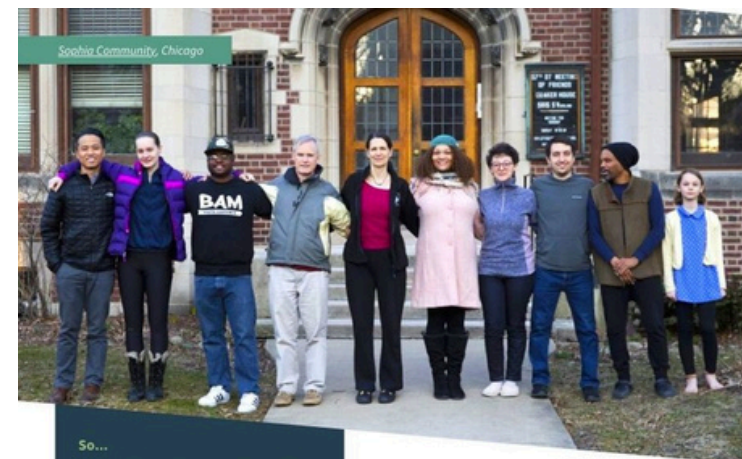
2021 saw the creation of FIC's first in-house e-book — a short guide introducing the concept of intentional communities along with an abundance of resources for how to join, start, and learn from communities. **You can access the free guide directly at [ic.org/starterguide](https://ic.org/starterguide).**



## starter guide to intentional communities

LIFE IN COOPERATIVE CULTURE

by Cynthia Tina



So...

### What is an intentional community?

An intentional community is a group of people who live together or share common facilities and who regularly associate with each other on the basis of explicit common values.

— Foundation for Intentional Community

Intentional communities are formed when people choose to live with or near enough to each other to carry out a shared lifestyle, within a shared culture, and with a common purpose.

— Bill Metcalf, communities researcher

Think "intentional community" is just another word for a hippie commune or a fringe cult off in the woods? Think again.

Communal living with a shared intention is nothing new. The first intentional community in recorded history was Homakoeion, a vegetarian commune, in 525 BCE. Early Christians lived communally, as did a variety of religious and political minorities throughout time. Utopian idealism spawned the creation of hundreds of communities during the 19th century, and later waves of young people in the 60s and 70s decided to quit society to create alternative communities. Some of these "hippie era" communities are still around today. See [this timeline](#) of intentional community development.

There's been a surge of interest in intentional communities over recent years, in part due to the development of more mainstream communal living models (such as cohousing and co-living), growing dissatisfaction with the isolation of modern life, as well as a search for more affordable and sustainable ways of living. While some stigma still exists, community living is being seen in a new light.

2.



### Interesting Facts about Intentional Communities Around the World

The EcoVillage Ithaca is the largest ecovillage in the US, with over 500 residents.



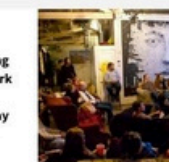
Campbell Communities create a unique home for people with disabilities and number over 100 worldwide!



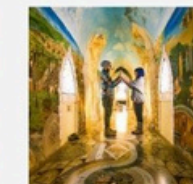
Arguably, the largest intentional community in the world is Auroville in India with 3,000+ residents and visitors.



A new generation of communes are popping up with a loose network of over 300 communities in the Bay Area, California, US.



Damanhur's magnificent Temples of Humankind were dug in secret from the Italian government for 16 years.



The largest cohousing community by land area is Heartwood Cohousing in Colorado, US, with almost 400 acres.



Thanks to the work of O.U.R. Ecovillage and Yarrow Ecovillage, Canada has an official "ecovillage zoning" permitting category.



9.



