CALL FOR ARTISTS

“Ritual Alchemist”
An Artistic Exploration of Ecological Belonging

_Alchemist:_ a person who transforms or creates something through a seemingly magical process.

**Background:** Building on the success of The Wellbeing Project’s (TWP) first-ever global Wellbeing Summit for Social Change in 2022, the wellbeing movement is growing around the world!

The regional Hearth Summits are an invitation for changemakers worldwide to explore and celebrate wellbeing for social change through themes such as the arts, trauma and healing, ecological belonging, community and belonging, and systems change. Hosted by members of TWP’s global network, these summits mark an incredible evolution of our collective journey to catalyze a culture of wellbeing for all changemakers. Together, we are cultivating the growth and global reach of the wellbeing for social change movement, empowering communities to create lasting social change by starting within.

The Community Arts Network’s (CAN) collaborative partnership with The Wellbeing Project began with the 2022 Wellbeing Summit. This year, CAN’s engagement as a partner will take various forms. CAN will arrange the participation of "artists in residence" for 10 of the regional Hearth Summits throughout 2024 and 2025. A jury that includes CAN members will make the artists selection while other members will accompany artists to the events as well as serve as a group mentor. While also participating in regional Hearth Summit programmes, CAN will also collaborate in publicly promoting the events and their outcomes.

**Today we are seeking 7 passionate and dynamic individuals, one for each RHS in 2024, to take on the role of Ritual Alchemist in order to help us create a unique and magical vision, along with the local community, around the concept of Ecological Belonging.**

This is a unique opportunity to delve into a local ritual or practice and engage the community in a journey to renew it for today. It is a transformative, community-based and artistic exploration to capture the essence and wisdom behind the local ritual or practice and determine if it makes sense to bring this to life in our contemporary setting by reintegrating it into today’s culture. This exploration will take place in parallel in 7 different countries around the world, under the direction of the Ritual Alchemist in each region.

_Brazil - São Paulo // USA - Washington, DC // Japan - Kyoto // India - Bangalore // Colombia - Cali // Austria - Alpbach // Senegal - Dakar-Thiès_
This initiative involves collaborating with a regional summit and local communities to explore, renew, and reweave existing rituals on the lands they belong to. The artistic exploration will unfold in several iterations, ranging from local community engagement to a lived experience of participants at the regional Hearth Summits.

* There will be a second open call for 2025 Ritual Alchemists.

**Overview:**
We are seeking a passionate and dynamic individual to take on the role of Ritual Alchemist. This unique role requires a visionary leader with a background in the arts, community organizing, and facilitation. The successful candidate should be rooted in the community they serve with a deep sense of belonging to the local region. They will be responsible for spearheading a transformative initiative that involves collaborating with regional summits and local communities to explore, renew, and reweave existing rituals on the lands they belong to.

**Responsibilities:**

**Artistic Vision and Leadership:**
- Develop and articulate a creative vision for the exploration and renewal of historic and local rituals within diverse communities.
- Lead the artistic direction of the initiative, ensuring that the project aligns with the values and cultural context of each community.

**Community Organizer:**
- Collaborate with regional summit stakeholders and community organizations to establish meaningful partnerships.
- Organize and facilitate community meetings, workshops, and events to engage local residents in the ritual renewal process.
- Build relationships with key stakeholders, including local artists, cultural leaders, and community influencers.

**Facilitation and Inclusivity:**
- Design and implement inclusive and participatory processes that encourage diverse voices and perspectives.
- Facilitate workshops and collaborative sessions that empower community members to share their stories, traditions, and visions for ritual renewal.
- Foster an environment that values and respects the cultural diversity within each community.
Research and Understanding:
- Conduct in-depth research on the historical and local rituals of specific lands and communities.
- Collaborate with scholars, historians, and cultural experts to ensure accurate and respectful representation of cultural practices.

Project Management:
- Develop and manage project timelines, budgets, and resources effectively.
- Coordinate logistics for events, exhibitions, and other project-related activities.

Document the development of the process:
- Engage with The Wellbeing Project’s Ecological Belonging Storytelling team and the Community Arts Network Communications team to design an effective storytelling strategy to document the artistic process.

Competencies:

- **Artistic & Creative Vision and Leadership**: Demonstrated expertise as an artist with a robust portfolio showcasing a compelling artistic vision, indicating the ability to conceptualize and execute creative projects effectively. Ability to manage projects from conception to completion.

- **Community Engagement and Organizing**: Experienced in community organizing and engagement, particularly within cultural or arts contexts, fostering meaningful connections and collaborations to advance shared objectives.

- **Co-Creation and Collaborative Skills**: Being able to work within a team, valuing the contributions of others, and fostering an environment of mutual respect and collaboration.

- **Communication Skills**: Effective verbal and written communication, as well as active listening skills, are crucial. This includes being able to provide constructive feedback, articulate ideas clearly, and understand the perspectives of others.

- **Problem-Solving and Adaptability**: The ability to identify issues, think critically, and come up with creative solutions.

- **Cultural and Empathic Competency**: Understanding and respecting diversity in all its forms (cultural, racial, sexual orientation, etc.) and incorporating this awareness into the leadership and creative process.

**Stipend**: Selected artists will receive a grant of EUR 2,500.
We are committed to building a group of artists that reflect our beautifully diverse world. Candidates from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply

How to Apply:

If you are interested to be part of the Ecological Belonging initiative as a Ritual Alchemist, please apply by filling out THIS FORM. Please note that your application must be submitted by 23:59 CET on April 30.

The process for application review and selection will be led by a jury of CAN members, including Siphokazi Jonas, Haya Fatima Iqbal, Anis Barnat. This process will also be supported by The Wellbeing Project and a representative from the Regional Hearth Summit organising team.

The application form will request the following:

- Selection of the Regional Hearth Summit you will be applying for.
- Submission of:
  - Resume
  - Portfolio of relevant artistic work
  - Cover letter outlining your experience and vision for community engagement in ritual renewal.
- Acknowledgment and agreement on Competencies & Responsibilities described above.

**A Note on Language: All applicants are encouraged to apply regardless of their level of English proficiency. Art is a universal human language, and this artistic position explores our local identities and rituals, which are not confined to a single language or one way of communicating. Please note, however, that the selection jury is an international group whose common language is English. Therefore, the jury selection process, including responses, will be provided in English. All applications and materials submitted will be translated into English using translation technology, and may not perfectly represent what a native language conveys. While English is not required to apply, planning and communication processes upon selection will be conducted in English (with the help of a translator or mediator, if necessary, or with the help of the Regional Hearth Summit local organizers).
**Timeline of Application Process:**

The following table specifies information, including the corresponding application deadline, for each Regional Hearth Summit. If you have any questions, please contact: alexis@wellbeing-project.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>COUNTRY/CITY</th>
<th>DATES OF SUMMIT</th>
<th>LANGUAGE OF SUMMIT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NORTH AMERICA</td>
<td>USA - Washington, DC</td>
<td>18-21 Sept, 2024</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>CENTRAL &amp; SOUTH AMERICA</td>
<td>Colombia - Cali</td>
<td>Nov / Dec, 2024</td>
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<td>Brazil - São Paulo</td>
<td>9-11 Oct, 2024</td>
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<td>EUROPE</td>
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<td>English &amp; French</td>
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**DEADLINE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS: APRIL 30, 23:59 CET**

Candidates will be notified by the end of May 2024.