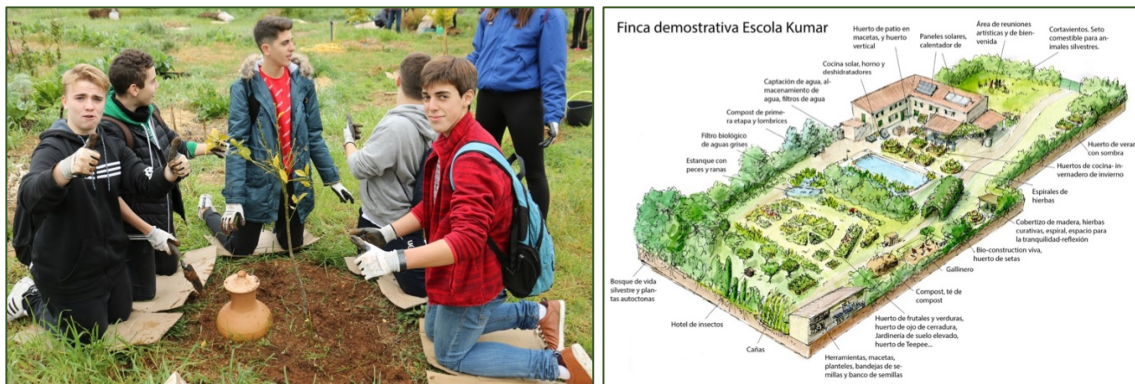


Escola Kumar-Activities for 2017-2018
“Soil, Soul, and Society”
Permaculture in Community, Education, and Our Lives
A holistic approach to education to inspire a more connected and resilient life



2016-2017 Program Summary

Escola Kumar is an innovative holistic education project and living demonstration center inspired by the work and life of Satish Kumar, educator, writer, and wise activist of “Soil, Soul and Society.” It is supported by the foundation Education Por La Vida, private donations, and volunteers. With resources offered and experience gained through activities at Escola Kumar, participants can incorporate holistic, sustainable and regenerative living skills in their educational centers, professions, communities and personal lives.

Over the past year Escola Kumar, in collaboration with Permacultura Mediterránea (PermaMed), have made great strides in implementing and expanding a wide variety of joint projects. Catalysed by growing support from generous donations and a network of local and international collaborators, the roots of the overall program have dug deeper and have resulted in successful projects that are beginning to bear bountiful fruit. Escola Kumar has received over 1000 visitors and in 2018 plans to expand their efforts even further offering hope, skills, and inspiration to educators, youths, and the local and international community through trainings, events, free online resources, and living demonstration sites.

In this 2017 fall update report we share a summary of recent developments, projects and accomplishments over the last year and offer a vision for 2018. While we have classified the projects into overall categories, the programs and projects within Escola Kumar and PermaMed are by nature interconnected and interwoven in the fabric of a holistic design. Projects discussed in this report include:

- Holistic education as an agent for change - expanding programs in education centres
- Youth in Permaculture (YiP) - empowering youth with resources, skills, and inspiration. A local pathway program and an international youth initiative
- Providing teacher training with international renowned teachers
- Intergenerational bridges of empowerment – mentors and youth in collaboration
- Providing in-depth community and multi-level project driven certification trainings
- Low footprint participatory demonstration strategies that you can implement too
- Supporting and collaborating with other island and international groups (NextGEN)
- Incorporating United Nations Sustainability Development Goals into our programs
- Creating practical, engaging and accessible educational materials





Next steps in 2018 for Escola Kumar and collaborator PermaMed:

- Expanding the youth advocacy and training programs. In December 2017 we will bring 56 youths from 8 countries to northern Italy for a workshop on developing sustainable living pathways through permaculture, green entrepreneurship, community and sociocracy training. In 2018 there are several more international youth exchanges planned with European partners and Gaia Education. Locally in Mallorca, youths receive weekly training in sustainability design receiving hands-on professional training with mentors to develop portfolios for their work. They also help implement gardens in local schools, and assist with train workshops.
- Improve the Escola Kumar educational demonstration site through participatory workshops that create exemplary infrastructure that lowers our ecological and carbon footprint. This is accomplished through solar energy installations and water reduction and reuse systems that can easily be replicated in suburban homes, as well as educational and community centres.
- Implement a multiplier effect by providing accessible permaculture resources for educators, youths, community groups, and people who want tools to help them be part of the change towards a better more sustainable world. Develop and distribute online video, digital ebooks, educational and instructional materials and resources.
- Support educators to implement holistic sustainability and permaculture education into school curriculums and develop on-site interactive demonstration sites at schools, such as gardens, solar cookers, recycle workshops, participatory art and more.
- Collaborate with international organizations such as Youth in Permaculture, Gaia Education, NextGEN and others to build support for holistic education and youth exchange, and professional opportunities for youths both locally and worldwide.
- Developing a Transition Towns and permaculture resource hub for Mallorca.
- Encouraging a positive participatory outcome for this beautiful world through example, events, celebrations, workshops, outreach and certification courses.

