

# Orientation Guide

Navigating your Fellowship



# Welcome from the **RSA US Board**



There are many paths to exploring and accessing the potential of the network. We invite you to contribute to our ongoing initiatives.

We live in a moment when thoughtful, searching, open-minded, non-partisan, evidence-based conversation about opportunities for change in society, culture, and the economy is critical if not existential. This is the role the RSA Fellowship has played for over 260 years, uniting people and ideas in collective action to create opportunities to regenerate our world.

For me, this is why the RSA is so relevant at this time – exposure to and engagement with thoughtful conversation that is aimed toward how we, individually and collectively, can improve the human experience. The conversation involves Fellows from the broadest range of disciplines, experiences, origins, and geography.

RSA US offers this engagement among a nascent but growing cadre of like-minded individuals – like-minded in purposeful pursuit of ideas, yet wildly diverse in skills, backgrounds, and opinions of how to achieve an aligned view of progress. Our work with Fellows, together with the research and experimentation that emerges from RSA in London and around the world, seeks to enable people, places and the planet to flourish.

My journey has focused on creating opportunities at the nexus of urban policy and economic development: as an intermediary between information and understanding in public broadcasting and communication design; and now in expanding an appreciation for creative collaboration, risk-taking, and human-centered design. RSA US has provided me with an outlet to help craft effective programs and public understanding around issues such as the future of work, universal basic income, responsible manufacturing, and sustainable practices.

I hope you find the RSA as rewarding as I do in these times of transition, and potential as we work together towards a world that is resilient, rebalanced and regenerative, where everyone can fulfill their potential. The greatest value of the Fellowship depends on all of us bringing our expertise, judgment, knowledge, energy, and networks to the table. We look forward to working with you, together committing to regenerate our world through collective action.

**RIC GREFÉ, FRSA**  
*Board Chair, RSA US*

# A note from **RSA US Director**



When I lived in London in 2007, I would go to events at the RSA house on John Adam Street and get my fill of philosophy and debate that envisioned a different world. The RSA was an incomparable intellectual brain trust.

Since then, I've witnessed the RSA shift from a convening role to direct facilitator of societal change through innovative research, sparking networks for collective impact, and supporting Fellows in their desire for purpose and impact.

The power of the network has always been in our ability to attract a broad cross-section of society. Even from the beginning, notable Fellows like Adam Smith, Edmund Burke, and Karl Marx had very competing opinions on the 'good life' and how to get there. The RSA continues to be a home to different political ideologies, philosophical perspectives, and cultural and professional backgrounds, but it is the restless pursuit of enabling people, places and the planet that unites our Fellows and staff in a common mission.

What draws me to the RSA is its deeply humanistic roots. The RSA's unique origins rest in a coffeehouse spirit of "informality" that brought together thinkers, makers, and merchants to hash out the issues of its time. It is an esteemed lineage of social collisions across silos that pioneered innovations in agriculture, economics, and labor practices that are still felt today.

That lineage connects to the present with constant reinvention driven by new generations of leaders adapting the RSA for the opportunities of our age, whether that be the shift to lifelong learning and re-skilling, the redesign of our educational and civic infrastructures, or the need for planetary advocacy and action. Today, our network includes community activists and non-profit executives, foundation heads and corporate executives, media mavens and journalists, entrepreneurs and artists, and academics and policymakers.

The RSA was founded on the simple belief that private citizens could pool their resources (knowledge, social, and financial capital) to support public improvements. I look forward to welcoming you to the Fellowship, and hope that your experience as a Fellow is a lifelong journey where you too can turn to the Society for inspiration, debate, collaborators, thought leadership, and for the amplification of your work and legacy.

**ALEXA CLAY, FRSA**

*Director, RSA US*

# Fellowship Charter

## WE BELIEVE IN



CONVENING  
REASONED DEBATE



ENABLING  
PEOPLE TO REALIZE CHANGE



INFLUENCING  
KEY ORGANIZATIONS



DEMONSTRATING  
PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

We are a global community of active problem solvers. Our purpose is to unite people and ideas to resolve the challenges of our time. We believe in a world where everyone is able to participate in creating a better future.

## OUR VALUES

### **OPEN**

Always inclusive transparent and honest, we welcome new thinking and different perspectives.

### **OPTIMISTIC**

We are confident that together, we can regenerate our world through collective action.

### **COURAGEOUS**

We champion curiosity, creativity and bravery to inspire better ways of thinking and doing.

### **RIGOROUS**

Rooted in evidence-led thinking, we act with integrity and purpose.

### **ENABLING**

Through generosity, respect and collaboration, we help others succeed.

# Our commitment to **progress for all**

## **WE STRIVE TO**

### **ENSURE**

INCLUSION OF DIVERSE VOICES &  
PERSPECTIVES AT EVENTS.

### **ENABLE**

TIERED PRICING IN SUPPORT OF  
DIFFERENT FINANCIAL ABILITIES.

### **RECRUIT**

AMBASSADORS, STAFF & BOARD  
MEMBERS FROM A BROAD RANGE OF  
BACKGROUNDS & EXPERIENCES.

### **BUILD**

EQUITY & DIVERSITY  
CONSIDERATIONS INTO CORE  
ORGANIZATIONAL METRICS.

RSA US recognizes diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility as critical factors determining our ability to work towards our mission to enable people, places and the planet to flourish.

As such, RSA US welcomes people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds, national origins, gender identities, sexual orientations, political parties, socioeconomic backgrounds, abilities, ages, and religious/spiritual backgrounds – and all the possible intersections that form a complete self-identity – to the US Fellowship community, events, and initiatives.

The RSA has historically represented a cross-section of society afforded various systemic power (e.g. white privilege, gender privilege, those with access to wealth or political influence). RSA US acknowledges that institutional obstacles like racism, classism, and gender discrimination have played a role in determining who has access to, is represented in, and feels comfortable as a member of the RSA Fellowship. We are actively committed to learning, growing, and eliminating these barriers.

As we work towards implementing internal structures that will ensure equitable access to opportunities, as well as a culture of inclusion and support for anyone impacted by our organization, we welcome all feedback that might help us continue to refine our practice. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

## **Q READ MORE**

### **Seven Structural Pathways for Racial Equity**

<https://www.thersa.org/discover/publications-and-articles/rsa-blogs/2020/06/seven-structural-pathways>

### **RSA US Statement on Intractable Racism**

<https://www.thersa.org/fellowship/fellowship-news/fellowship-news/black-lives-matter>



**The RSA is an unrivaled network for exploring world changing ideas and developing impactful relationships. I've been to RSA events in Tokyo, Edinburgh, London, Miami, Washington DC, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and New York. When I travel, I make a point of connecting with extraordinary Fellows around the world.**

Lolita Jackson, FRSA

Former RSA US Board Chair

Executive Director of sustainable cities at Sustainable Development Capital LLP



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# Our reach

10 MILLION+ SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS



10,000 HITS IN PRINT & BROADCAST MEDIA

700,000 YOUTUBE SUBSCRIBERS



31,000 SUBSCRIBERS TO THE RSA PODCAST

14 MILLION VIEWS OF RSA SHORTS



100+ EVENTS WITH OVER 10,000 ATTENDEES

500 MILLION MINUTES VIEWED  
OF RSA ANIMATE



30,000 FELLOWS FROM OVER  
100 COUNTRIES

3.5 MILLION+ VISITS TO OUR WEBSITE  
FROM 143 COUNTRIES



PIPELINE TO ALIGNED ORGANIZATIONS,  
INCLUDING: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM,  
NEW AMERICA, THE GUARDIAN, BBC,  
FINANCIAL TIMES

330,000 VISITS TO RSA BLOGS



“When you're finished changing, you're finished.”

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, FRSA



“The Queen” by Justin Mortimer, 1997.

This official portrait of Queen Elizabeth II was commissioned by the RSA to commemorate 50 years of the Queen's patronage.



OF DRAWING IS  
NECESSARY TO  
EMPLOYMENT, TRADES  
MANUFACTURES.

SHALL WE  
CONTINUE MASTER  
USUARY?

# Drawing Premiums

For a certain number of boys or girls under the age of seventeen who shall produce the best piece of drawing and show themselves capable when properly examined.

The "silver palette" was a prize available to artists, particularly youths, from 1760 onwards.

Prize drawing by John Smeaton at the age of eleven



RICHARD COSWAY ARCHITECT



JOHN SMEATON CIVIL ENGINEER



JOHN ALEXANDER ARTIST



BARBARA BLAND ARTIST



CHARLES LAWRENCE

The Scottish telescope-maker who achieved such eminence that he was at one time a favoured candidate for the office of Astronomer Royal.

Stood surety on a bond of £100 for Shipy in 1739 alongside Shipy's maternal uncle (who had raised him at Tisbury House), William Davies.

ISAAC NEWTON BISHOP OF WORCESTER

## Inoculation

Isaac Newton was not present at the very first meeting at Royal Society's Coffee House, but he had suggested Shipy in favouring the Society - his signature, along with those of Robert Boyle and Francis Bacon, was the Society as indispensable act of credibility.

Newton was well-known for his support of the Foundling Hospital and London's Smallpox Hospital - he was, controversially, a supporter of the relatively new practice of inoculation, which was still generally deemed before Jenner's discovery of vaccination, though after their catching smallpox naturally.

Newton was a model enlightened despotism, using his bishop's power to spread the statistics on inoculation. He applied for charitable funds toward eggs and hand mirrors with images of inoculated patients, donors suffering battles and brisance. Newton died in 1727, only a few years after the Society was founded, but his emphasis on empirical research was long-lasting in one of the Society's earliest mission statements is the warning that without the influence of art and knowledge of industry, the diligence of the laborer might "degenerate into inactivity".