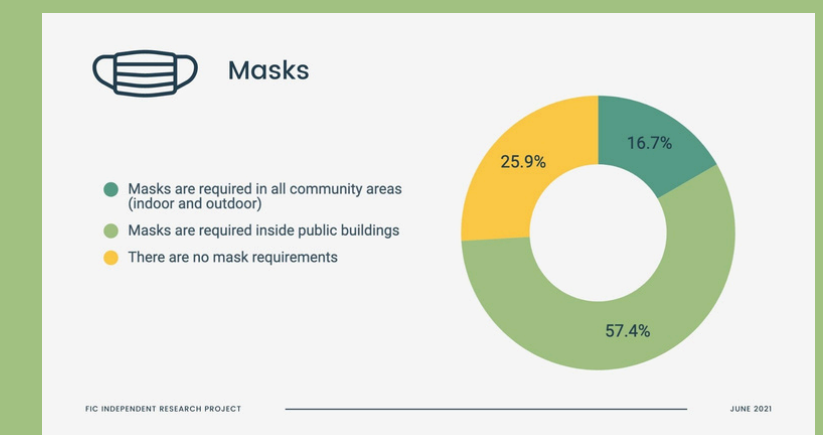
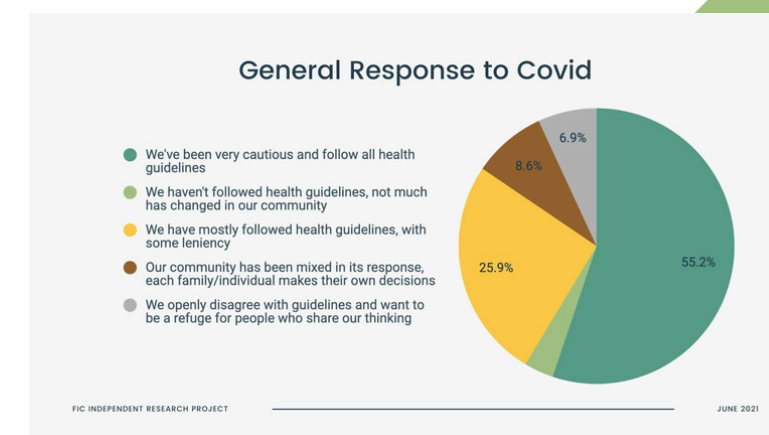


# Covid Research

FIC conducted a research project in spring of 2021 to try to understand how intentional communities were responding to the pandemic. Contained within the report are stories of both hope and struggle. Some of the more self-sufficient communities reported little change in their way of life. Others share distressing stories as they tried to find common ground amid divisive issues. The results show the diversity of responses and trends depending on the location, character, and population density of each community.

**You can access the report at [ic.org/covid-report](https://ic.org/covid-report).**

FIC encourages researchers and academics interesting in furthering this study or other lines of inquiry into intentional communities to please be in touch.





## Encountering intentional community was a life-changing event.

In the 33 years since, I've forged deep, enduring friendships, reared twin daughters to adulthood, and enjoyed steadfast partners in caring for self, others, and the Earth. Life has been at once rich and simple. Thank you, FIC, for making the benefits of intentional community accessible for so many.

— Robin, Magic Community





# 2022 Projects

*If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.*  
- African proverb



# Inside Community Podcast

FIC launched the Inside Community Podcast in partnership with podcast host, Rebecca Mesritz, in the early weeks of 2022. Now you can enjoy a new podcast offering an inside look at the beautiful and messy realities of creating and sustaining an intentional community.

**Listen to the first episodes by visiting [ic.org/podcast](https://ic.org/podcast) or by subscribing on your favorite podcast platform.**