Holistic education as an agent for change- putting the idea into practice:

In these dynamic and challenging times there is a growing appreciation of the value of cultivating systemic design and problem solving skills within the education community. However, many of our education centers are overwhelmed by antiquated and bureaucratic demands. Even when inspired to offer holistic education, teachers often do not have the resources or time to implement ideas within the demands of the required curriculum. Escola Kumar in collaboration with PermaMed and Artifex Balear has been offering resources and guidance to teachers and students both within and outside of the classroom. Our focus has been in providing permaculture tools in secondary schools to introduce an understanding of systemic design and interdisciplinary experiential learning that are empowering and inspiring, especially when applied to real life situations and practical projects. Here we share some of our programs and projects from 2016 and 2017





Integrating Eco-literacy into Practice as part of Educational Centers

IES Jaime 1: Intergenerational urban gardens in a public school in the heart of Palma

Many of our in-school projects and events have come as invitations from educators who have been inspired by teacher training programs they have participated in at Escola Kumar. An example of this occurred earlier this summer when we were invited by an Escola Kumar permaculture certification graduate to organize an intergenerational hands-on urban gardening event for a variety of local community groups. The event was held on the cement playgrounds of a public high school in the heart of Palma. Truly integrating across the community, over one hundred event participants included members from the local retirement home, a children's summer school program, juveniles from a halfway house in the community, a local after school youth group, a program that integrates people with handicaps into their community, and several other community groups. We used this opportunity to bring in teacher trainers who had just finished an in depth certification course at Escola Kumar to design and facilitate the workshop, thus giving them a valuable experience in teaching and creating program material for workshops. After a wide welcoming circle, participants could rotate through a series of mini hands-on workshops on urban gardening, bioconstruction, and social permaculture. The workshop dynamics encouraged intergenerational and across-group integration and it was rewarding to see both young and old and the diverse members enjoying learning and sharing together. Permaculture recognizes the importance of sustainable community development through building trusting relationships and this project provided an opportunity to encourage that process. The community organizers and participants were all very pleased with the rewarding event and we have been invited back to work with community parent, teacher, and youth groups in the fall of 2017.





Public high school Pau Casesnovas, Inca. Involving students, teachers, and parents in designing and implementing holistic design as part of the educational environment.

Teachers from this high school attended workshops and guided tours of the demonstration sites at Escola Kumar to gather ideas and inspiration to implement them into their school program programs and grounds. They were inspired to incorporate several examples such as an herbal spiral, the pallet garden, and a grey water system with a pond, complete with a bio filter using native plants, fish and frogs into their school grounds. We worked directly in collaboration with these teachers and students to help them build and implement these projects. The whole process was recorded by local television station IB3, and has been shared in a lengthy show that aired in June on the IB3 Science Education Program. This exposure through local television will hopefully reach and inspire even more educators and families to incorporate permaculture and holistic design into their education, working, and living spaces. Escola Kumar and PermaMed are committed to continue their work with this and other a growing number of enthusiastic school teachers, students, and participants in 2018.



IES Madina Mayurqa - multiple workshops in a city school and at a permaculture demonstration site

Several teachers and program coordinators from the IES Madina Mayurqa high school participated in teacher trainings at Escola Kumar last year. Inspired and motivated to put into practice what they had learned, they invited us to help provide in school workshops for students and teachers. Over 300 students participated over two days. Six dynamic workshops were conducted including: using recycled pallets to create garden containers, planting out urban gardens amongst the cement on the school grounds and play spaces, creating, decorating and taking home native “Christmas tree” saplings which were replanted at a demonstration site after Christmas, making sprout jars and learning about growing your own food and the value of buying local ecological and fresh produce, and playing dynamic currency games to better understand the value of supporting just and ecologically based economy.