## Queen of the Bluestockings

Mary Wortley Montagu was a key member of London's aristocratic and intellectual milieu. She was known for being "Queen of the Bluestockings" - an informal mix of aristocratic women who gathered to talk about literature, science, politics and literary conversation as a time when women were excluded from male-dominated discussions.

They patronized female artists, writers and poets. She preferred cultivated discussion and tea drinking to salons rather than public occasions, and to her occasional women who tried to engage directly in male-dominated spheres - she preferred to cultivate a female-dominated sphere that was separate.

I HAVE A COINER ORDER FOR TEAK OFFSHORE GUNFLIGHT

ELIZABETH MONTAGU SOCIAL REFORMER

## The Society's Offices

In 1725, when the Society of Arts failed to negotiate a lease on its old premises, they approached the Adam brothers. Robert Adam designed the temple-like structure that still houses the Society (since then, the RSA has bought up the rest of the block) - it was to have a Grand Stair for the meetings, a repository to display the prize-winning machines (now the Benjamin Franklin room on the ground floor), and various other rooms.

Statues on top of the RSA building. Even though they were included in the original Adam specifications, due to lack of funds they were not made and installed until 1994! (The statues were paid for by Sebastian de Brosses, a businessman and former vice president of the RSA, and made by the fine art and restoration company Plowden and Swales.)



## Statues

The figure on the left represents manufactures and commerce, a man carrying English broad-cloth to rusty shears.

The figure in the middle is Minerva, representing arts, holding a shield bearing the Gorgon's head and a spear.

The figure on the right is Ceres, representing agriculture - she is holding a plow and rice and by her feet is a harpoon for catching whales.



ARTS AND COMMERCE PROMOTE



1866  
1902

## Blue Plaque Scheme

In 1866, the Society of Arts created a committee for the erection of statues or other memorials to eminent persons associated with the arts, manufactures and commerce. London was growing rapidly, with many old buildings being demolished. They hoped that by affixing memorial tablets of famous people in the original buildings they lived in, that it would ensure the buildings would be preserved. The first one was placed, affixed in 1867 at Lord Byron's birthplace and Napoleon III's residence in London, were blue. But the process was too expensive so for a long time they were blank slate-bricks. The Society of Arts put up 35 in total, until handing the scheme over to London County Council in 1913.

## It's All Greek To Me

Jeanes Stuart was another Scottish architect and pioneer of eclecticism, just like Robert Adam and William Chubb. He was particularly famous for bringing Ancient Greek influences to British architecture.

Stuart played a major role in devising and cataloguing Ancient Greek ruins, popularizing the designs for the use of other architects, sculptors and designers. Stuart joined the Society of Arts in 1736, and was particularly proactive at nominating other members (He proposed the writer of the dictionary Samuel Johnson, the painter Joshua Reynolds, and many other artists). He also persuaded the Society to sponsor a tour to find site workers, based on his observations while travelling through Greece.

## A Kapital Fellow

Karl Marx was a political philosopher, economist and revolutionary socialist.

He used the Society's library, attended its events, and even to have drawn upon its library when writing his own work, Das Kapital.

SO DO GET ON WITH IT EGAN DEAR BOY IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE YOU LEARN THE COMMISSION THE MEMBER WASTY



THE HOUSE OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ARTS, MANUFACTURE AND COMMERCE FOUNDATION LAID BEING COMPLETED BY ANTONIO ROBERTO JAMES ADAM ARCHITECTS

JAMES WATKINS

KARL MARX

SO I COULD FIG THE USE ONE ON THE END OF OUR WORK FOR THE SOCIETY

# A social impact organization **for all**

We are a unique global network of changemakers enabling people, places and the planet to flourish, uniting people and ideas in collective action to create opportunities to regenerate our world.

## **30,000 FELLOWS AROUND THE WORLD**

The RSA US has over 1,000 Fellows, the largest group of Fellows outside the UK. Regional hubs currently include: Boston, Denver, Los Angeles, NYC, Philadelphia, SF/Bay Area, Washington, DC.

## **DEMOCRATICALLY OWNED THINK TANK**

65% of our funding comes from Fellowship dues, which allows us to be more immune from external interests. 50% of our board is also elected from the Fellowship, ensuring our governance structures are accountable to our Fellowship.

## **FELLOWSHIP OF LEADERS**

Fellows are united by a commitment to social change and human progress. We are community organizers, “big idea” thinkers and academics, problem-solvers, builders and inventors, expert facilitators, designers, entrepreneurs and industry leaders, policymakers, network builders, impact investors and philanthropists, amongst others.

## **UNPRECEDENTED BRAINTRUST**

We have a deep commitment to research excellence and integrity. The RSA – as a think/do tank – is both a trusted policy shop and helps bring ideas to life by breaking down complexity through executable impact and communication strategies.

## **WE BUILD BRIDGES**

The RSA has unique reach into both ‘grass-top’ and grassroots stakeholders to support the acceleration of innovative policy and systems solutions. We work collaboratively, beyond our institutional walls to mobilize networks for change.

## **HUMANISTIC SYSTEMS**

“Think like a system, act like an entrepreneur” is our guiding philosophy, which applies a design-led approach to complex social challenges. The RSA reflects deeply about the system as a whole, thinking about where our interventions will land, and being ready for when opportunities and energy for change arise.

“Relationships are built at the speed of trust, and social change happens at the speed of relationships.”

**REV. JENNIFER BAILEY**



# The RSA approach

We believe social change comes about through a choreography of three elements – individual agency, communities of practice, and institutional systems.



For over 260 years the RSA has been at the forefront of social impact. We were founded with a belief in the actions of private citizens to pool their collective will, resources and voice to advocate for public improvement. From our inception, we have been a champion of innovative, practical solutions, creating opportunities to regenerate our world.

From ensuring education for all by creating the first public exams to promoting the need for conservation and sustainability, from seeking technological solutions to child labour to encouraging the planting of more than 60 million trees – social change is in our DNA.

Change happens through multiple pathways at the intersections and balance of individual agency, collective solidarity and communities of practice, and institutional systems. From the well-established and socially connected to just-getting-going or socially disenfranchised, our community is broad and inclusive. The goal is to identify and support as many ways of affecting and realizing change as possible.

Our reach extends from the grassroots through to policymakers. We welcome activists working to ignite recognition of rising inequality alongside shareholders working on long-term investment strategies that help the planet.

# RSA US ecosystem

The RSA US Staff and Fellowship Services are dedicated to creating opportunities that support Fellows who step into voluntary leadership roles.

## CORE STAFF



### RSA STAFF

Develop strategies, partnerships, and infrastructure to support Fellows in their work across the US



### FELLOWSHIP SERVICES

## NETWORK BUILDERS



### THEMATIC NETWORK LEADS

Host regular conversations that support a particular topic of interest



### COALITION LEADS

Organize Fellows around particular advocacy objectives

## VOLUNTARY

3 YEAR TERM



### RSA US BOARD

Oversee strategic direction and fiduciary responsibility for RSA US

2 YEAR TERM



### FELLOWSHIP COUNCILLORS

Bring strategic perspective from the Fellowship to RSA US Board + Staff

1.5 YEAR TERM



### AMBASSADORS

Support Fellowship activities in key RSA hubs across the US

3-6 MONTHS



### SYSTEMS EIR

Remote residencies aligned with RSA core program areas

2.5 MONTHS



### MENTORS

Offer guidance and support of RSA Fellows around areas of expertise

# RSA US Staff



**ALEXA CLAY**  
**US DIRECTOR**

**ALEXA.CLAY@THERSA.ORG**

*Alexa is passionate about formalizing insights and learning from social change practitioners. She has a love of hermits and Walden Pond, and is based in the Berkshires.*

Alexa leads the RSA US – overseeing research, Fellowship, and thought leadership development across key U.S. cities and regions. She is helping to accelerate cross-city and regional collaboration, and grow a distributed network of Fellows for collective impact.

Previously, Alexa led Wisdom Hackers – an incubator for philosophical inquiry – and co-founded the League of Intrapreneurs – a movement to create change from within incumbent systems and big organizations. She also headed research initiatives at Ashoka, working with leading foundations and social impact entrepreneurs to develop learning projects.

Alexa is a leading expert on subculture and innovation from unlikely places. She is the co-author of the Misfit Economy (Simon & Schuster 2015), a book that explores underground and informal innovation. An economic historian and ethnographer by background, Alexa received her BA from Brown University and a MSc. from Oxford University.



**ADANNA SHALLOWE**  
**SENIOR GLOBAL MANAGER**

**GLOBAL@RSA.ORG.UK**

*Adanna is passionate about adult literacy and inspiring young people to envision a better future. She aspires to be a storyteller who helps drive positive social change around global issues. Adanna is based in London, UK.*

Adanna is an accomplished relationship manager with more than 10 years experience in the field of international affairs and development. She is currently the Senior Global Manager and is responsible for harnessing global insights in the RSA's research and for the implementation of its global strategy.

Previously, she led an international skills development program for UK youth. She also represented the UK in two international membership organizations; WorldSkills International and WorldSkills Europe.

Adanna also held research positions on development initiatives for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and for the UNDP Caribbean Sub Regional Research Facility on their key practice areas on democratic governance, poverty reduction, disaster resilience and HIV/AIDS education and prevention. A graduate of The University of the West Indies at St. Augustine, Adanna studied International Relations and Business Management.

