Prospectus

Community Crosswalking + Collective Futuring

A participatory place, memory and futures practice for communities, cultural partners, neighbourhoods, residencies and intentional communities.

VERSION	PREPARED BY	PRACTICE
1.0	Kim Hair	Community Crosswalking

"No participation without power; no knowledge without return."

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THE PROPOSITION

Future Somewhere works with communities and place-based partners to surface the intelligence already present in how people live, move, remember, relate, care, create, govern and imagine. Through Community Crosswalking, Community Cartography, the Living Community Archive and Collective Futuring, we translate first-hand knowledge into governed maps, stories, signals, scenarios, prototypes and community return — without flattening plurality or treating community knowledge as raw material.

The Problem

Too many engagement processes begin after an institution has already framed the problem, selected the categories or narrowed the possible solution. Rich knowledge about everyday routes, relationships, memory, culture, embodied experience, informal systems, burdens, assets and aspirations can be reduced to consultation notes or disappear when the project ends. Future Somewhere creates a structured way to read place from the inside-out, preserve what should be remembered, keep disagreement visible, identify what is changing and move from community intelligence into community-defined futures and action.

The Offer

PRACTICE	FUTURE SOMEWHERE CONTRIBUTION	POSSIBLE RETURN
Community Crosswalking + Cartography	Participant-led walks, mapping and place-based inquiry surface routes, relationships, assets, barriers, memory, sensory/embodied conditions, institutions and possibilities.	Community Crosswalk; layered map; needs/assets and access view; place/design priorities.
Living Community Archive + Memory Lab	Steward stories, histories, artifacts, language, ecological knowledge, absences and future aspirations with provenance, access rules and separate permissions.	Governed archive or memory resource; story/map exhibition; stewardship and withdrawal rules.
Community Wellbeing + Place Intelligence	Elicit locally meaningful conditions of wellbeing, belonging, agency, dignity, ecological connection and burden across body, place and systems.	Community-defined place/wellbeing profile; candidate indicators; embodied/sensory map; evidence boundaries.
Signals + Collective Futuring	Capture weak signals, cluster trend hypotheses, map STEEP drivers, develop plausible/preferred/avoided futures and backcast.	Signal atlas; driver map; scenario set; future postcards; watch questions and priorities.

PRACTICE	FUTURE SOMEWHERE CONTRIBUTION	POSSIBLE RETURN
Participatory Development Design Studio	Ground in what the community wants to preserve, repair or enable; define principles and red lines; prototype and stress-test place, service, governance or technology futures.	Design principles; prototypes; rejected-ideas log; action roadmap; stop/continue decisions.
Playbooking + Institutional Translation	Translate community-derived evidence into decision requirements, governance mechanisms, briefs, playbooks and reusable tools without transferring authority away from the community.	Institutional response brief; community-benefit requirements; governance/decision mechanism; implementation handoff.

The Difference

Participation is not treated as a decorative layer on a predetermined plan. Community partners influence what is asked, what counts as evidence, how meaning is interpreted, what remains private, which futures are explored and what is returned. The work can end in a prototype, playbook, archive, action roadmap — or a documented decision not to intervene.

> ***Communities create their own future.***
>
> Future Somewhere surfaces the intelligence that makes those futures discussable, testable and stewardable — then returns what is created.

01 Why Future Somewhere Is Different

Community engagement is common. The difference is what happens to community knowledge, decision influence and future-making after people participate.

1. **Community intelligence starts inside-out.** The work begins with lived meaning, local language, histories, relationships, everyday systems, strengths, burdens and community-defined priorities — not an outsider diagnosis presented as neutral.
2. **Community Crosswalking makes place legible without reducing it to coordinates.** Routes, access, care, memory, sensory conditions, public realm, institutions, invisible work and possibilities become spatial evidence through participant-led Crosswalking and Community Cartography.
3. **Memory is governed infrastructure, not content.** The Living Community Archive preserves provenance, plurality, contested memory and explicit decisions about access, attribution, reuse, commercial use, AI use, correction and withdrawal.

4 **Evidence can matter without pretending to represent everyone.** Stories, first-hand accounts, observations, dissent and negative cases can reveal meaning, mechanism, harm or an early signal. Claim boundaries remain explicit; the Significance Stack asks what matters, to whom and what should follow.