Inspired by the student's enthusiasm they invited us to collaborate in bringing the students out of the city to one of the PermaMed permaculture demonstration sites to participate in hands-on workshops. Here the students planted the trees they had cared for over the winter holiday in a food forest, created several types of gardens, and learned how to make compost and biochar to improve their soils. They toured the site and learned about holistic permaculture design, ethics and principals in action. They also created works of art to be placed in the demonstration site that were inspired by nature. It was a fine and inspiring day with over 300 enthusiastic participants and the story was covered in the local newspaper with numerous photographs.

In summary, Escola Kumar is putting a lot of its resources into training and inspiring teachers to meet the demand for other schools and community centers to learn how to incorporate holistic learning and living into their programs and centers. Some of those educator-facilitators have been the youths themselves. Escola Kumar was invited to participate in the international Gaia Education NexGEN strategy meeting this September that focused on how to bring sustainability and social justice teaching into schools and to youths through informal education. <https://ecovillage.org/project/ede/>



Youth in Permaculture Program: **Empowering youth with resources, skills, and inspiration.**

Permaculture Pathway Program for Youths

This year a group of youths and young adults have been busy working with Escola Kumar, PermaMed and Artifex Balear implementing permaculture on Mallorca and beyond. Locally they have planted and harvested forest gardens, built palette structures, designed demonstration sites, created grey water systems, and more recently have begun assisting and teaching workshops at Escola Kumar and in local schools. They are creating and documenting their projects, creating portfolios of their work, interviewing mentors and have been offered jobs that enable them to make a bit of money doing all this - and they are having fun. Through the Permaculture Pathway Program offered through Escola Kumar they are skilling-up in permaculture tools and design, capitalizing on what Rosemary Morrow refers to as “the freedom and responsibility offered through self directed non-formal education”. The opportunity for this program comes from several fronts: eager young people wanting to learn permaculture skills through experience, mentors interested in supporting them, and a community that recognizes the value of including youths and support through generous donations.

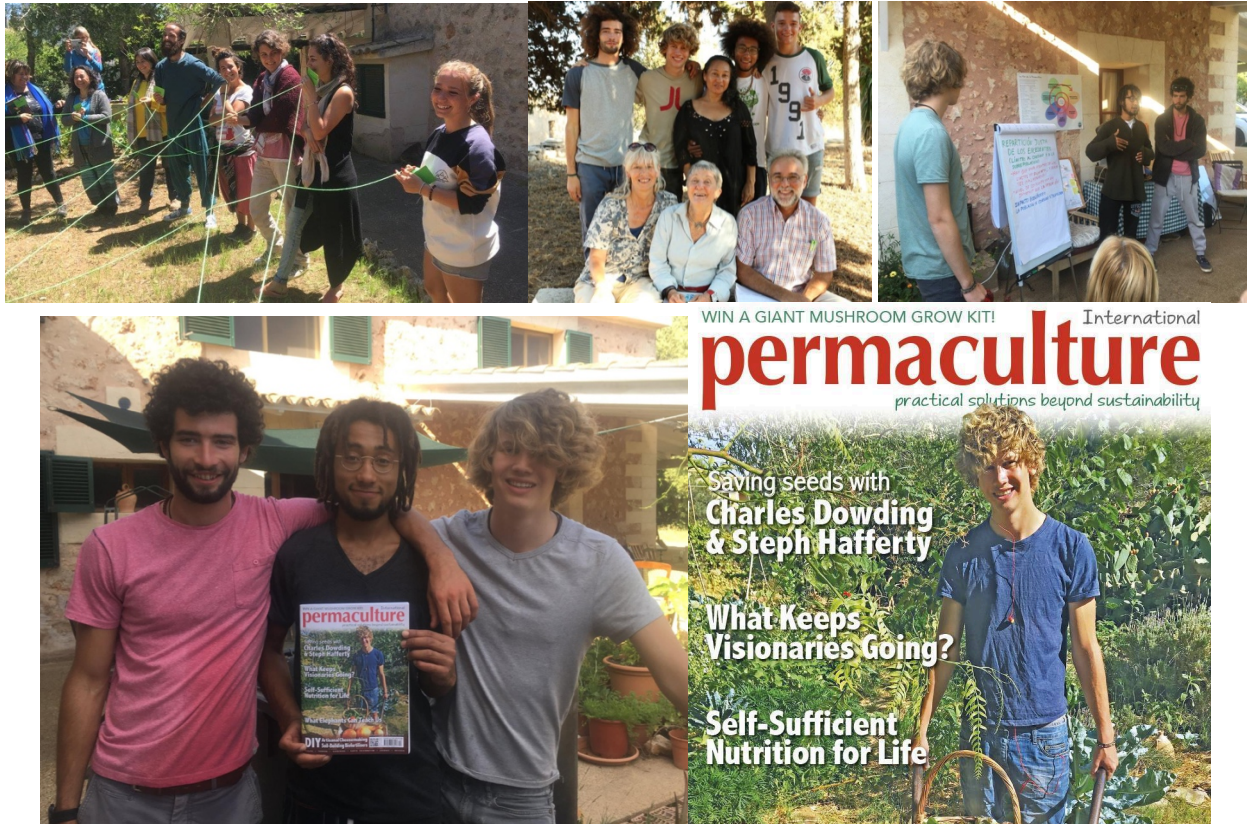
Having access to resources and mentors can play a key role in empowering youths. One of the program participants, Elias Robson, points out: “Fortunately on Mallorca we’ve had access to many great local and visiting mentors who have encouraged our participation in their workshops, including world renowned teachers such as Rosemary Morrow, Robina McCurdy, Robin Clayfield, Satish Kumar, Rob Hopkins, and more. Locally Julio Cantos of PermaMed, Miquel Ramis of Artifex Balear, and the teachers at Escola Kumar, have all provided experiential permaculture learning opportunities and have encouraged us to create our own projects and learning pathways.”