# RSA US Staff (continued)



*Claire is an Irish transplant to the US and has made Oxford, Mississippi her home the past few years. In her free time, she can generally be found stretching on a yoga mat, cooking up a tray of enchiladas or trying to explain Irish slang to North Mississippians.*

**CLAIRE BYRNE**  
**COMMUNITY MANAGER**  
**CLAIRE.BYRNE@THERSA.ORG**

As Community Manager, Claire's role is to support the recruitment and development of Fellows across the US. She coordinates support offerings and looks for ways that Fellows can connect, share learning and collaborate in a meaningful way. Claire loves to mobilise people for social good, organise data and bring human-centered design principles into her work.

Claire's non-profit background spans working in overseas aid with Plan International Ireland, youth development with Gaisce—The President's Award, and volunteer management and event production with organisations including the Dublin Theatre Festival and The Moth Story Slam. Before joining the RSA US team, Claire worked for Thacker Mountain Radio Hour, a weekly live radio show in Oxford, Mississippi that features author readings and a wide array of musical performances. As the Assistant Director, Claire managed all of the day-to-day operations for the organization, along with weekly event production and communications.



*Sean Leads an expanding portfolio of U.S. initiatives focused on economic security, inclusive growth and social infrastructure that enhances community well-being and supports a more resilient, just, equitable, and sustainable world.*

**SEAN KLINE**  
**DIRECTOR OF POLICY & INNOVATION**  
**SEAN.KLINE@THERSA.ORG**

In addition to his role at the RSA, Sean co-directs the Stanford Basic Income Lab, which undertakes research and convenes stakeholders around the politics, philosophy, economics and implementation of Universal Basic Income. Sean brings more than two decades of public, private and nonprofit experience researching, designing, scaling and advocating for financial innovations that strengthen economic security and inclusion. He is former Director of the San Francisco Office of Financial Empowerment, where he was a leading voice for municipal government innovation. Prior to this, he was the architect of Reach Global, a first-of-its-kind social franchise that delivered health, livelihood and family finance education with financial services to more than two million women and adolescent girls across South Asia, Africa and Latin America. He was also founding CEO of Prizma, a social enterprise that began as a small project of an international refugee organization in post-war Bosnia-Herzegovina to become one of the largest microfinance institutions in Central & Eastern Europe and among the 50 strongest globally.

# Systems Entrepreneur in Residence

The Systems Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) role is a short-term engagement that supports self-directed projects tied to a core RSA US program. Candidates are vetted for their collaborative leadership and desire to explore a cutting-edge theme, topic or intervention point in their field.

✉ GET IN TOUCH

Contact [general.us@thersa.org](mailto:general.us@thersa.org) for more information.

## FORMER EIR AND THEIR WORK



**TAYO AKINYEMI**  
**CHICAGO**

Tayo is the former Executive Director of AfriLabs, a pan-African network of tech innovation hubs. An entrepreneurship enthusiast, she began her career at an NGO dedicated to advancing women in corporate business.

From developing a community-inclusive business strategy for a greenfield sugarcane ethanol venture in Mozambique, to executing the US entry strategy for a digital marketing company in Brazil, Tayo focuses on helping build sustainable social impact businesses.

**INQUIRY**

*How do we develop new forms of ownership within the private sector?*



**SEAN KLINE**  
**SF BAY AREA**

Sean is a mission-driven social innovator focused on financial health and economic security. He recently co-founded The Access Lab, which launched an online tool to help gig and other low-wage contract workers successfully navigate COVID-19 government assistance in the US.

Sean is the former Director of the San Francisco Office of Financial Empowerment, which convenes, innovates and advocates to strengthen economic security for low-income communities and communities of color.

**INQUIRY**

*How do we support emerging economic security innovations?*

# RSA US Board



**RIC GREFÉ**  
**BOARD CHAIR, RSA US**

Ric has spent decades encouraging thoughtful discussion of policy issues in the civic arena as a journalist, in handling legislative strategy and strategic planning for public broadcasting, and as the CEO of AIGA where he was a longtime advocate for the use of design thinking and creative collaboration for social change. Ric was educated at Dartmouth College and Stanford University and lives in Connecticut. Currently, he is Design Thinker in Residence at Williams College.



**CHRIS PADDEN**  
**TREASURER**

Chris is the Vice Chair of Whole Education, a partnership of organizations committed to redefining the education system. Whole Education facilitates collaboration between innovative schools; exposes educators to world-class thinking and approaches; and supports effective professional learning. Previously, he was the CEO of the Assessment Foundation, one of the UK's leading non-profit organizations supporting educational improvement.



**PANTHEA LEE**  
**TRUSTEE**

Panthea is the co-founder and Executive Director of Reboot. She is passionate about facilitating unlikely but effective collaborations between communities, activists, movements, and institutions to tackle structural inequity – and working with cultural institutions to build momentum for courageous change. Panthea is a pioneer in designing and guiding multi-stakeholder processes to address complex social challenges, with experience doing so in 30+ countries, with partners including UNDP, UN Women, and World Bank.

# RSA US Board (continued)



**JAN PORTILLO**  
**TRUSTEE**

Jan is an independent leadership coach and coach facilitator who coaches leaders of change in public and private sector organisations. She supports and challenges individuals, teams and organisations to grow through reflection, learning and action. Her clients have included the NHS, National Education Scotland, local and national government, housing and transport groups, Newcastle University, the National School of Government, the Learning and Skills Improvement Service, and the Centre for Excellence in Leadership.



**SHAIFALI PURI**  
**TRUSTEE**

Shaifali is the former Executive Director of Global Innovation at NIKE Foundation, where she helped drive innovation across all aspects of the Foundation's work. Before that as the Executive Director of Scientists Without Borders, Shaifali raised millions of dollars to support open-source innovation in the sciences with partners that range from Johnson & Johnson to Pepsico. Her quest is to address some of the world's most pressing challenges – ranging from poverty to gender equality and beyond.



**TOM STRATTON**  
**CHIEF OF STAFF**

Tom leads the robust analysis of the RSA's productivity and strategic initiatives to ensure optimum organisational impact. Tom ensures effective cross-organisational project and programme management and develops the strategy for our data and our global presence and impact in line with our vision and values. Prior to joining the RSA, Tom was the Senior Economic Advisor to the Levelling Up Taskforce in the Cabinet Office, leading the cross-Whitehall negotiations of UK Government's twelve levelling up missions. He was previously the Deputy Head of Research at the Industrial Strategy Council and worked as an economist at the Bank of England from 2011 to 2020.

# RSA US regional hubs

RSA US regional hubs are place-based centers of activity where Fellows can gather in-person to build relationships and share ideas, opportunities, resources and information.

## ABOUT AMBASSADORS



Regional hubs are supported by Ambassadors, RSA US Fellows who have taken on a community organizer role. Your regional Ambassador can share more about RSA's presence in your area. They can also help you connect with fellows in your local community, as well as direct you to proper RSA channels.

For an up-to-date list of our regional ambassadors visit:

<https://www.thersa.org/united-states/get-involved/regional-ambassadors>

## CURRENT HUBS

BOSTON

DENVER

LOS ANGELES

NEW YORK CITY

PHILADELPHIA

SAN FRANCISCO / BAY AREA

WASHINGTON D.C.



**GET IN TOUCH**

Contact [general.us@thersa.org](mailto:general.us@thersa.org) if you want your area represented as a regional hub.

# RSA US thematic networks

## **GLOBAL NETWORKS**

ARTISTS' NETWORK

HEALTH & CARE

COACHING NETWORK

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PERFORMING ARTS

INNOVATIVE EDUCATION

SUSTAINABILITY

LGBT CREATIVE CULTURES

SYSTEMS THINKING

WELLBEING

Learn more at

<https://www.thersa.org/fellowship/networks>

US Fellows-led thematic networks are self-organized online communication networks that form around one particular theme or topic of interest. Fellows share resources, promote dialogue, and collaborate across regions and sectors to explore ideas which have the potential to become a powerful source of social change.

## **DELIBERATION GATEWAY**

The Deliberation Gateway Network is a first port of call for those curious about deliberative democracy.

### **NETWORK LEAD**

Dr. Chris Forman, FRSA  
[chris.forman@northwestern.edu](mailto:chris.forman@northwestern.edu)

## **GENDER EQUITY**

Hosts discussion-led events designed to further the dialogue on equal rights, status, and opportunities, regardless of gender..

### **NETWORK LEAD**

Octavia Goredema, MBE, FRSA  
[octavia@twentytenagency.com](mailto:octavia@twentytenagency.com)

## **AUGMENTED SOCIETY**

We are concerned and excited about the impact technology is having on society and will continue to have in the coming weeks, decades and centuries.

