



Open Call: Rhizome Fellowship 2026

Pathways to Regenerative Futures

Are you a narrative practitioner, artist, academic, journalist, storyteller, or activist working at the intersection of reimagining cultural narratives and systems change? Do you believe in the power of narratives to challenge dominant paradigms and co-create regenerative futures?

The **Rhizome Fellowship** is a nine-month journey (May-December 2026) designed to equip you with tools and accompany you through a process of **narrative-led systems change**. Rooted in the **Culture Hack Method**, this fellowship provides a structured yet experimental space to develop and prototype narrative interventions that disrupt extractive models and seed regenerative futures.

 **Deadline to apply: 16 April 2026**

Key Dates:

 **Two Introductory Sessions (Open to All):** March 26 & April 2, 2026 ([RSVP Here](#))

 **Applications Open:** March 26, 2026 ([Application Form](#))

 **Deadline to Apply:** April 16, 2026

 **Fellowship Starts (Bi-weekly Online Sessions):** May 28 - Dec 17, 2026, Thursdays 11-12.30 Mexico City Time (28 May, 11 June, 25 June, 9 July, 23 July, 6 Aug, 20 Aug, 3 Sept, 17 Sept, 1 Oct, 5 Nov, 19 Nov, 3 Dec, 17 Dec)

 **In-Person Gathering in Costa Rica:** October 22-28, 2026

This year's fellowship is centered around the **Pathways to Regenerative Futures**. These **pathways emerged** from a narrative research series [Beyond the Carbon Fixation: Pathways to Regenerative Futures](#) that set out to find pathways to liberate

land, waters, ecosystems, and communities from the enclosures of capitalism and colonialism.

Through this research, we found that beyond the carbon-centered approaches to the climate crisis, limited by reductionist metrics and market-driven solutions, are alternate pathways - already embodied by living examples. **These pathways, when interwoven, can serve as a navigational tool for systems change.**

The Pathways to Regenerative Futures are:

 **Restoring Justice, Restoring Life** –This pathway emphasizes the inseparable connection between ecological restoration and social justice. Addressing colonial and capitalist exploitation is necessary for healing ecosystems.

 **Economies of Regeneration** – Moving away from extractive economies toward regenerative, circular models that prioritize community resilience and ecological wellbeing.

 **Land Back to Right Relationship** – Advocating for collective ownership models, like Community Land Trusts, to return land to the stewardship of communities rather than corporations.

 **Bioregional Community Governance** –Promoting decentralized, participatory governance structures that empower communities to manage their resources and environments in ways that align with ecological limits.

 **Healing the Spirit, Healing the Earth** – Reconnecting with spiritual and cultural practices that honor the Earth and challenge the disconnection and alienation that drives exploitation.

We will invite **fellows and projects that align with one of the five pathways** to apply for the fellowship. There is no cost for participating in this program. Fellows will receive training on narrative change methodology, tools, guidance and support from practitioners and a community of shared practice. The aim of this fellowship is to learn the methodology and launch a narrative intervention (a hack) between October and December 2026.

The fellowship should support and be integrated into your existing work or activism. Fellows must apply as a collective or organization with at least two participants.

Phase 1: Culture Hacking 101 - Everyone is Welcome

Thursday 26th & Thursday 2nd April

Before the fellowship selection in April, we invite anyone interested in learning about narrative-led systems change to join our **two Introductory Sessions**. These open sessions will explore:

 **Open Call 1) Narrative-led Systems Change**

 **Open Call 2) Rhizome Fellowship**

- ◆ **Dates:** Thursday 26th & Thursday 2nd April: 11-12.30 Mexico City Time
- ◆ **Format:** Two 90-minute online sessions
- ◆ **Who Can Join?** Anyone interested in narrative change, storytelling, and systemic transformation.

If you are considering applying for the full Rhizome Fellowship, we require that you attend these two sessions.