Rosemary Morrow underscored the value of empowering young people, not only with experience working at sites, but also through teaching their peers. Taking this to heart, the youths in Mallorca, invited by their local mentors, have begun supporting us in offering training programs and going into local schools and assisting teachers to bring permaculture into the public secondary schools.



Escola Kumar initiates an international Youth in Permaculture (YiP) Movement

Unfortunately, both locally and internationally, many youths don't know about the opportunities offered through permaculture yet and likewise there are many projects that have yet to benefit from harvesting the energy of youths. As part of the Pathway Program Escola Kumar youths participated in the 2016 European Permaculture Convergence in Bolsena, Italy, where they were both inspired and well received, yet they noticed the near absence of other youths at the event. They discussed the importance of including youths in the permaculture movement with members of the successful Children in Permaculture (CiP) project. These discussions inspired a new project to build an international network engaging youths in permaculture (YiP) <http://www.youthinpermaculture.org>. Escola Kumar youths initiated a project that now includes 18 organizations from ten countries including members from the Children in Permaculture group and the UK and Spanish Permaculture Associations. We are impressed with how much interest the initiative has attracted. Using sociocracy as a governance tool, the members co-created the organization at a self-funded meeting in the Pyrenees this winter. Youths are a growing part of the decision-making team, providing leadership and guidance throughout the project. Ideally this will become a youth-run program, designed by young people, with mentors acting in an advisory capacity. YiP has recently been awarded funding from Eurasmus plus to hold two more meetings in Italy this fall and Czechoslovakia next spring. Escola Kumar and Permamed youths will be helping to facilitate and design these events. As Robina McCurdy, a world renowned permaculture teacher, told the youths on Mallorca, "Youth are the future. Take the tools and knowledge and power and go for it! Make a difference for yourselves and the world." Escola Kumar is opening the doors to include youths throughout Europe and strengthening the permaculture movement and their future.



International Permaculture Magazine was so excited by the Pathway Program and YiP initiative that they picked up the story and published a full page article about the Escola Kumar youth project and YiP initiative in the 2017 spring issue. <https://www.permaculture.co.uk/back-issues>. The front cover photograph is of a youth working at Escola Kumar. A range of young people join us at Escola Kumar every week for mentorship, project meetings and classes and are working on several projects including an inspirational oral history project where youths interview elder mentors and leaders in the sustainability permaculture movement. These video interviews will be edited and put on a YouTube channel run by International Permaculture Magazine. Escola Kumar youths are also putting together a GIS interactive map of Mallorca sustainability and holistic education projects on the island.