### **NETWORK LEAD**

Zoë Camper, FRSA  
[zoe@slink.net](mailto:zoe@slink.net)

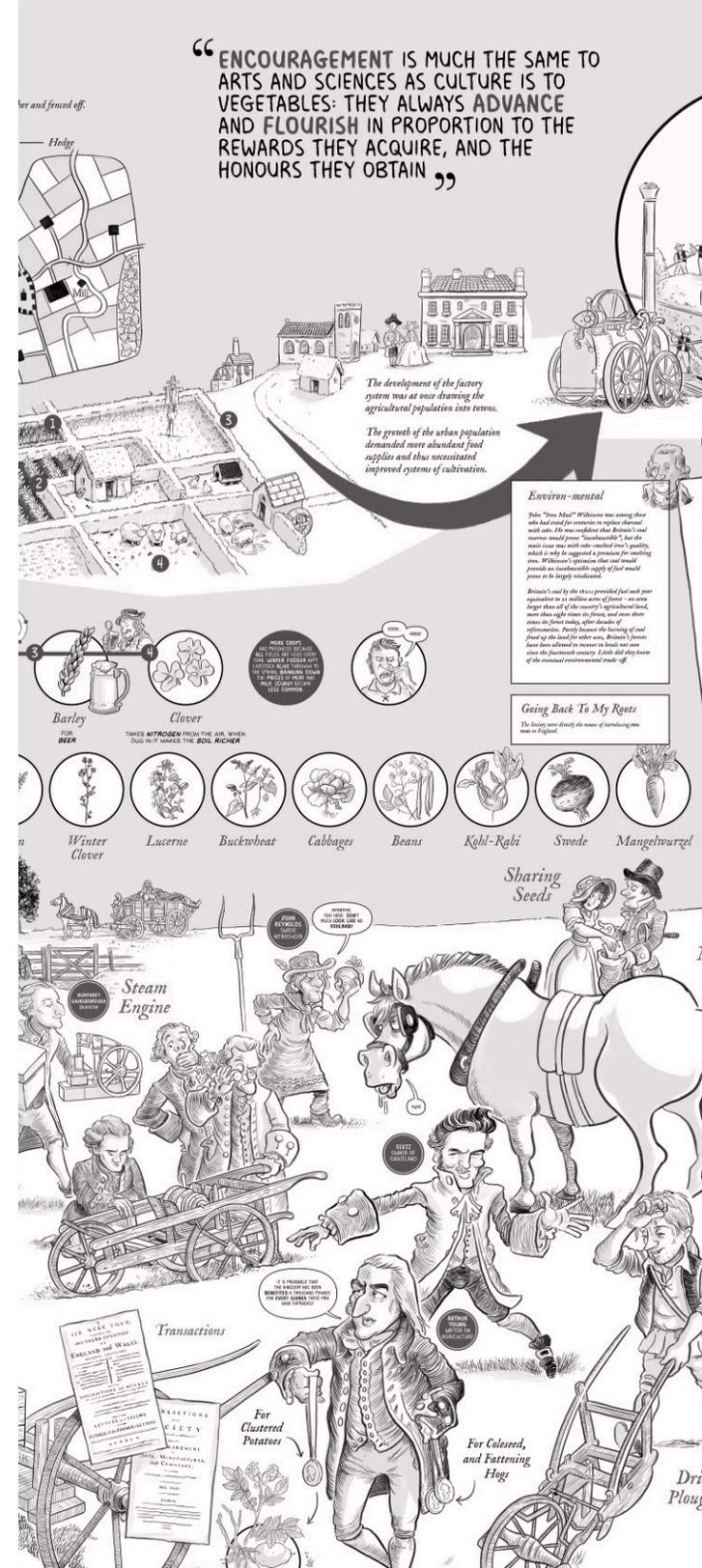
Jonathan Tavss, FRSA  
[jonathan@kaleidoko.com](mailto:jonathan@kaleidoko.com)

 **GET IN TOUCH**

Contact [general.us@thersa.org](mailto:general.us@thersa.org) for more info about starting a Thematic Network.

# Section 2

Ways to get involved



Engelbrecht Manned was an Italian inventor who...  
Nobel Prize in Physics for his invention...  
the first...  
the first...  
the first...



FIYAH!

KA-BOOM!

Chimney Brush

Sail Cloth

Hemp & Rops

Captain Manby's Mortar

CHOOM!

Post

Silk V

Lifeboat

Lighted Buoy

Safety Carriage

Ships' Hulls

NOT BORN BEER & QUININE

WELL, WELL, WELL, THERE'S MORE BEER IN A SHIP'S BOTTLE THAN IN A BOTTLE OF BEER, WHEW!



Radio

LE JAMES SPYRT

GEORGE SMART

MILLIE SHEPHERD

SMITH'S

BOON BOON

LE MILLIE SHEPHERD

JOHN'S

WELL, WELL, WELL, THERE'S MORE BEER IN A SHIP'S BOTTLE THAN IN A BOTTLE OF BEER, WHEW!

LE GEORGE SMART

forms

# A 260-year old start-up

At the RSA US, Fellows drive our evolution. We strive for continuous improvement towards our goal of activating opportunities for Fellows to harness the fullest potential of the RSA platform.



Fellows are empowered to self-organize towards collective impact, and can help imprint their unique gifts and essence into the RSA through proactive leadership.

This can mean hosting or curating our regular salon series, pioneering applied action and research, contributing to RSA's institutional policies or volunteering as a regional ambassador, sharing your expertise with the network, and supporting and lifting up the work of other Fellows.

Our culture is shaped by each of your contributions. Please feel free to express ideas or feedback to the RSA US team or Ambassadors if you think an aspect of the Fellowship experience could be improved. We are tinkerers and experience designers at heart, and want to shape an RSA that is adaptive to your needs.



**As a young NGO leader, I credit a considerable part of my achievement to the RSA. Being a Fellow means having access to a community of thinkers and doers who are committed to positive social change. From town hall events with intellectually intimate discussions to the mentorship program where lasting partnerships are formed, the Fellowship equips me with tools that benefit both my career and personal growth.**

Le Dong Hai “DoHa” Nguyen, FRSA



# Community and collaboration

RSA US supports the distributed leadership actions of 1000+ Fellows engaged in social change work across the country and the world. In addition to our regular monthly newsletter, here are some initial ways to find one another.

## RESOURCES

- MENTORSHIP** Pairs Mentees (a Fellow who has specific requests, needs, or advice they are seeking) and Mentors (a Fellow who has specific advice, skills, connections, or experience they would like to offer).
- CIRCLE** Circle: Our online community platform, connecting our unique global network of Fellows, to unite people and ideas in collective action to create opportunities to regenerate our world.
- TOWN HALL** The Town Hall is our gathering place for RSA US Staff, Board Members, Ambassadors and Fellows from across the US to get together and forge critical connections.

## PEER LEARNING GROUPS

- BRAINTRUST** Opportunities to convene a field of practice or a system to amplify learning and connections.
- CIRCLES** Small self-organized groups to share and learn from each other about anything ranging from professional or issue-based interests to personal or life situation overlap. A great way to build relationships and explore potential project collaborations.
- COALITIONS** Advocacy groups that work to influence policy and practice around particular issue areas.
- THEMATIC NETWORKS** Self-organized online groups that form around a singular theme or topic.

# Mentorship program

The RSA US mentorship program is a match-making mechanism that connects Fellows with particular needs, with Fellows who can help them meet those needs. This program is built to connect Fellows in a deep and substantive way, and promotes the sharing of the knowledge, skills, connections, and experiences that Fellows possess.

The mentorship program provides a way to meet the Fellows who up make this incredible network and benefit from sharing in the life experience each person has amassed.

Fellows get matched based on mutual fit, and work together over the course of three months in an intimate and sustained way to meet the needs or goals of the mentee. The relationship between paired Fellows is structured through creating agreements about communication, goal-setting, and expectations. Any Fellow can sign up to be a mentee or mentor, and the time commitment is a minimum of seven hours over the course of three months.

The program offers different benefits to participating Fellows based on the role they assume. Past mentors have remarked at the brilliance of their mentees, and noted that being in a mentor role provided them with exposure to new ideas and a way to share the learnings from their career decisions in a way that clearly benefits another person. Past mentees have described the mentorship they've received as invaluable for navigating career or life transitions and having an "outside person" to soundboard their ideas off of.

Many mentor-mentee pairs have stayed in touch with each other far after the official end of the program. It runs twice a year; one cycle in the spring, and one cycle in the fall.

“

Via the RSA US mentoring program, I have been counseled on the book publishing process by four different RSA Fellows. I'm thrilled to share that I have now received an offer from a publisher to acquire the worldwide rights to my book. Thank you so much for the opportunity and the connections that helped make my book possible. I'm forever thankful.

Octavia Goredema, MBE, FRSA



”

# Organizing events

## IN-PERSON PROGRAMMING \*

### SALON

An informal conversation-focused event where same-region Fellows gather for discussion around an established theme or topic. Often includes featured speakers to help deepen the conversation.

### WORKSHOPS

An event (virtual or in-person) used to get feedback on a particular idea, project or initiative. We recommend keeping it under 15 people.

### SUMMIT OR PANEL

Fellow-led organizing of public facing events used to ignite dialogue, discussion and reflection on the big issues of our time. Often aligned with RSA US's impact opportunity goals, and co-hosted with other partners.

## ✉ GET IN TOUCH

Contact [general.us@thersa.org](mailto:general.us@thersa.org) for help organizing gatherings that invite the broader RSA community to share in explorations of a topic, theme, or project.



### RSA US | WASHINGTON DC | SALON RESILIENCE

From global energy, political, climate, military, and financial systems to local communities, cities, movements, organizations, and individual self-care – as we collectively try to grapple with these turbulent times, are there threads that tie together resilience efforts from both the ground up and top down?

**Featuring:** Lolita Jackson, FRSA (Former RSA US Board Chair and Special Advisor, Climate Policy & Programs, NYC Mayor's Office)



### RSA US | NEW YORK | SALON LIFE AFTER INCARCERATION

Talk of the injustice of the criminal justice system is at an all-time high. But what happens once incarcerated individuals are released?

**Featuring:** Julio Medina, Founder of Exodus Transitional Community; Dominic Dupont, star of the documentary *Raised in the System*; Coss Marte, Founder of Conbody; Ashish Prashar, FRSA (served time and then had a lengthy career in both UK and US politics, including with the Mayor of London).

# Organizing events (continued)

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

### VIRTUAL SALON

Informal RSA US Fellow-led virtual events with the aim to create open dialogue and a space to connect across geography over the issues of our times. Often includes featured speakers to help us deepen the conversation. Third Thursday of the month.