5 **Futuring connects lived evidence to what comes next.** Evidence moves through signals → trends → drivers → scenarios → prototypes → return, turning engagement into a repeatable practice for anticipating change, defining preferred and avoided futures and testing pathways.

6 **Return and stewardship are part of the method.** Community review, ownership, correction, action, maintenance and the next baseline are designed in from the beginning. Community members should not first encounter findings through a website, deck, paper or public exhibition.

NOT SIMPLY:

What should be built?

BUT:

What conditions help this community experience wellbeing, belonging, agency, connection, ecological balance and the ability to shape what comes next?

The Future Somewhere Model + Approach

Future Somewhere starts with the community as a living system. Community Wellbeing, Collective Intelligence and Collective Futuring are linked, with agency cross-cutting throughout.

Community Wellbeing

The community-defined conditions that help people belong, exercise agency and flourish across body, relationships, culture, place, institutions, technology and ecology.

Collective Intelligence

The knowledge, memory, relationships, practices, patterns, dissent, evidence and aspirations a community already holds — surfaced without treating community knowledge as raw material.

Collective Futuring

The process through which community intelligence becomes signals, trends, drivers, plausible/preferred/avoided futures, backcasting, prototypes and stewardship.

Agency is cross-cutting: Future Somewhere does not grant community agency. It centers, amplifies, evidences and examines the conditions that enable or constrain the agency communities already possess.

The Future Somewhere Approach

Baseline → Explore → Crosswalk → Connect → Interpret → Future → Prototype + Return

STAGE	WHAT HAPPENS	PRIMARY OUTPUT
1. Baseline	Define the community/place/initiative context, current conditions, prior evidence, decision need, intended return, governance and non-goals.	Community baseline + governance/return frame
2. Explore	Build relationships; listen; observe; use interviews, storytelling, selected survey modules, visual diaries or archive methods to surface local language and priorities.	Exploration brief + local question set
3. Crosswalk	Map routes, relationships, assets, barriers, institutions, memory, access, benefits/burdens, sensory conditions and community-defined possibilities.	Community Crosswalk + Cartography layers
4. Connect	Organise evidence, provenance, permissions, archive decisions and metadata into a governed evidence architecture.	Evidence/permission register + archive structure
5. Interpret	Analyse patterns and meaning together; preserve dissent; apply the Significance Stack; establish claim and publication boundaries.	Community intelligence + significance view
6. Future	Convert evidence into signals, trend hypotheses, STEEP drivers, scenarios, preferred/avoided futures and backcasting priorities.	Signal atlas + futures set
7. Prototype + Return	Create/stress-test place, service, governance or technology prototypes; assign owners and stop conditions; return outputs and establish stewardship/next baseline.	Prototype/action roadmap + community return

02 Community Crosswalking + Community Cartography

Community Crosswalking is the participatory place-reading method. A Community Crosswalk is the specific output. Community Cartography is its creative analog + digital expression — turning routes, stories, feelings, moments, relationships, systems and future questions into living spatial evidence.

PURPOSE

Understand a place through routes, relationships, assets, barriers, memories, sensory conditions, embodied experience, institutional systems and community-defined possibilities.

The Crosswalk Sequence

PHASE	ACTIVITY	CORE QUESTION	OUTPUT
Before	Co-select route, duration, access supports and protected places.	Where is safe, meaningful, contested or inappropriate to map?	Route + permission plan
Opening	Reconfirm consent and the participant's role as guide/co-researcher.	What should I pay attention to? What should I not record?	Participant-led focus
Walk	Observe/ask about belonging, memory, movement, care, ecology, public realm, asymmetry, technology and institutions.	Where does the place support or constrain life?	Field notes, sketches, optional approved media
Pause points	Invite stories, counter-narratives, sensory observations and desired futures.	What happened here? Who knows this place differently?	Place-linked narratives
Close	Review key notes and permissions; ask what should return.	What did I misunderstand? What should remain private?	Immediate correction + follow-up
Synthesis	Map assets, burdens, routes, institutions, relationships and possible actions.	Where are leverage points and trade-offs?	Draft Community Crosswalk
Validation	Community reviews labels, locations and interpretation.	Could this map expose, stigmatise or accelerate unwanted change?	Approved, restricted or revised Crosswalk

