



Operating Principles

Of the Evolutionary Funding Collaboratory

Adopted on January 22, 2023

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Evolutionary Funding Collaboratory is to support its members through relationship building, learning, collective action, and collaborative funding in exploring and catalyzing evolutionary futures that are radically more just, sustainable, and flourishing.

2. VISION

We are building an international funding collaboratory that:

- 2.1. Seeks to be radically just, sustainable, and flourishing;
- 2.2. Is engaged in an ongoing collective reflection on which valuable perspectives are not present in the community and what can be done to include these perspectives;
- 2.3. Practices the principles of non-violent economics where:
 - 2.3.1. Nobody is required to contribute financially beyond an amount that feels completely comfortable in their own unique and complex context;
 - 2.3.2. No member is judged or denied access to any opportunities based on the amount of their financial contribution;
 - 2.3.3. Members are encouraged to request budgets for their proposals that are 100% comfortable for them and all related stakeholders.
- 2.4. Creates opportunities for aligned organizations to increase the financial leverage of the community without controlling its governance or funding decisions;
- 2.5. Welcomes a wide range of member involvement from passive observers to active designers of the community;
- 2.6. Provides members with clear ways to participate in collective decision-making while allowing for effortless delegation of decision-making power by making delegation the default option so a timely and clearly defined action is needed to impact a certain decision;
- 2.7. Ensures accountability of members for commitments they freely and proactively make;
- 2.8. Organically and consciously evolves from being stewarded by Evolutionary Futures Lab towards becoming a self-sufficient cooperative.



3. LEGAL BASIS

- 3.1. This Collaboratory is operated by Evolutionary Futures Lab, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company.
- 3.2. To make sure that we are in compliance with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, it is important for us to establish that membership is a service provided “as is” and that no legal ownership, business partnership, or investment relationship is implied in any aspect of collaboratory organization or operations. Essentially, we are here to play and explore, not to expect or gain specific benefits. We intend to keep it like this until we are ready to explore the possibility of creating a cooperative based on our practices.
- 3.3. Members who do paid work directly related to collaboratory design, administration, and promotion are considered independent contractors paid by Evolutionary Futures Lab, LLC for their services provided as “work for hire”.
- 3.4. Members who get paid for their fully funded proposals are considered independent contractors and are entitled to keep full ownership of their ideas and resources related to the proposed project unless otherwise stated in the proposal.

4. PRACTICE COUNCIL

- 4.1. Collaboratory policies and procedures are designed and implemented by Practice Council based on these Operating Principles.
- 4.2. Practice Council consists of a representative of Evolutionary Futures Lab, LLC who acts as Chair of Practice Council, and at least 2 (two) Collaboratory Members in good standing who act as Practice Council Members.
- 4.3. Practice Council Members are appointed by Evolutionary Futures Lab, LLC.
- 4.4. Practice Council meetings are called by Evolutionary Futures Lab, LLC with 48-hour notice to all Practice Council Members via email or another channel approved by the Practice Council.
- 4.5. A quorum of the Practice Council for the transaction of business consists of 2 (two) Practice Council Members (not including the Chair).
- 4.6. A simple majority of voting Practice Council Members is required to approve an item of the Practice Council's business. A tie vote is resolved by the Practice Council Chair.
- 4.7. All official business of the Practice Council must be documented; such records must be stored at the Evolutionary Futures Lab, LLC for at least 3 (three) years and made available for Collaboratory Members upon request.
- 4.8. With the approval of the Practice Council, Practice Council Members may voluntarily assume responsibilities for various aspects of the Collaboratory's



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operations. All time spent on such tasks should be tracked and related reports should be submitted to the Practice Council Chair on the monthly basis.

- 4.9. At the beginning of each calendar year Practice Council Members receive a stipend for their service in the previous year.
- 4.10. The total amount allocated to stipends is 15% (fifteen percent) of the Collaborative's Budget for the related time period. Individual stipends are calculated based on documented time contributed by each Practice Council Member.
- 4.11. Practice Council Members are expected to work together with other Collaboratory Members to
 - 4.11.1. Create conditions for generative dialogue within the community,
 - 4.11.2. Continuously increase self-awareness about their role in given and emerging power structures and their effect on affected stakeholders, and ultimately
 - 4.11.3. Prepare the Collaboratory to achieve complete self-governance in the future.
- 4.12. Practice Council Members can resign at any time by sending a written notice to the Practice Council Chair and they can be released from their position at any time by Evolutionary Futures Lab, LLC.
- 4.13. Removed Practice Council Members receive a stipend for the time contributed to the Practice Council according to p.4.10. Resigned Practice Council Members do not receive any stipend.

5. STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

- 5.1. Stewardship Council supports the development of the Collaboratory with advice, resources, and voluntary service.
- 5.2. Stewardship Council consists of at least 3 (three) Stewardship Council Members appointed by Evolutionary Futures Lab, LLC. Stewardship Council Members may or may not be Collaboratory Members.
- 5.3. Stewardship Council Members agree to receive communication from Evolutionary Futures Lab, LLC with updates on the development of the Collaboratory along with requests for support, but they are not required to respond or engage unless they choose to do so.
- 5.4. Stewardship Council Members do not receive any financial compensation for their service in this capacity, but they may receive financial compensation from the Collaboratory when acting in a different capacity such as that of a Collaboratory Member executing a funded Proposal.
- 5.5. Stewardship Council Members can resign at any time by sending a written notice to Evolutionary Futures Lab, LLC and they can be released from their position by Evolutionary Futures Lab, LLC.



6. MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1. Members are admitted to the Collaboratory according to policies and procedures developed by the Practice Council.
- 6.2. To maintain their membership status, Members are required to
 - 6.2.1. Make a flexible financial contribution before the beginning of each funding cycle or
 - 6.2.2. Be sponsored by another member in accordance with policies and procedures developed by the Practice Council.
- 6.3. Members who make their monthly contributions directly to Evolutionary Futures Lab, LLC can sponsor other members who cannot make their contributions for technical reasons.
- 6.4. There is a limit to how many other members each member can sponsor; this limit is set forth by the Practice Council.
- 6.5. Sponsored members are expected to set aside an amount of money equal to their sponsored Collaboratory contribution and donate it to a local nonprofit or another relevant beneficiary.
- 6.6. Members who fail to make their contribution, either directly or through their sponsor, before the start of the funding cycle lose their active membership status.
- 6.7. New and returning members immediately get access to regular community communications and they need to follow policies and procedures (including a waiting period if applicable) set by Practice Council to get access to the following opportunities:
 - 6.7.1. Directly benefit from Proposals submitted by other Members;
 - 6.7.2. Submit their own Proposals;
 - 6.7.3. Manage Collaboratory Budget;
 - 6.7.4. Vote and/or offer formal input on relevant Collaboratory decisions.
- 6.8. Active membership ends when:
 - 6.8.1. The Member terminates their membership by sending a written notice to the Practice Council Chair;
 - 6.8.2. The Member fails to make a timely financial contribution, or
 - 6.8.3. The Member is removed from the Collaboratory by the Practice Council.

7. PROPOSALS

- 7.1. Qualified members can submit funding Proposals according to policies and procedures developed by the Practice Council.
- 7.2. The Practice Council is ultimately responsible for approving new funding proposals, monitoring the quality and integrity of the work, as well as ensuring



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timely communication of relevant information and payment of funds allocated through the collaborative funding process.

- 7.3. All proposals should provide a clear way for Members to expand their capacity for systems transformation and provide direct benefits to wider Collaboratory membership beyond the author of the proposal and their external stakeholders.
- 7.4. Policies and procedures related to funding, execution, and cancellation of Proposals are set by the Practice Council.

8. BUDGET AND FUNDING

- 8.1. The core practice of the Collaboratory is collaborative funding of Proposals submitted by qualified Members.
- 8.2. Collaborative funding policies and procedures are set by the Practice Council to create a flow of regular funding cycles.
- 8.3. Collaboratory Budget consists of:
 - 8.3.1. Collaboratory Income:
 - 8.3.1.1. Member contributions;
 - 8.3.1.2. Revenue generated through activities defined in funding proposals or in the decisions of the Practice Council;
 - 8.3.1.3. External funding attracted in accordance with policies and procedures set by the Practice Council;
 - 8.3.2. Collaboratory Balance: funds that roll over from the previous funding cycle after funding decisions have been made.
- 8.4. External funds used by the Collaboratory should not negatively affect Members' agency to make independent funding decisions on behalf of the Collaboratory.
- 8.5. All Members have an opportunity to participate in managing Collaboratory Budget except in special cases determined by the Practice Council.
- 8.6. Evolutionary Futures Lab, LLC is ultimately responsible for collecting funds, making payments, and running the tech infrastructure of the Collaboratory while specific tasks can be delegated to Practice Council Members.
- 8.7. Collaboratory Budget is allocated in the following way:
 - 8.7.1. 15% of Collaboratory Income is paid to Evolutionary Futures Lab, LLC at the beginning of each funding cycle as compensation for direct and indirect costs of maintaining basic infrastructure and functions of the Collaboratory;
 - 8.7.2. 15% of Collaboratory Income is set aside at the beginning of each funding cycle and used at the end of the year to compensate Practice Council Members for their work;
 - 8.7.3. 70% of Collaboratory Income and 100% of Collaboratory Balance are managed directly by Members and used to fund Proposals or roll over to the next funding cycle.



9. AMENDMENTS

- 9.1. These Operating Principles can be amended by the Practice Council if Collaboratory Members raise no objections within 10 (ten) business days after proposed Amendments are communicated to Members through at least one channel normally used for major announcements within the Collaboratory.
- 9.2. If an objection is raised, the Practice Council can adjust proposed Amendments accordingly or ask Members to vote. The simple majority vote of Members in good standing who participated in voting decides whether proposed Amendments are adopted.
- 9.3. The Practice Council is responsible for collecting input from Members, ensuring a fair and transparent process for Amendments, and documenting the results of the vote, if applicable.