### SKILLSHARE

Fellows or invited presenters share a concept or skill for folks who are interested in learning about what is being offered. Last Friday of the month.

### VIRTUAL COFFEEHOUSE

Inspired by the spirit of debate and dialogue that defines Rawthmell's, the historic coffeehouse of the RSA. Often features a globally recognized industry leader, and open to the broader RSA network.



### RSA US | VIRTUAL SALON ART & SPECULATIVE DESIGN

How can art and speculative design – as opposed to the problem-solving of affirmative design – help people understand the complex systems and potential effects of the technologies around us, inspire new ideas, and empower action and change?

**Featuring:** Pip Mothersill, FRSA (designer and researcher, MIT Media Lab); Floor van de Velde, Professor, School of the Museum for Fine Arts; Sarah Newman, artist and researcher, Harvard's metaLAB.

### RSA US | VIRTUAL SALON EXPERIMENTS IN CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

RSA has been exploring deliberative democracy as an alternative governance framework for complex and sophisticated political systems. Could citizen's deliberations ever play an international role? What factors need to be in place for deliberative democracy to be successful?

**Featuring:** Chris Forman, FRSA; Deliberative Democracy Consortium; Co-Intelligence Institute; Healthy Democracy.



## COVID-19 GUIDELINES

RSA US recognizes the effects of Covid-19 on in-person events. We recommend following all federal, state, local, and common sense guidelines to keep our community safe. Contact us for help translating typically in-person events into virtual ones. Virtual events can allow us to open up outreach to the Fellowship across the US, UK, and affiliate areas.

# Section 3

Impact opportunities





# Project support

From help with funding and valuable feedback from experts, to communications strategies that amplify the reach of your work to leaders and influencers around the world – we can support RSA Fellows at various stages of their projects.

**"BLOG" POSTS** Our blog articles feature the latest ideas and thinking from the RSA Action and Research Centre, Fellowship staff, and guest bloggers.

**CATALYST GRANT** The Catalyst Grant provides support for Fellows' projects at different stages of their development. There are two different grants, our £2,000 Seed Grant and £10,000 Scaling Grant, which we open applications for 3 times a year.

**CROWDFUNDING** For Fellows organizing their own crowdfunding campaigns, we can cross-promote in our newsletters, provided the project aligns with our mission.

**FISCAL SPONSORSHIP** In instances where projects need fiscal support, the RSA US has tax-exempt status that supports Fellows' initiatives aligned with our mission.

**PROJECT PITCHING** Fellows are encouraged to pitch their projects or put out calls to action to the US Fellowship to help them get the contacts and resources they need.

**RSA TRANSFORM** RSA Transform is an ambitious program supporting projects that have the potential to transform society by mobilizing the RSA's unique resources behind the bold visions of our Fellows. Find out more about the guidelines and criteria.

 **GET IN TOUCH**

Contact [general.us@thersa.org](mailto:general.us@thersa.org) for more information.

# RSA Transform

## **PROJECT CRITERIA**

- The project lead is an RSA Fellow.
- The project aligns with one of the RSA's key themes and be clearly identifiable as making a change in society outlined in the RSA Charter.
- The project aims to change society in a systemic way.
- There is evidence that the project is highly innovative and targeting a clear social need.
- The project must be established and have proof of concept.
- There is a clear, measurable strategy for sustainability and growth.
- The project has the potential to achieve significant social impact.

RSA Transform is an ambitious program supporting projects that have the potential to transform society by mobilizing the RSA's unique resources behind the bold visions of our Fellows.

### **EXAMPLE: CITIZEN ASSEMBLIES**

The RSA US is currently supporting Of by For, a movement and organization working to erect democratic lotteries as public demonstrations that can overcome our divisive political landscape and create infrastructure for civic conversation. The RSA US is supporting this initiative with an introduction to funders, strategic guidance, connections to advisors/experts, and promotion.

### **HOW WE CAN HELP**

Approved projects will work with a dedicated RSA staff member who helps design and implement a bespoke program of support, including: identifying valuable expertise from within the Fellowship; convening influential stakeholders; or amplifying a message to mobilize people around a call to action.

### **EXAMPLE: COMMUNITY BANKING**

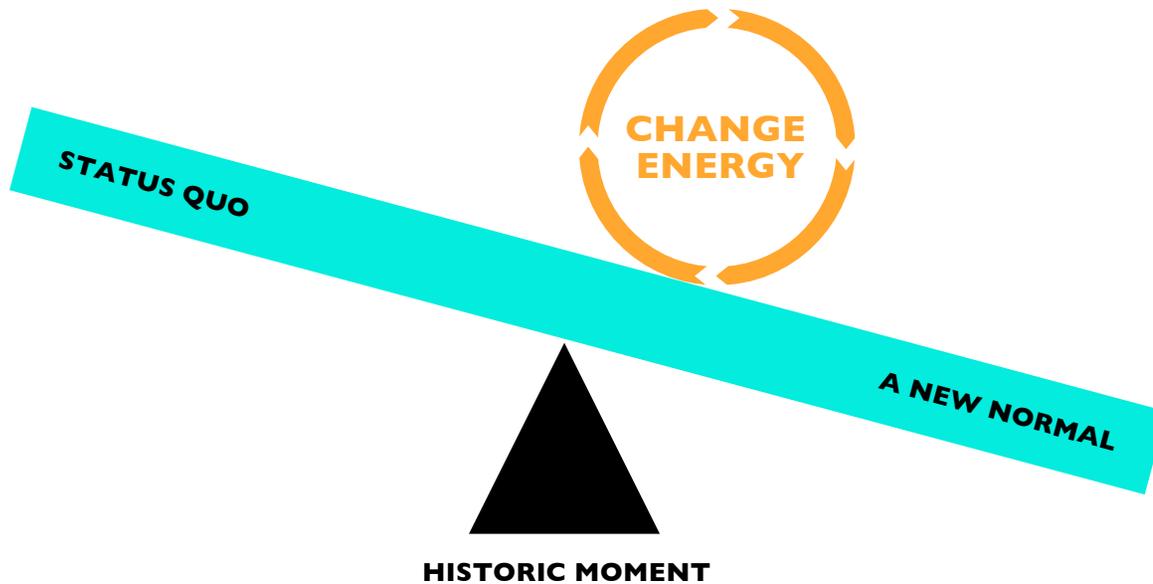
The RSA supported the development of The Community Savings Bank Association (CSBA) to rebuild a network of independent, local banks in the UK. The RSA provided marketing and events support and made introductions through the network to support the early stages of CSBA.

### **GET IN TOUCH**

Contact [general.us@thersa.org](mailto:general.us@thersa.org) if you have a project that fits our criteria.

# Coalitions for change

The global pandemic is creating a ripeness for change in social and economic policy in the US. Our coalitions for change unite diverse stakeholders to advocate for emerging policies and practices.



Many of the critical agendas the RSA has been working on for over a decade are now at a 'tipping point' as more radical economic and social policy ideas are being ushered in to support a crisis response to Covid-19. Everything from criminal justice reform, worker voice, inclusive growth, lifelong learning, community design for public services, to universal basic income, have overnight become part of mainstream discourse.

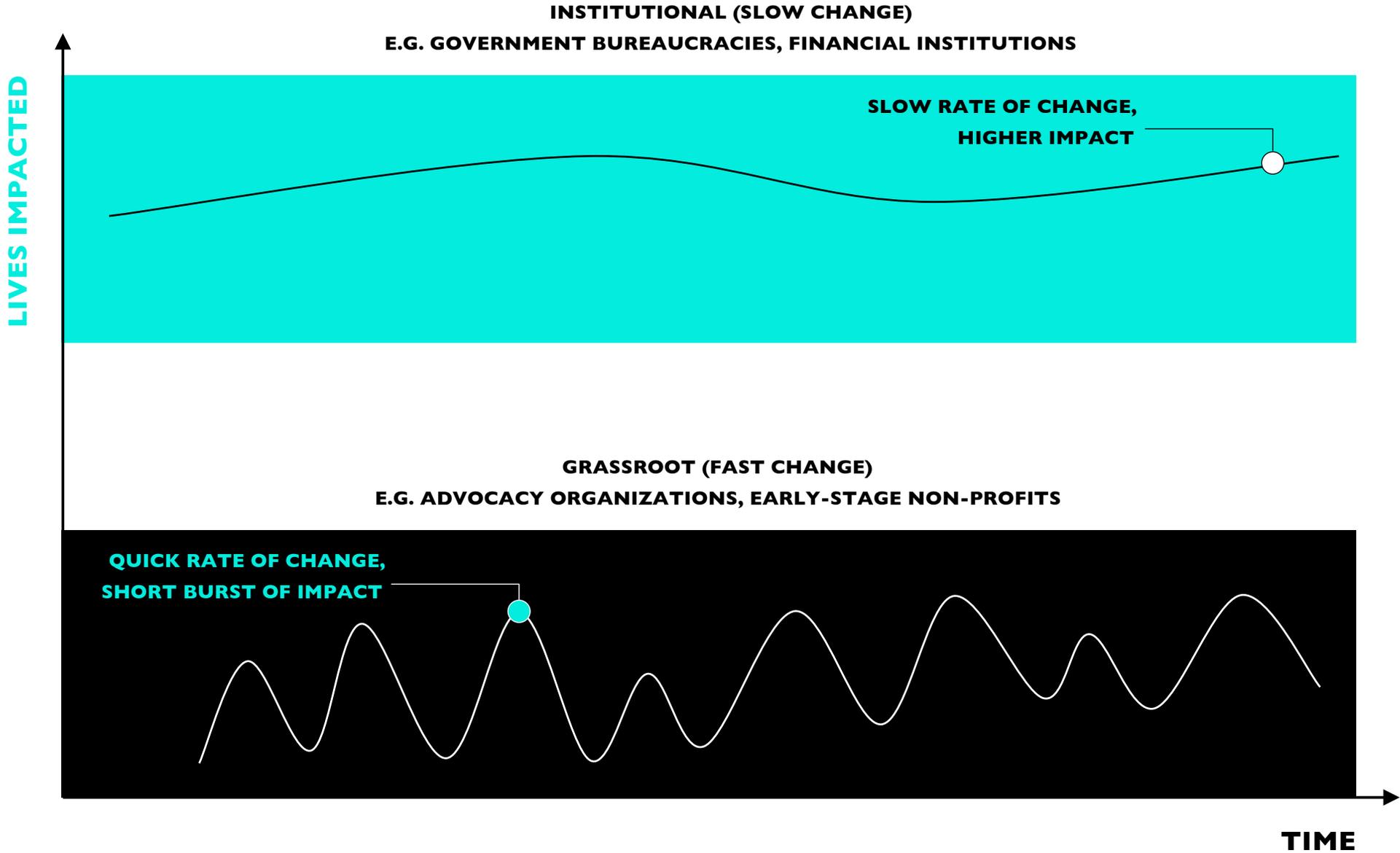
Our challenge is to embed and institutionalize these approaches so they become long-term strategies rather than just part of a short-lived crisis response. We hope to ensure these new adaptations have sticking power in the American social imagination and become part of enlightened policy-making for years to come.