World renowned permaculture teachers provide workshops for educators, youths, and community members on Mallorca

Escola Kumar is supported through rich combination of local collaborating teachers and internationally recognized leaders and teachers in the sustainability and permaculture world. Rosemary Morrow is an internationally known permaculture teacher, author, and our adopted mentor. In the summer of 2016 Rosemary visited EK for the third time. She offered a series of workshops, the first of which was focused on youth engagement and empowerment with over 36 youth attendees. She gave a talk on youth refugees in Afghanistan who have been using permaculture as a means of rebuilding their damaged city of Kabul. She also worked with parents and other mentors to come up with solution-based ideas to help empower youths on Mallorca. Escola Kumar also hosted a well-attended strategic workshop on bioregional and island resilience. Rosemary Morrow is known as being a teacher's teacher so it was great to have her with us again to share tips and resources on holistic, hands-on education. The Escola Kumar Pathway program was featured on the International Sustainability Podcast radio show in an interview conducted with youths from the Pathway Program and Rosemary Morrow, and teachers from Escola Kumar, Artifex Balear, and PermaMed. Rosemary also offered a participatory workshop on informal education that included education groups and teachers from all over Mallorca.

Escola Kumar and PermaMed were also honored to host another world renowned permaculture teacher and author Robin Clayfield during the Spring of 2017. She offered a series of 7 workshops on holistic dynamic teaching, facilitation, and provided us with new education materials. Robin offered over 60 participants a more hands on creative approach to teaching and inspiring sustainable and regenerative thinking for students. We will continue to collaborate with Robin in the development of dynamic and inspiring educational materials in both English and Spanish.



This spring Escola Kumar youths received scholarships from the Gaia Foundation to attend a workshop offered at the University of the Balearic Islands (UIB) that was focused on the application of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals on Mallorca. The workshop was led by another world renowned sustainability teacher and program director of Gaia Education from the ecovillage of Findhorn, May East, and local author and teacher Daniel Wahl. As a result of this training Escola Kumar has been able to adopt the SDG into our permaculture certification training. May East met with youths and participants from the Pathway Program to discussed ways to expand the program and empower youths. Escola Kumar was invited this fall to join NextGEN and Gaia Education members from around the world at a staging meeting in Estonia to improve sustainability training for youths in education centers world wide.





Providing a Variety of Workshops and Multi-Level Training Opportunities

Escola Kumar now offers experience holistic education on three levels. One is a through series of introductory community-based day and a half day hands-on participatory workshops. Often built on a seasonal themes, these workshops are great community building experiences that make real skills accessible to community members, teachers, and students who want to apply permaculture tools and skills into their centers, homes, programs and lives. These public workshops also provide an opportunity for youths and teacher trainers to teach. These workshops are usually offered free of charge or by donation and are fun and celebratory in their nature bringing together members of the community, both young and old, to work on hands-on projects. These are usually done in the gardens or by building something together and offering skills that people can take back to their homes and education centers. Over the last year Escola Kumar has offered these workshops once or twice a month depending on the time of year. The workshops usually include a garden rich solar paella provided by the volunteers and local solar chef Bruce Robson.

The next level of educational programs that are offered are more in-depth globally recognized certification programs in areas such as permaculture, holistic teaching or agroforestry. These in-depth programs are recognized globally and taught through dynamic project driven curriculums. In 2016 and 2017 we offered two six month permaculture certification programs. Graduates from this year's programs are already practicing what they have learned through programs they have initiated in their work, schools, communities and homes. This spring several graduates started an urban community garden program funded by the city of Palma. Others have created an attentive natural food and learning center, and another student has initiated a transition town movement in a local village. Many of these participants also joined our next level of professional training and more experiential development through the permaculture pathway program, which is open to adults as well as youths. Here participants can gain on the job training through mentors, teaching, designing programs, and implementing permaculture site design and maintenance. This fall Escola Kumar will host teachers from the International Permaculture Institute to offer workshops in sociocracy, social permaculture, forest gardening, biochar, and solar energy workshops for educators, community leaders, and youths. All our workshops are made more accessible through donations, work exchange and scholarships.