Ep 002 | *What is Community?*  
*Fantasy vs. Reality*



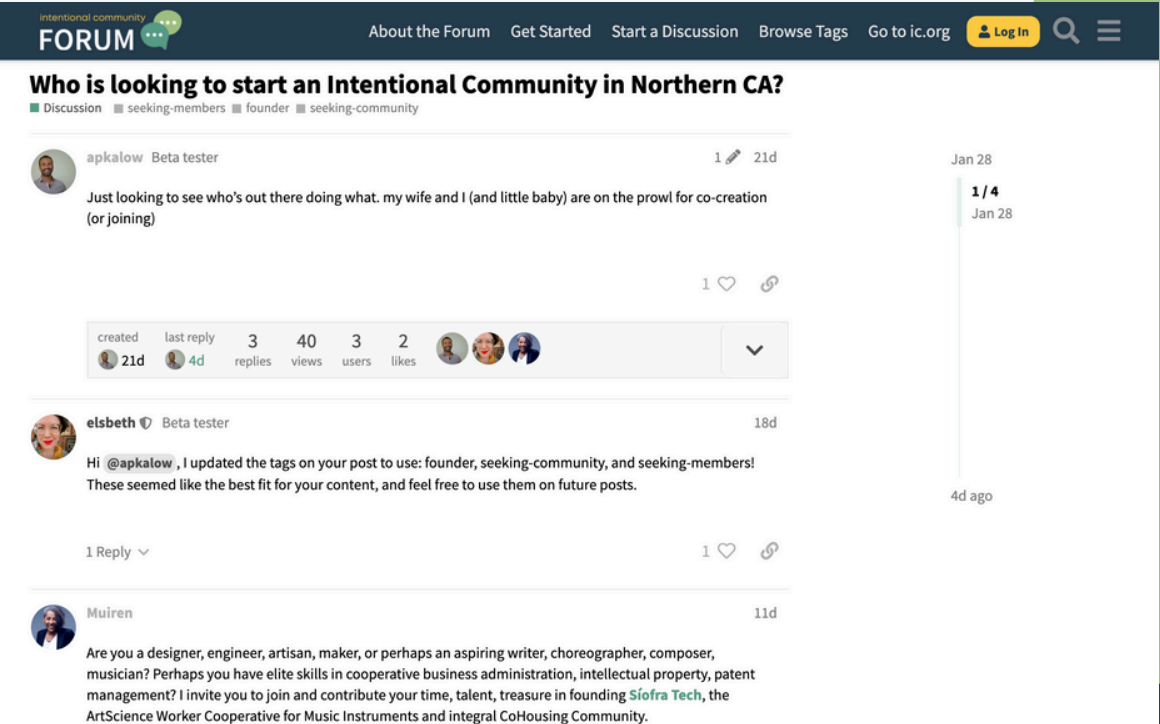
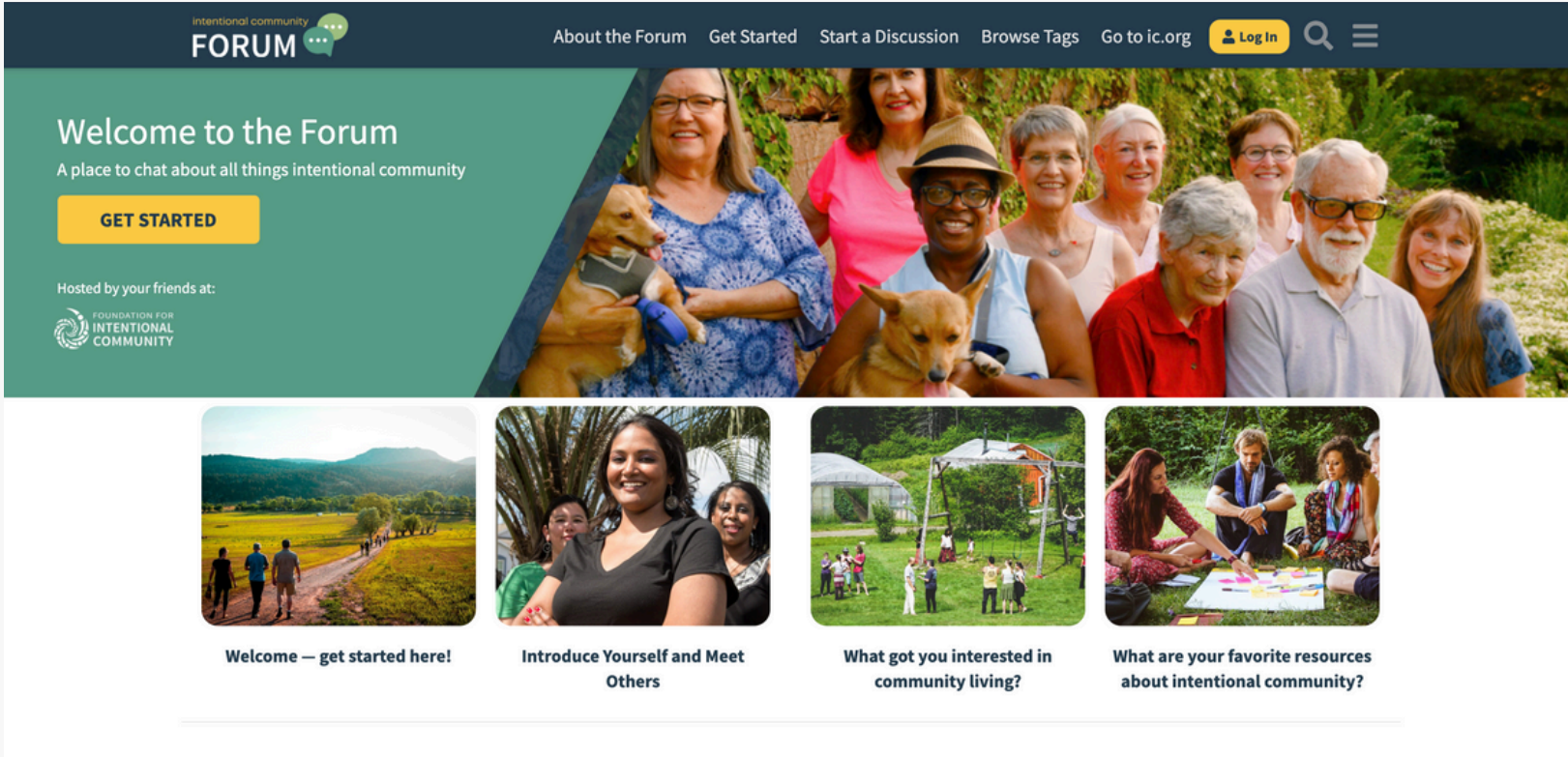