Through our network, the RSA is helping to grow capacity for these emergent policy innovations through curated coalitions of change that engage a variety of social movement actors who collectively can spark enduring action.

 **GET IN TOUCH**

Contact [general.us@thersa.org](mailto:general.us@thersa.org) for more information.

# How change happens



# Student **Design** Awards

The competition is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled at any higher education institution, college or university anywhere in the world.

The RSA Student Design Awards is a global curriculum and competition that challenges students to apply their skills and creativity to tackle today's most pressing social and environmental issues. We achieve this by setting project briefs that inspire and challenge students to think differently about the boundaries and purpose of design.

We work closely with industry partners to develop the briefs, ensuring that students are setting their minds to pressing real world problems. And we help colleges, universities and educators embed the briefs into their curricula, supporting participants further with workshops and mentoring.



 **GET IN TOUCH**

Are you a professor, student or design-affiliated professional who would like to get involved? Or are you a corporate sponsor or patron that would like to work with us around specific design briefs? Contact [SDAenquiries@rsa.org.uk](mailto:SDAenquiries@rsa.org.uk) for more information.

# Pathway interventions

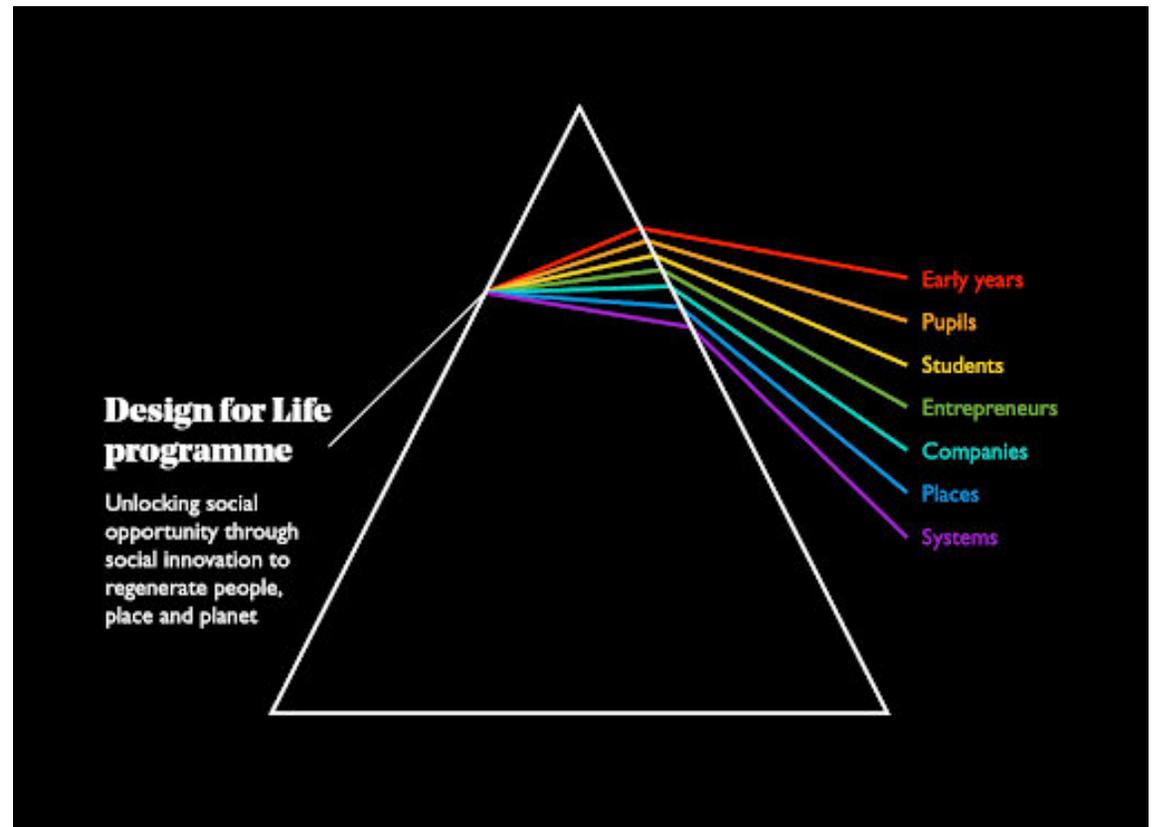
Our “design for life” mission works through the entire life course - supporting interventions from early education to entrepreneurship and urban transformation.

## EARLY YEARS FOR CHANGE

What if all children, from their early years, were given the best start in life as future change agents, transitioning their communities, places and planet to be more resilient, rebalanced and regenerative? For example, through co-creating places and spaces in and around early years settings that nurture the creativity and connection of children to community and nature – such as through a nature-based learning programme for early years children.

## PUPILS FOR CHANGE

What if all school-aged children were nurtured and supported, through practical exercises in social design, to contribute towards creating more resilient, rebalanced and regenerative futures? For example, through expanding the scale and scope of the RSA's Pupil Design Awards, building a global movement of schools, and growing the social agency of pupils by creating participatory fora.



# Pathway **interventions**

Our “design for life” mission works through the entire life course - supporting interventions from early education to entrepreneurship and urban transformation.

## **STUDENTS FOR CHANGE**

What if all tertiary education students across all disciplines were supported and inspired, through practical projects in social design, to initiate the career trajectories necessary for the transition towards more resilient, rebalanced and regenerative futures? For example, through expanding the scale and scope of the RSA's Student Design Awards to be discipline-agnostic, to include students in all tertiary education settings and to develop apprentice programmes with companies to take forward their joint commitment to people, place and planet.

## **PLACES FOR CHANGE**

What if all place and community leaders were supported to connect, participate and collaborate for the transition towards more resilient, rebalanced and regenerative futures? For example, through a new Urban Futures Commission providing an audit and action plan for cities and regions, with tailored initiatives that build collaborative and participatory place-based social infrastructure, including supporting place-based lifelong learning.

## **ENTREPRENEURS FOR CHANGE**

What if all excluded entrepreneurs-in-the-making were supported and connected to seed and scale the innovations necessary for the transition towards more resilient, rebalanced and regenerative futures? For example, through a Catalyst incubator and accelerator, focused on otherwise excluded entrepreneurs, offering financial support, learning experience, mentoring and the connections necessary for their innovations to flourish and shape better futures.

## **SYSTEMS FOR CHANGE**

What if the Design for Life pathways formed a prism of evidence, learning, impact and movement-building that accelerates the whole system's transition towards resilient, rebalanced and regenerative futures? For example, by setting up a Social Impact Observatory that grows collective insight and foresight on system-wide change, from and beyond the pathways. This could be supported by an Open Living Change Playbook, a knowledge commons by, and for, Fellows and partners, so that social change tools and techniques are widely available as a public good.

## **COMPANIES FOR CHANGE**

What if all intrapreneurs and business leaders were supported to transform their organizations to lead the transition towards more resilient, rebalanced and regenerative futures? For example, through a new social intrapreneur leadership programme, and the creation of business innovation directories of emerging next practice, that help businesses establish and implement next practice in respect of the often silent S in ESG (environmental, social and governance).

# Stories of **impact**



## **FUTURE OF WORK SUMMIT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ENERGY INNOVATION CENTER**

**RSA US | PITTSBURGH**

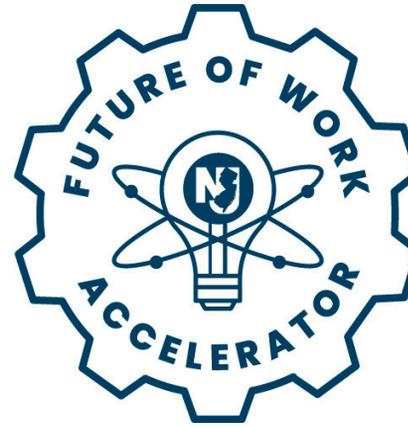
**ACTION & RESEARCH CENTRE: FUTURE OF WORK**

RSA US convened 75 experts and practitioners from across the country – leaders working to bring about cultural shifts from within big business, regional economies, local municipalities, and neighborhoods – in Pittsburgh to discuss how to design for shared prosperity in a 21st century economy.