What a Crosswalk Can Surface

LENS	WHAT MAY BECOME VISIBLE
Movement + access	Routes, barriers, waiting, rest, crossings, wayfinding, mobility supports and time-distance burden.
Belonging + public life	Where people gather, linger, avoid, welcome, create rituals, experience recognition or negotiate difference.
Memory + continuity	Landmarks, ordinary meeting points, absences, contested histories, remembered routes and practices that should be carried forward.
Care + invisible systems	Unpaid or overlooked labour, mutual aid, maintenance, informal governance, relationships and institutional dependencies.
Ecology + regeneration	Food, water, land, materials, biodiversity, seasonal knowledge, ecological stress and regenerative practice.

LENS	WHAT MAY BECOME VISIBLE
Embodiment + wellbeing	Participant-described restoration, ease, tension, sensory character, stress, avoidance and place-linked burden — non-diagnostic.
Asymmetry + fairness	Who benefits, waits, pays, adapts, carries risk, receives visibility or remains hidden from official measures.
Technology + institutions	Rules, interfaces, surveillance, data, eligibility, decision pathways, accountability and where systems align or conflict with community life.
Possibility + futures	Places and conditions to preserve, repair, release, transform or create; signals of what is newly possible or at risk.

> ***Location is a permission decision.***
>
> Public visibility does not equal permission to record or publish. Participants and partners control precision; sensitive homes, safe spaces, ecological sites, informal roles and protected places are not mapped publicly by default.

03 Living Community Archive: Memory + Stewardship

The Living Community Archive is community-governed memory infrastructure. It is not a content library that Future Somewhere automatically owns. It supports community control over what is remembered, how it is described, who can access it and how memory may — or may not — inform future decisions.

What May Enter the Archive

Stories, images, objects, maps, ecological knowledge, language, rituals, recipes, sounds, absences, future letters and other community-defined traces may be considered — only through locally agreed permissions and custodianship.

GOVERNANCE QUESTION	WORKING RULE
Who has authority to contribute or remove material?	Individual creator, family, community body, cultural custodian or a collective decision — defined locally.
What access levels exist?	Public; community-only; named users; embargoed; closed; time-limited — not one default visibility setting.
Can material be copied, translated or remixed?	Separate permissions by use and audience. Physical possession does not equal cultural authority.

GOVERNANCE QUESTION	WORKING RULE
Can material train or prompt AI systems?	Default no. AI use requires explicit permission and an approved environment; public/archive/research/commercial/AI permissions remain separable.
Who owns the platform and metadata?	Prefer community-held or governed infrastructure; do not imply Future Somewhere owns community knowledge or metadata by default.
How is contested memory represented?	Preserve plurality, provenance, dissent, missing voices and changing interpretation; do not force a single official account.
What happens when the project ends?	Return, transfer, delete, maintain or place with an agreed institution according to the stewardship plan.

Collective Community Memory Lab

The Memory Lab is a participatory activation inside the Living Community Archive — a way to gather, interpret and steward stories, objects, place memory and future-facing artifacts. It is not a replacement name for the archive itself.

> ***What communities control***
>
> Whether to participate; which questions to answer; recording; attribution; quotation; image use; location precision; archive access; public use; research use; future reuse; commercial use; AI use; future contact; correction; restriction; withdrawal; and what returns.

Why This Matters for Collective Futuring

Memory is not only retrospective. It establishes continuity, identifies what should be preserved or repaired, reveals historic structures that still shape present conditions, and creates a governed basis for asking what must be carried forward into preferred futures.

> ***No participation without power; no knowledge without return.***
>
> Community partners should have meaningful influence over questions, methods, interpretation, outputs and action. A rapid prototype can reduce scope; it should not compress consent, permissions, governance, interpretation or return.

04 Collective Futuring: From What Is to What Could Be

Collective Futuring is the participatory process through which community intelligence becomes multiple futures, backcasting, prototypes, stewardship and action. Future Somewhere uses “Futuring” rather than

treating the work as prediction: the aim is to make change discussable, preserve uncertainty and enable communities to shape what comes next.