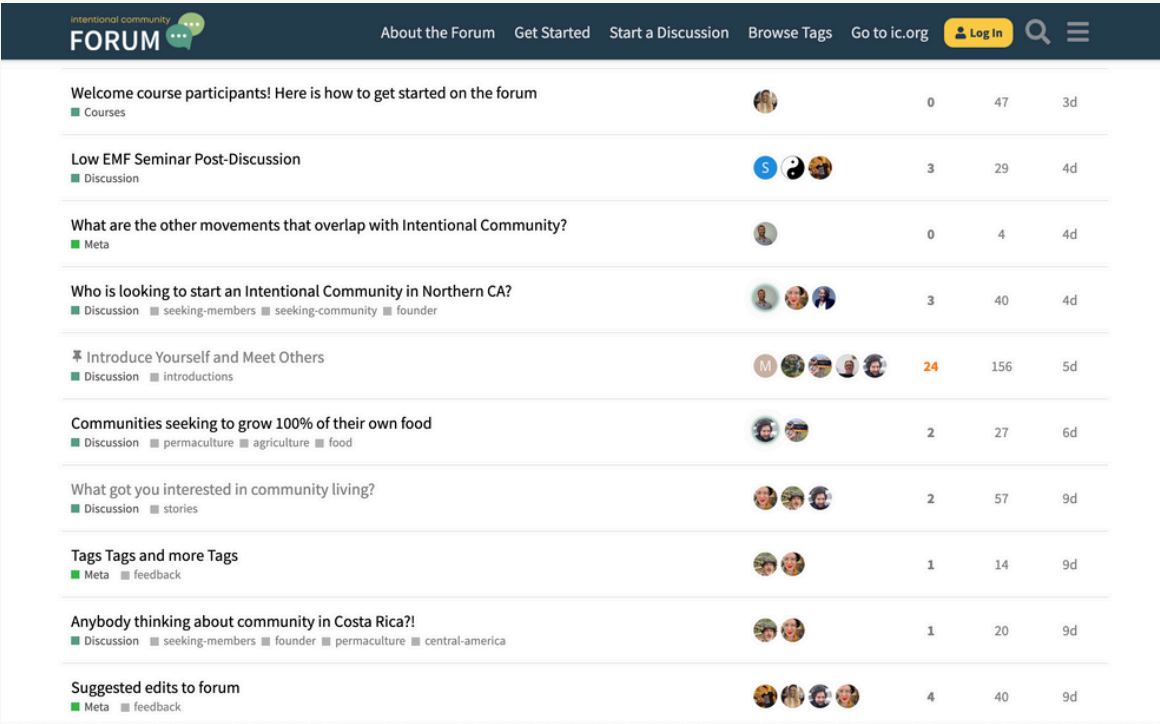
Ep 004 | *Becoming a Steward of the Commons* with Lee Warren