Coalition leadership was provided by Economics of Mutuality, Mars Catalyst, and the League of Intrapreneurs.

### **ORGANIZING FELLOWS**

- Fred Brown, FRSA | President & CEO, Forbes Funds
- Rich DiClaudio, FRSA | President & CEO, Energy Innovation Center Institute
- Grant Ervin, FRSA | Chief Resilience Office, Pittsburgh
- Jabari Jones, FRSA | President, West Philadelphia Corridor Collaborative



## **FUTURE OF WORK ACCELERATOR**

**RSA US | OFFICE OF INNOVATION, NEW JERSEY**

**ACTION & RESEARCH CENTRE: FUTURE OF WORK**

The Future of Work Accelerator was a 9-month program that supported innovations that advanced New Jersey's workers' health and safety, improved access to benefits, strengthened training opportunities, and bolstered worker voice.

Through the Accelerator, participants received custom coaching, curated connections to national experts, introductions to funders and peers, and the opportunity to pilot worker-centric programs and practices in New Jersey.

### **AFFILIATED FELLOWS**

- Sean Kline, FRSA
- Beth Noveck, Chief Innovation Officer, NJ
- Kai Feder, Chief of Staff, Office of Innovation
- Joe Delattore, Innovation Fellow, NJ
- Hosan Lee FRSA
- Erica Dorn FRSA

# Stories of **impact**



**Q READ MORE**

<https://www.thersa.org/action-and-research/rsa-projects/economy-enterprise-manufacturing-folder/tech-and-society/forum-for-ethical-ai>

## **THE RSA'S FORUM FOR ETHICAL AI IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DEEPMIND TECHNOLOGIES**

**RSA US | SAN FRANCISCO**

**ACTION & RESEARCH CENTRE: TECH & SOCIETY**

The RSA's Forum for Ethical AI ran a citizens' jury to explore the use of AI in decision-making. We convened participants to grapple with the ethical issues raised by the application of AI under different circumstances and enter into a deliberative dialogue about how private and public sector institutions should respond. Our concluding report presents a toolkit for organizations seeking to deploy their own ethical processes around the proliferation of AI.

### **AFFILIATED FELLOWS**

- Zoe Camper, FRSA
- Rumman Chowdhury, FRSA | Global Lead for Responsible AI, Accenture Applied Intelligence
- Jonathan Tavss, FRSA | Co-founder, Kaleidoko



**Q READ MORE**

[www.thersa.org/discover/publications-and-articles/reports/inclusive-growth](https://www.thersa.org/discover/publications-and-articles/reports/inclusive-growth)

## **INCLUSIVE GROWTH ACCELERATOR IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CENTRE FOR PROGRESSIVE POLICY & CODA SOCIETIES**

**RSA US | CHICAGO**

**ACTION & RESEARCH CENTRE:**

**PEOPLE, POWER & PLACE**

RSA US worked to translate the findings from the RSA's Inclusive Growth Commission into an operational model for the region of Chicago. We helped design a cross-organizational coalition and an accelerator model for the region to pilot concrete strategies for delivering on the vision of inclusive growth.

Coalition leadership was provided by LISC Chicago, World Business Chicago, and CMAP. Funding was provided by the Chicago Community Trust and the MacArthur Foundation.

### **ORGANIZING FELLOWS**

- Kelwin Harris, FRSA
- Meghan Harte, FRSA | Executive Director, LISC Chicago
- Terry Mazany, FRSA | Former Executive Director, Chicago Community Trust

# Stories of **impact**

## **ART OF CHANGE WORKSHOP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EATON HOUSE DC**

**RSA US | WASHINGTON DC**

**ACTION & RESEARCH CENTRE: ART OF CHANGE**

For 250 years, the RSA has stewarded progressive change. Today, with a global footprint of over 30,000 Fellows and countless coalition partners, we want to pause and interrogate how we show up. RSA US brought together grass-top and grassroots leaders across government, community development, technology, philanthropy, education, arts, and more to share perspectives on the mechanics of social changemaking for the 21st century.

Insights from the event have been integrated into RSA Lab's model for social change.