The Collective Futuring Pathway

STAGE	PURPOSE	GUIDING QUESTION
1. Experience	Document lived conditions, strengths, burdens, embodiment, access and everyday community life.	What is happening and how is it experienced now?
2. Memory + continuity	Surface histories, cultural knowledge, sensory memory, relationships and practices that should be carried forward.	What shaped this condition, and what must not be lost?
3. Systems + change	Map institutions, interdependencies, externalities, signals, trends and STEEP drivers.	What is changing, why, and who or what is affected?
4. Futures	Develop plausible, preferred and avoided futures without treating one forecast as inevitable.	What could happen, what should happen, and what must be prevented?
5. Prototypes + pathways	Backcast, test ideas, make trade-offs visible and identify near-term experiments.	What would need to be true, and what can we test now?
6. Stewardship + return	Assign ownership, resources, review rights, monitoring and what returns to the community.	Who stewards what comes next, and how can it change or stop?

Signals → Trends → Drivers → Scenarios → Prototypes → Return

Building Blocks

BUILDING BLOCK	FUTURE SOMEWHERE USE	DISCIPLINE
Signal	An early, edge-case or weak indication of change.	Record provenance, context, uncertainty and counter-signals; rarity does not make it meaningless.
Trend	A directional movement with momentum across people, sources, places or time.	Track recurrence, spread, duration, distribution and contradiction; one observation is not a trend.
Driver	A slower structural force or hypothesis — social, technological, economic, environmental or political.	Map mechanisms, interactions, uncertainty, historical weights and who is affected.
Scenario	A plausible, preferred or avoided future made discussable through evidence and uncertainty.	Do not present as forecast; keep red lines, absent groups and distributional effects visible.

BUILDING BLOCK	FUTURE SOMEWHERE USE	DISCIPLINE
Prototype	A learning artifact that makes a future testable — place, service, policy, governance or technology.	A prototype is a question, not proof that the solution should be implemented.
Return	Community review, ownership, action, stewardship, correction and the next baseline.	Return is more than dissemination; communities receive and can challenge what was created.

> ***A signal is not the same thing as statistical significance.***
>
> A rare first-hand account may matter as an early warning, negative case, mechanism or evidence of harm without being presented as representative. Future Somewhere preserves both the signal and the claim boundary.

04 From Futures to Decisions: Design Studio + Significance

The Participatory Development Design Studio turns preferred futures into discussable and testable interventions while retaining community authority over priorities, acceptable trade-offs and stop conditions.

STEP	CORE QUESTION	TECHNIQUE	SAFEGUARD
1. Ground	What is the community trying to preserve, repair or enable?	History / asset / burden map	Begin with the community-defined issue, not a technology.
2. Define principles	What must any future respect?	Principle cards; red lines; rights / entitlements	Record non-negotiables and who can veto harm.
3. Generate futures	What futures are plausible, preferred or unacceptable?	Scenarios; future headlines; objects from the future	Include structural constraints and distributional effects.
4. Prototype	What can make the future discussable and testable?	Service blueprint; map; mock-up; policy / governance prototype	Label prototypes as learning artifacts, not promises.
5. Stress-test	Who benefits, who bears burden and what could fail?	Pre-mortem; equity review; system map	Include absent groups and long-term effects.
6. Decide	What should advance, change, pause or stop?	Participatory criteria + decision rights	Do not treat voting alone as equitable governance.

STEP	CORE QUESTION	TECHNIQUE	SAFEGUARD
7. Return / act	What will be handed back or implemented?	Action plan; institutional brief; owned artifact	Assign resources, owners, deadlines and review rights.

The Significance Stack

Not every important finding is statistically inferential. Future Somewhere separates six questions so communities and institutions can decide what a finding actually supports.

LENS	QUESTION
Statistical	Is the pattern sufficiently supported by the data/design?
Practical	Is the magnitude consequential enough to matter in everyday life or a decision?
Community	Do people experiencing it recognise it as meaningful, accurate or worth acting on?
Distributional / Equity	Who benefits, who bears burden and could an average conceal unequal effects?
Temporal / Futuring	Is this noise, an early signal, an emerging trend or structural change?
Action	Does it justify monitoring, protection, experimentation, investment, redesign, stopping or another decision?

