Rhizome 2026 - FAQ

Rhizome Fellowship: Frequently Asked Questions

Any further questions: rhizome@culturehack.io
Rhizome website: culturehack.io/rhizome

1. **Application process**
   - **How many fellows will be accepted?** 20 projects. Two people per project.
   - **When is the application deadline?** April 16th, 2026
   - **When will applicants be notified?** First week of May
   - **When will the application form be available?** March 26th, 2026 (after the first Open Call). The form will be open for three weeks.
   - **Can individuals apply or does it need to be a team/collective?** We will consider applications from individuals but priority goes to teams of two. We will accept one person leading the project and one supporting. We will prioritize people and teams that are organized locally or regionally.
   - **What counts as a collective or organization? Do we have to be registered formally or legally?** No need to be formally or legally registered.
   - **Is there a maximum team size for applications?** Priority goes to collectives, organizations, groups of at least two people and up to four people. And only one will be sponsored to join the in-person in Costa Rica.
   - **Why do teams get priority?** We've found from previous cohorts that applying and working in teams increased completion and implementation of narrative interventions while also building narrative-led systems change capacity within organizations or communities.
   - **Do both/all team members need to attend the information sessions?** At least one person.
   - **Can we apply with multiple applications/projects?** Yes but only one would be accepted. It is much better to focus on one.
   - **Do we need to have funding secured for our project to apply?** Not necessarily, though we will prioritize projects that are feasible and part of people's organisational work / activism.
   - **Are there criteria regarding gender, age, etc. for applicants?** No. Everyone is welcome to apply.
   - **Could I apply even though my English is not as fluent?** All the content and communication is primarily in English. We have Spanish speaking advisors.

2. **Logistics and time commitment**
   - **What days and times will the fellowship sessions take place?** Thursdays at 11am-12.30pm Mexico time, every other week from May 14 to Dec 17. Dates as follows: 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 (14 sessions).
   - **How much time does the fellowship typically require outside of the scheduled sessions?** Around 4-6 hours a week.
   - **What is involved in the 4-6 hour weekly requirement?** This is a mixture of the biweekly calls with everyone, personal advisory sessions (dates TBC but will happen once per month), and self-work/preparation.
   - **Will there be one-on-one sessions with the Rhizome facilitators?** Yes, you will be assigned an advisor for the fellowship - you can organise 1-1 calls with them to support your project development.
   - **How will the personal advisory function?** You will have booked check-ins with a personal advisor and you will have optional time with narrative experts.
   - **When does the hack/implementation need to happen?** Ideally between November and December 2026.
   - **How much is the Fellowship?** It's a sponsored fellowship – your project will receive 9 months of learning sessions, all travel expenses to Costa Rica (including visas, flights, accommodations, meals and transportation) for one person per project, personal advisory during the fellowship and access to relevant tools and methodology - this is at no cost to you or your organization.
   - **Is there a stipend?** There is no additional stipend not cash grants.
   - **When is the in-person event in Costa Rica?** Oct 22-28 2026. Arrival day: 22nd; Departure day 28th. 5 days of gathering in between.
   - **What is covered for the in-person event in Costa Rica?** All costs are covered for one team member.
   - **Will visa support be provided for international fellows?** Yes visa support and flights included. 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 can be 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.
   - **Can my organisation fund the second participant to join in Costa Rica?** Yes. This will be reviewed case by case, depending on space in Costa Rica.
   - **What are the minimum requirements for other team members (not the primary)?** They should attend the calls and support their team lead.

- **Can team members miss sessions?** We ask that you attend all. If you absolutely need to miss a session, we ask that you watch the recording. Please do not apply if you already know you can't make more than 1-2 sessions. We know life happens but we ask for full commitment. This is very competitive Fellowship.
- **Will the fellowship meeting videos be shared beyond the cohort?** No, but the online method is open source.
- **Is the curriculum available in the public domain?** Yes. Link here.
- **Are the slides under a Creative Commons License?** Yes, Creative Commons Share Alike 4.0.
- **What happens after the cohort?** We are cultivating a network of practitioners so you can stay involved and collaborate.
- **Is there a formal alumni network?** We don't have a formal alumni network simply because of team capacity, but the fellows weave together and that doesn't end.
- **What happens if I don't get accepted or prefer a "lighter" version of the Fellowship?** You can still join our Network for practitioners interested in narrative-led systems change. You can also follow along with the Fellowship journey through our monthly Open calls.

3. **Project scope and eligibility**
   - **Does my project need to align with all 5 Pathways to Regenerative Futures?** Your project can be relevant to just one, or more than one. But Fellows will be divided by Pathway so best to focus on one.
   - **What kinds of projects are suitable for the fellowship?** Depending on three criteria: A) Feasibility B) Relevance to your work/activism C) Capacity for narrative impact.
   - **Can projects focus on specific issues like gender justice?** Yes, so long as they also align to one or more of the 5 Pathways to Regenerative Futures.
   - **Can projects be non-activist in nature?** Projects need to tie to the regeneration pathways.
   - **Can projects involve visual, fictional narratives and speculative futures?** Yes!
   - **Can projects be curatorial in nature?** Yes, as long as there is a dominant narrative you are seeking to shift and a new reframed narrative you will develop to share with the public
   - **Can projects be educational or internationally focused rather than place-based?** It does not have to be place-based; it can focus on a particular

industry or theme beyond borders. During the Fellowship, we will support you to hone in on specific audiences/contexts so your hack is more targeted.

- **Can graduate work be used as a project?** Yes, as long as it has the capacity to become a culture hack.
- **Do you have examples of previous projects?** See case studies from the [2025 and 2024 projects](). Come to our 2 Introductory Sessions in March - past Fellows will present their projects and experience in Rhizome.
- **Can we bring a hypothesis and define the result in the process?** Yes!
- **How are metrics for success developed?** CHL will help you develop your own metrics - based on our experience [evaluating impact of narrative change]().

4. **About Culture Hack Labs**
   - **How is Culture Hack Labs funded?** Through foundations. We do not accept money nor cooperate with governments or corporations.
   - **Is the fellowship offered annually?** This is our last full Fellowship. Next year we will start shifting to a self-learning iteration of the method.