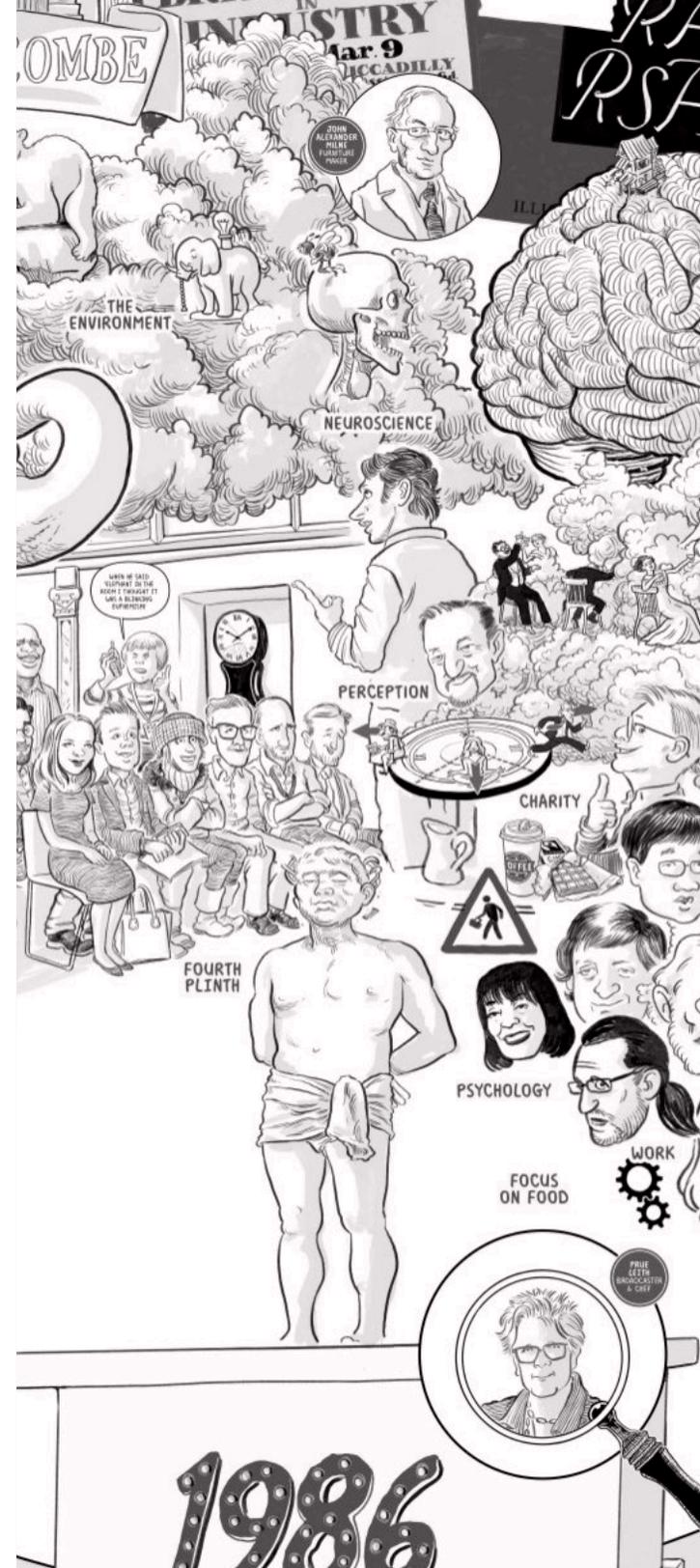
### **ORGANIZING FELLOWS**

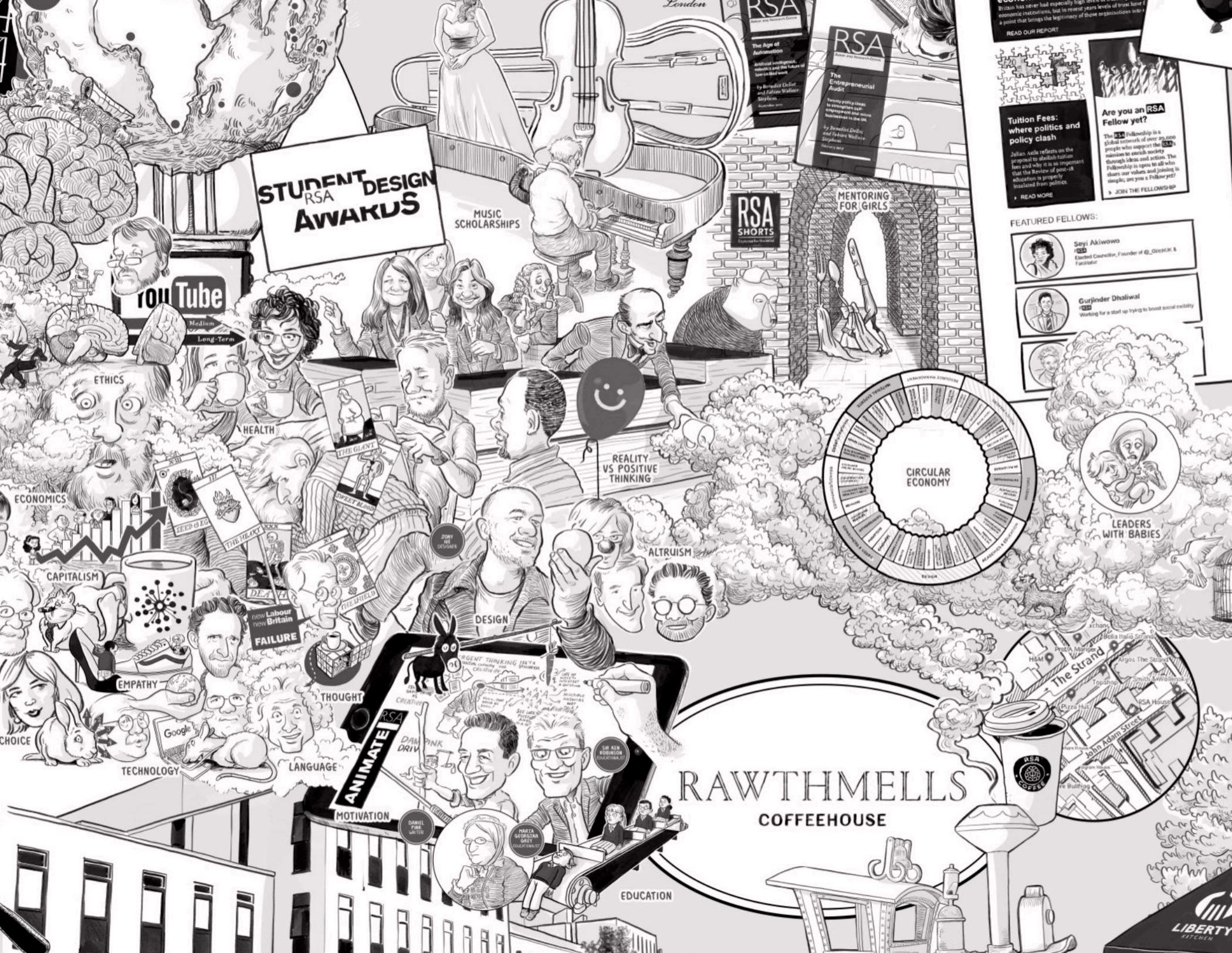
- Hosan Lee, FRSA
- Nate Wong, FRSA | Managing Director, Beeck Center



# Section 4

Appendix





STUDENT DESIGN AWARDS

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

RSA  
The Entrepreneurial Audit  
Twelve pretty ideas to strengthen your management and new businesses to the

RSA SHORTS

MENTORING FOR GIRLS

Tuition Fees: where politics and policy clash  
Julian Aske reflects on the proposal to abolish tuition fees and why it is so important that the Review of post-16 education is properly insulated from politics.  
READ MORE

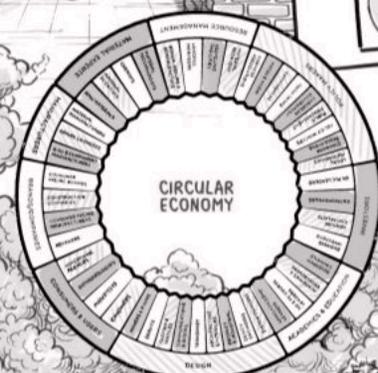
Are you an RSA Fellow yet?  
The RSA Fellowship is a global network of over 20,000 people who support the RSA's mission to enrich society through ideas and action. The Fellowship is open to all who share our values and joining is cheap; are you a Fellow yet? Join the Fellowship!  
JOIN THE FELLOWSHIP

FEATURED FELLOWS:

Seyi Akiwole  
Elected Councillor, Founder of @GeekUK & Facilitator

Gurjinder Dhalwal  
Waiting for a start up trying to boost social equality

LEADERS WITH BABIES



RAWTHMELLS COFFEEHOUSE



LIBERTY KITCHEN

# FAQs

## FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

### About your Fellowship Dues

Fellowship Dues represent 65% of the RSA income. Your support of the Society allows us to be a more democratic voice for social change, less beholden to external funding interests and more accountable to the public.

### Finding RSA US financial data

- RSA US is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as “Fellows of the RSA in the United States” in 1991. We received tax exempt status in March 1992.
- **Our Guidestar profile:** <https://www.guidestar.org/Profile/7115275>
- **Our IRS Form 990 (via ProPublica):** <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/232647480>

### Funding research/grants

- Our nonprofit status allows RSA US to apply for funding that benefits the Society and the Fellowship, but requires a US organization to be the responsible fiscal agent. This further amplifies the reach of the RSA by leveraging the philanthropic capacity of US based charitable organizations.
- There are opportunities to co-create with corporate and nonprofit fiscal sponsorship. Interested organizations fund a brief that often helps them discover or field test the next “big idea” in their field.

## DATA TRANSPARENCY

### GDPR

The General Data Protection Regulation is a European Union law that governs the rights to personal data protection for EU and European Economic Area (EEA) citizens. The act also dictates how organizations that collect and/or interact with EU/EEA citizens must handle that data. To ensure compliance, RSA US operates under the guidelines of GDPR.

### Third-party technology products used by RSA US

- **Google Suite:** used to share documents and create forms for collecting data
- **Microsoft Outlook:** used for RSA’s calendar and email management purposes
- **Salesforce:** used to manage and organize your Fellowship data
- **Zoom:** used to host most of our virtual events
- **Social media:** accounts include Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube

### Where different email communications come from

As a Fellow of the RSA, you will be receiving emails from different departments within the RSA. These include general Fellowship newsletters, “global” newsletters that are specific to all non-UK based Fellows, and US newsletters specific to Fellows living in the United States exclusively. The newsletters from RSA US are where we advertise all of our upcoming events, virtual salons, programming, thematic networks, and more. If you are not receiving emails from the RSA US, please contact [general.us@thersa.org](mailto:general.us@thersa.org) for assistance.

# FAQs (continued)

## HOW TO NOMINATE A FELLOW

Do you know someone who would be interested in joining the RSA Fellowship, and plugging into a supportive community of people committed to driving social change, to RSA publishing platforms, grant funding, collaboration and promotion opportunities, all RSA content, events, and mailings? Once Fellows are accepted into the Fellowship, they pay an annual tax-deductible fee each year to continue their membership with the RSA and to support the organization.

**Learn more:** <https://www.thersa.org/fellowship/join/information-about-applying>

### STEP 1: SEND IN YOUR NOMINATION

You can send an email to [fellowship@rsa.org.uk](mailto:fellowship@rsa.org.uk) with the names and email addresses of your nominees, or you can fill out this short online nomination form at <https://www.thersa.org/fellowship/nominate>. You will need your Fellowship number.

### STEP 2: WE INVITE NOMINEES TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

A member of the Fellowship Team will send a bespoke invitation with an online fast-track application to your nominees. Through your nomination, they will not need to provide details of referees to support their application.

### STEP 3: THEY ARE ELECTED AS FELLOWS

Once your nominees complete the Fellowship application, we will send it forward to our Admissions Panel and elect them to the Fellowship. Once they are confirmed as Fellows, we will send you an email to inform you as well.

## LEXICON

### DISTRIBUTED LEADERSHIP

The RSA US model of systems change, devolving the actionable steps to “on the ground” practitioners and problem solvers.

### FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL

The RSA Fellows that approve new Fellows and provide counsel to the RSA Board.

### RSA AGM

The Annual General Meeting held by the RSA typically in October to give an account of emerging strategy and operations to Fellows.

### RSA FELLOWS

The people who form our Fellowship. May use post-nominal letters FRSA to signal their part in the Society. Life Fellows are those that make a one-off payment to the RSA to become Fellows for life. It is a discounted rate to annual dues for those that intend to make a long-term commitment to the RSA. If you intend to be a Fellow for more than 5-7 years, a one-time Life Fellowship membership may be right for you.

### TOWN HALLS

Presentation of RSA US activities to US Fellowship.

### TRUSTEE

A member of the RSA and/or RSA US Board - each organization has a separately incorporated board in line with the nonprofit requirements of England, Scotland and Wales (RSA) and the United States (RSA US).

# RSA US **contacts**

## MAIN

### **GENERAL.US@THERSA.ORG**

Email us if you are interested in submitting a blog, have an idea for a potential event or thematic network, or want to understand more about how to get value from your Fellowship. We'll also help direct your inquiry to the appropriate departments.

## OTHER

### **FISCAL SPONSORSHIP REQUESTS**

[alexa.clay@thersa.org](mailto:alexa.clay@thersa.org)

### **MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

[mentorship@thersa.org](mailto:mentorship@thersa.org)

### **BILLING**

[fellowship@rsa.org.uk](mailto:fellowship@rsa.org.uk)

### **NOMINATE A FELLOW**

[fellowship@rsa.org.uk](mailto:fellowship@rsa.org.uk)

### **APPLY FOR A CATALYST GRANT**

[catalyst@rsa.org.uk](mailto:catalyst@rsa.org.uk)

## FIND US ONLINE

### **RSA US WEBSITE**

<https://www.thersa.org/united-states>

### **FACEBOOK**

<https://www.facebook.com/theRSAorg>

<https://www.facebook.com/theRSAus>

### **TWITTER**

<https://twitter.com/thersaorg>

[https://twitter.com/theRSA\\_US](https://twitter.com/theRSA_US)

### **YOUTUBE**

<https://www.youtube.com/thersaorg>

### **LINKEDIN**

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/rsa-us>



**The RSA in the US offers a valuable chance to connect with a growing network of ideas and leaders. During such challenging times we need institutions like the RSA to be bold and dynamic in finding new ways to address longstanding issues. It has been a honor to serve as a board member, chair the Ben Franklin Medal and – most of all – benefit from the warmth and light of the Fellowship.**

Henry Timms, FRSA  
President & CEO, Lincoln Center



**Thank You**