> ***Return is a decision mechanism.***
>
> Findings are not “finished” when the report is written. Community review can correct, restrict, reject, redirect or stop an interpretation or prototype. Outputs should have owners, resources, review dates and an explicit stewardship or closure path.

05 90-Day Participatory Pilot

A bounded engagement designed to prove value without overbuilding the method. The shared Future Somewhere sequence remains intact; the pilot narrows the question, relationship and methods rather than reducing participant protection or community influence.

PHASE	DAYS	WORK	PRIMARY DELIVERABLE
01 Baseline + Explore	0–30	Partner alignment; community-defined question and intended return; public/context review; governance and permission plan; relationship-building; selected interviews/storytelling/survey/observation methods.	Community Baseline + Governance/Return Charter

PHASE	DAYS	WORK	PRIMARY DELIVERABLE
02 Crosswalk + Connect	31–60	Participant-led Community Crosswalks; Community Cartography; selected Memory Lab/Archive capture; embodied/place and systems mapping; organise evidence, provenance and permissions.	Validated Community Crosswalk + Living Evidence/Archive Prototype
03 Interpret + Future + Prototype + Return	61–90	Mixed-method interpretation; community validation and dissent log; Significance Stack; signal/trend/driver scan; scenarios/backcasting; Design Studio prototype; ownership, return and stewardship plan.	Community Intelligence + Futures Brief + Prototype/Action Roadmap + Return

Pilot Success Measures

- The community/partner-defined question, intended benefit and return are documented before research capture begins.
- Participants or community partners influence interpretation early enough to change labels, claims, priorities and public wording.
- Crosswalk and archive outputs retain provenance, location sensitivity, permission status, disagreement and missing-voice questions.
- Major findings distinguish what first-hand evidence reveals from what the sample/design allows the project to generalise.
- A governed signal register records candidate signals, counter-signals, uncertainty, owners and watch questions without calling rare observations trends.
- Any prototype has a clear owner, resource need, evidence threshold, harm review and pause/change/stop condition.
- The community receives the output before or at the same time as wider public, institutional or portfolio audiences.
- The engagement closes or transfers stewardship explicitly rather than leaving an orphaned archive, map, dataset or promise.

> ***Small does not mean informal.***
>
> Use one bounded question, one clearly defined community relationship, one or two methods, a small purposive sample, a short collection window, a pre-agreed analysis and return session, and a specific community benefit. Do not compress consent, permissions, data governance or interpretation.

Possible Community Returns

RETURN	WHAT IT MAY CONTAIN
Community Crosswalk / place brief	Routes, assets, burdens, access, memory, systems and community-defined opportunities.
Living Community Archive / memory resource	Stories, maps, objects, language or ecological knowledge in a governed format.
Community-defined wellbeing / place indicators	Locally meaningful constructs and candidate indicators with context and use boundaries.
Futures Signal Atlas + scenario set	Signals, counter-signals, trends/driver hypotheses, preferred/avoided futures and watch questions.
Design / governance / technology prototype	A bounded experiment with principles, red lines, owners, measures and stop conditions.
Playbook / institutional brief	Community-derived requirements translated into decision rules, governance or implementation mechanisms.
Decision not to intervene	A documented choice to protect against surveillance, extraction, displacement or unwanted change.

06 Lago Scuro Living Atlas: First Field Application

Lago Scuro is the first planned place-based application of the integrated Community Crosswalking + Collective Futuring practice — not a completed case study and not the only setting to which the framework applies. The Living Atlas is the approved umbrella prototype for the residency.

LAGO SCURO LIVING ATLAS

A modular place-based evidence and futuring system connecting Community Crosswalking, Community Cartography, the Living Community Archive, embodied wellbeing, regenerative systems, signals and preferred futures. It is designed analog-first; only approved evidence is digitised.