Phase 2: Project Submission & Selection Process

Submission: March 26th - 16th April 2026

At the end of the **Two Introductory Sessions**, those who wish to apply for the Rhizome Fellowship will be invited to submit a **Narrative Project Proposal (your application)**.

What are we looking for?

- ✓ A project that aligns with one of the **Pathways to Regenerative Futures**
- ✓ A clear connection to the applicant's **ongoing work or activism** in systems change
- ✓ A commitment to developing the project through the **Culture Hack Method**
- ✓ One leading and one supporting person collaborating in the project
- ✓ A project that has the potential for real-world narrative impact

What You Can Expect from the Fellowship

- ✓ **9-month collaborative process** – Bi-weekly Online sessions & one week in-person gathering exploring narrative-led systems change
- ✓ **Access to Culture Hack methodology & tools** – Learn how to design and execute narrative interventions
- ✓ **Mentorship & peer exchange** – Join a global cohort of storytellers, organizers, and researchers
- ✓ **Project incubation** – Develop a narrative hack with a direct impact in your community
- ✓ **In-person gathering** – Meet fellows and co-create collective strategies in Costa Rica

What we expect from you

Full participation and aligned energy with the fellowship - there is no financial cost to participate, we dedicate energy and resources into each participant and ask that, in reciprocity, you **fully commit to completing the fellowship and your narrative hack** (May 2026-Jan 2027). Each seat in the fellowship is precious.

If you are applying, check in with yourself to **make sure you have the capacity and desire to be present and engaged** at all **bi-weekly compulsory zoom sessions** (Thursdays 11-12.30 Mexico City Time) and for the **in-person gathering in Costa Rica**, (October 22-28 2026).

Who Should Apply?

- ◆ Artists, media-makers, journalists, and researchers working in narrative change
- ◆ Community organizers and activists embedding narrative strategy into their work
- ◆ Organizations/Collectives already working on a narrative initiative
- ◆ Those ready to challenge colonial worldviews and cultivate regenerative narratives
- ◆ Applicants from diverse backgrounds committed to deep collaboration

Fellowship Timeline

-  **Introductory Sessions (Open to All):** March 26 & April 2, 2026
-  **Project Submission Period:** March 26 - April 16th 2026 ([Application Form](#))
-  **Deadline to Apply:** April 16, 2026
-  **Shortlist Candidates Interviewed:** April 27-1 May 2026
-  **Final Selection (20 Projects Announced):** First week of May 2026
-  **Fellowship Begins (Bi-weekly Online Sessions):** May 28 - Dec 17, 2026*
Thursdays 11-12.30 Mexico City Time
-  **In-Person Gathering in Costa Rica:** October 22-28, 2026
-  **Hacking & Implementation:** November–December, 2026
-  **Final Reporting:** January 2027

*Thursdays 11-12.30 Mexico City Time on: 28 May, 11 June, 25 June, 9 July, 23 July, 6 Aug, 20 Aug, 3 Sept, 17 Sept, 1 Oct, 5 Nov, 19 Nov, 3 Dec, 17 Dec

Selected fellows will receive access to resources, mentorship, and a global support network. One representative per project will travel to join the in-person gathering in Costa Rica.

Participation in the Rhizome Fellowship is fully funded and comes at no cost to your organization. Each selected project receives a 9-month scholarship, including learning sessions, personal advisory support, access to CHL tools and methodology, and all travel expenses to Costa Rica (incl. visa, flights, accommodation, meals, and local transportation). Please note that this is not a cash grant or personal stipend: no direct funds are given to participants.*

**Please note that participation requires obtaining a Costa Rican visa. While CHL provides full logistical and financial support throughout the visa process (including travel to a nearby embassy if needed), visa access is ultimately shaped by external immigration systems and is uneven across contexts. We recognise that these barriers disproportionately and unfairly impact participants from Global Majority countries, and in rare cases may prevent attendance despite our full support.*

Join now! RSVP the two introductory sessions [[Zoom link](#)].

See [FAQs here](#)

See [Application form here](#) (opens 26 March, closes 16 April).

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Together, we **Rhizome**.