Finca demostrativa Escola Kumar



Escola Kumar - As an active demonstration site

The Escola Kumar is developing a family-scale living model of an ecologically and economically sustainable off grid home that can support a family, offices, and a small school. By providing an example of sustainable living, at an accessible scale, in a “normal” community setting we can encourage individuals to act as catalysts for change in their own community by adopting these methods into their homes and lifestyles. The Escola Kumar demonstration site has expanded its permaculture demonstration gardens and food forest, improved soils with a variety of composts, and has renovated the water system to include robust water catchment capacity and storage - including a grey water system complete with a fish and frog pond and a plant bio-filter. We have also incorporated solar food preparation technologies with active solar cookers, ovens, and dehydrators. Future plans include lowering the center carbon footprint by becoming energy self-sufficient by producing clean renewable energy and innovative heating and cooling systems. In addition to courses that use these facilities, the Escola Kumar offers on-site tours to teachers, students and local groups such as Friends of the Earth and Serendipity, to inspire them to begin to implement changes in their own homes, programs, and communities. Teachers are often very busy during the school year and it is hard for them to take extra classes. An effective way of reaching teachers can be through collaborating with the teacher training centers (CEPs). In the last year over 60 teachers have visited Escola Kumar to learn about the application and integration of holistic and ecological education through permaculture. The steps taken to transition the site will be posted on the web with resource materials to provide those interested in making a similar transition to sustainable living with details and cost-benefit analyses.



Escola Kumar - As an inspirational meeting and resource center

In addition to being an educational and demonstration site, the Escola Kumar has also evolved into an important resource center and meeting space where educators and innovators gather to discuss ideas, share resources, and collaborate in planning projects together. Regular open-house and community gatherings occur at Escola Kumar so these new projects can also be presented to the general public.

Office and meeting space at the Escola Kumar is being expanded and is used regularly for teachers, project coordinators, and participants. A resource center with books, journals, magazines, and videos is being developed with volunteer support. Teachers, students and community members can borrow books, tools, educational materials, supplies, and education kits to help them with projects and teaching.

In addition, educational materials and training kits to be used in courses or lent out to teachers are being created and stored here. In order to reach a wider audience, educational materials, curriculum, and videos are being created for distribution through associated web sites for ease of access. At our large round table we host countless meetings throughout the year as well as inspirational celebrations with good local garden food cooked sustainably using solar cookers, accompanied by music, good cheer, and art whenever possible.





Escola Kumar - A school without walls

The Escola Kumar is an inspiration and an idea; it is not physically limited by walls. Many activities extend to other areas, schools, community centers and projects on the island. An excellent example of this is the collaboration with Miquel Ramis of Artifex Balear through the bio-construction courses and with Permacultura Mediterránea on a demonstration site at the Son Barrina organic farm. The project is lead by Julio Cantos and supported in part through the foundation Education por la Vida. A large and exciting creative landscape design of concentric circles draws together multiple disciplines to incorporate a community food forest and permaculture gardens into a demonstration site that is accessible to larger school and community groups. To help support the development of the site through community involvement, workshops and volunteer work parties are being organized this year. In addition, in response to increasing demand. As mentioned in this report Escola Kumar is working with high schools and universities such as the Balearic Institute for Design to support students and faculty in developing holistic educational projects and demonstration sites for their students.



Next steps in 2018 for Escola Kumar and collaborator PermaMed:

- Support youth through international youth exchanges and experiences planned with European partners and professional training programs with local mentors.
- Improve the Escola Kumar educational demonstration site through participatory workshops that create infrastructure that lowers our ecological and carbon foot print, through solar energy installations, and water reduction and reuse systems that can easily be replicated in homes, and education and community centers.
- Implement a multiplier effect by providing accessible permaculture resources for educators, youths, and community groups. Develop and distribute on line courses, video, digital e-books, educational and instructional materials and resources.
- Support educators to implement holistic suitability and permaculture education into the curriculum and develop on site interactive demonstration sites at schools, such as gardens, solar cookers, recycle workshops, participatory art and more.
- Collaborate with international organizations such as Youth in Permaculture, Gaia Education, NextGEN and others-to build support for holistic education and youth exchange, and professional opportunities for youths locally and worldwide.
- Developing a Transition Towns and permaculture resource hub for Mallorca
- Encouraging a positive participatory outcome for this beautiful world through example, events, celebrations, workshops, outreach and certification courses.