MODULE	PURPOSE	PLANNED EXPRESSION
Community Crosswalk + Cartography	Participant-led routes reveal assets, barriers, memories, sensory/embodied conditions, institutions, systems and possibilities.	Wall map + tracing layers + approved route/place nodes
Spatial Memory Lab	Stories, practices, objects, sounds, recipes, ecological knowledge and absences linked to place with provenance and tiered permissions.	Story/object cards + governed text/audio/image archive entries
Embodied Place + Wellbeing	First-person “how does this place feel?” evidence surfaces restoration, ease, tension, avoidance and sensory character without medicalising experience.	Transparent/approximate place layer + participant captions
Regenerative Systems + Invisible Flows	Trace food, water, materials, energy, labour, care, knowledge, money and biodiversity to make overlooked dependencies and work visible.	Analog systems map + relationship/flow layer
Signals + Collective Futures	Move from evidence to signals, trend hypotheses, STEEP drivers, preferred/avoided futures and backcasting.	Signal board + future postcards + proposal wall + future layer
Optional AI research layer	Test whether permission-aware retrieval improves grounded access to an approved corpus without pretending to become the community.	Human/archive baseline + optional Ask the Atlas RAG evaluation

Creative Throughline

Map how the place lives → Archive what it remembers → Sense how it feels → Trace what sustains it → Notice what is changing → Imagine what comes next → Return a governed Living Atlas

Analog-First + Return-First

The field experience can proceed through walks, maps, tracing layers, story cards, object tags, systems mapping, signal sorting and future postcards even with limited connectivity. The digital layer is synthesis and return rather than the precondition for participation. Planned return includes an open-house Living Atlas, physical atlas/archive materials and selected physical-digital story nodes only where approved.

AI Remains Optional and Governance-Gated

Ask the Atlas / permission-aware RAG is a research layer only if an approved corpus, access logic, AI permissions, refusal rules and withdrawal tests are ready. The residency does not depend on AI success, and Future Somewhere will not simulate Lago residents or manufacture a single synthetic “community voice.”

Why this matters beyond Lago

The Living Atlas makes Community Intelligence + Futuring tangible: research → place → memory → governed evidence → signals → futures → prototypes → return. It provides a bounded field architecture that can be adapted — not copied — with other communities and place-based partners.

07 The Short Pitch

COMMUNITY CROSSWALKING + COLLECTIVE FUTURING

Future Somewhere works with communities and place-based partners to surface the intelligence already present in everyday life — routes, relationships, memories, embodied experience, systems, tensions, strengths and aspirations — and translate it into Community Crosswalks, governed Living Community Archives, signals and futures intelligence, participatory prototypes and community return. The method moves through Baseline → Explore → Crosswalk → Connect → Interpret → Future → Prototype + Return. Communities retain influence over questions, interpretation, permissions, what remains private, what is returned and what moves forward.

Who This Is For

PARTNER	WHERE THE PRACTICE CAN HELP
Community representatives + resident groups	Place, belonging, memory, access, governance, community priorities and future stewardship.
Cultural + creative organisations	Community intelligence, cultural continuity, spatial storytelling, creative participation and place-based futures.
Residencies + intentional communities	Living systems, regenerative practice, collective memory, community-defined wellbeing and creative-tech experimentation.
Neighbourhood + place-based partners	Crosswalking, needs/assets, public realm, systems, asymmetry, design principles and future scenarios.
Public / institutional collaborators	Community-derived evidence translated into accountable requirements, prototypes, decision mechanisms and playbooks.
Creative-technology + research partners	Community Cartography, governed archives, spatial storytelling, AI-in-society evaluation and participatory systems design.

Practice Rules That Do Not Change by Audience

- Community essence remains a community-defined evidence domain, not a claim that one official identity or voice exists.
- Participation is called participatory only when people have meaningful influence over questions, interpretation, design, governance or decisions.
- First-hand evidence receives analytic credence for the claim types it can support; memorable stories are not automatically representative.
- Public, archive, research, commercial, future-contact and AI permissions remain separable and revisable.
- Sensitive places, people, routines, informal roles and ecological knowledge are not made public by default.
- Community members receive findings and returns before or at the same time as wider audiences, with correction and withdrawal pathways where feasible.
- A prototype is a learning artifact, not a promise of funding, development, policy change or long-term maintenance.
- The method may legitimately end with “do not intervene,” “do not publish,” “do not automate,” or “do not compare.”

> ### *Portfolio North Star*
>
> Future Somewhere surfaces the intelligence already present in communities, makes it legible without flattening it, and builds participatory evidence and futuring systems that help communities and institutions decide what comes next.