# Intentional Community Discussion Forum

Launching soon, the Discussion Forum will be a place to chat about all things related to intentional community. Grow your network, get your questions answered, discover useful content, and experience community! **Explore the beta version of the forum at [forum.ic.org](https://forum.ic.org) and give your feedback by posting with #feedback.**





# And More...

**We have so much more in store for 2022!**

Some of the projects we are most excited about include:

- **Resource Hub** — an online database of webinar recordings, community documents, templates, and policy examples
- **Communities Directory Book** — a new edition of the classic guide to communities
- **Online Directory Improvements** — to help you better search and find the communities you are looking for
- **Starting an Intentional Community Book** — a definitive guidebook to support you along the path of creating community
- **New Membership Program** — giving you easier access to all the above through a simple subscription model





# How to Support

*It is possible the next Buddha will not take the form of an individual.  
The next Buddha may take the form of a community, a community practicing  
understanding and lovingkindness, a community practicing mindful living.*

- Thich Nhat Hanh



# Donate

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

Thank you for your gifts in 2021 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](https://ic.org/donate)
- Mail a check to 1 Dancing Rabbit Ln, Unit 23, Rutledge MO 63563-9779, USA
- Give annually by Becoming an [FIC Member](#) (new program coming in 2022)
- Leave a positive legacy with a planned gift. Learn more at [ic.org/planned-giving](https://ic.org/planned-giving)

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





## **Thank you for the profound impact FIC has made on my life.**

I struggled for years about how to approach joining a community. FIC's resources and teachers have empowered me to start reaching out for help. That is worth more than any monetary donation I could possibly give.

— *Harry, FIC Member*





# FIC Team 2021

## Board

Cassandra Ferrera  
Crystal Byrd Farmer  
Harvey Baker  
Kaison Tanabe  
Marty Klaif  
Neha Sharma  
Sky Blue  
Yana Ludwig

## Staff

Adam McKenty  
Åsa (Osa) Isacson  
Ben Lucyk  
Bianca Riet Villanova  
Cynthia Tina  
Dasha Morrison  
Emlyn Crocker  
Kim Kanney  
Kim Scheidt  
Lauren Hugel  
Neil Planchon  
Petre Dobrescu  
Rodrigo Braga  
Ryan Lett  
Todd McCall

Meet the whole team at [ic.org/team](https://ic.org/team)  
Learn about open positions at [ic.org/fic-jobs](https://ic.org/fic-jobs)







FOUNDATION FOR  
**INTENTIONAL  
COMMUNITY**