

The Nature of Trust

An Invitation

Are you working to advance social change, including health equity? Are you a curious thinker who's looking for new models and mindsets to approach your work? Do you admire the genius of the natural world?

The *Nature of Trust* is seeking participants to engage in a leading-edge project to...

Discover new models for social innovation in the Ecological Age, using NATURE'S BEST STRATEGIES for BUILDING TRUST.

ABOUT THE "NATURE OF TRUST"

Biomimicry for Social Innovation and Biomimicry 3.8 are excited to launch a new initiative on *what we can learn about TRUST-BUILDING from nature*. This project will focus on:

- **identifying lessons from nature** relevant to trust-building;
- **demonstrating biomimicry's application** as a strategic lens, implementation tool, and regenerative practice for social innovation challenges; and
- **developing a framework**, toolkit and other resources to support the application of nature's lessons to advance health equity and social change.



WHAT IS BIOMIMICRY?

Biomimicry is a design discipline that draws inspiration from life's 3.8 billion years of evolutionary intelligence. Applied to social innovation, biomimicry becomes a strategy to shift us away from colonized, mechanistic models and instead apply nature-based, ecological insights to solve human challenges. It is a practice that promotes systemic thinking, fosters an adaptive mindset, and elevates diverse perspectives to meet the complexity of today's problems.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

Nature of Trust is open to leaders, advocates, and grassroots professionals working in health equity and social change. While this includes health advocacy and healthcare sectors, we embrace a broad definition of health equity to include those working across many causes including environmental justice, community development, climate and sustainability, education, policy, and the range of ways to advance the social indicators of health.



INTERESTED IN THE LEARNING COHORT?

Applicants interested in joining the year-long Co-Lab Learning Cohort must be available to attend the Bio360 Insights workshop, three in-person convenings and regular coaching calls.

KEY DATES

Listening Sessions *[completed]*

- Nov 15, 2023 - 7pm ET
- Nov 17, 2023 - 11am ET
- Nov 17, 2023 - 2:30pm ET

Bio360 Insights Workshop

- May 29-30, 2024

Cohort Workshops

- Aug 5-9, 2024
- Jan 20-24, 2025
- June 9-13, 2025

Cohort will receive support for participation, travel, and project implementation. More details to be shared when applications open.

TO LEARN MORE:

contact gina@bio-sis.net

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Biomimicry for Social Innovation

◆ BSIsocial.org

Biomimicry 3.8

◆ Biomimicry.net

Northcutt Productions

◆ Northcuttprod.com

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

This project is made possible with the support of the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](https://www.rwjf.org/).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

Over a two-year period, the *Nature of Trust* project will engage health equity practitioners through a series of opportunities, co-creating resources that can help communities apply nature's lessons to equity-focused social change efforts:

- three short community **Listening Sessions** to guide the biological research into the question, "*What is important for us to learn from nature about building trust?*"
- a research-informed **Bio360 Insights workshop** offered to a broad community of practitioners in Spring 2024
- a **year-long learning cohort** of two people from 4-6 organizations, supported to bring bio-inspired ideas to fruition through training, coaching, and facilitated/funded peer collaboration
- a **documentary film with accompanying toolkit**, designed to inspire and guide a wider community of social changemakers to implement nature's lessons.

PROJECT TIMELINE

PHASE	SUMMARY	PARTICIPATION
Scoping the Challenge Nov 2023	Biomimicry team identifies the context and possible system interventions where "trust-building" is most needed in health equity.	Three virtual Listening Sessions engaging community input
Biological Research and Discovery Dec 2023 – May 2024	Biologists conduct the <i>Bio360</i> , investigating and reporting on nature-inspired strategies for building trust.	Two-day in-person Bio360 Insights workshop to share results (May 29-30)
Apply within the Field Aug 2024 – July 2025	Yearlong Co-Lab Learning Cohort comprised of pairs of people from 4-6 organizations. Build and document learning and case studies through documentary film.	Co-Lab Cohort participates in three 3-day in-person workshops; teams receive regular coaching and mentoring; co-lab members initiate projects
Share and Propagate Case Studies Aug-Dec 2025	Produce 15-20 min documentary film, as well as digital and downloadable tools and frameworks.	Co-Lab members implement with project grants



Co-Lab Learning Cohort

Frequently Asked Questions

ORGANIZATIONS & CANDIDATES

What type of organizations are eligible to join the Learning Cohort? Participants must be from US-based, nonprofit organizations to qualify for stipends. Consultants working in close partnership with community-based organizations are eligible to apply as a team, with the nonprofit receiving and managing the stipend. For-profit organizations are eligible if self-supported, but must apply.

Do I need prior knowledge or training in biomimicry to participate? While it is helpful to have some experience with biomimicry, it is not necessary. What is most important is that your organization and the participating team members are curious thinkers, eager to learn from nature's intelligence and hold a willingness to new models and mindsets for trust-building and social change.

What if my organization has only one person – or more than 2 people – that want to join the Cohort? The Cohort is designed for teams of two from each organization. This ensures that participants have a partner who can reinforce their learning, provide mutual accountability, and support one another's efforts.

What if I don't work in "health equity"? The Cohort is open to organizations whose work advances social indicators of health, including those that focus on environmental justice, community development, climate and sustainability, education, policy, and related fields.

TIME COMMITMENT & COMPENSATION

What is the time commitment for Cohort participants? All participants must attend three 3-day, in-person workshops and are highly encouraged to join the Bio360 Insights Workshop (see Page 2 for dates). Cohort members will also participate in monthly coaching calls beginning August 2024. Additionally, each Cohort member will design an initiative applying *Nature of Trust* insights into their work (scale and scope will vary).

What financial support is provided for Cohort participants? Four organizations will receive a stipend of \$20,000 to cover participant's time. Half of the stipend will be granted upon acceptance into the Cohort and the other half upon completion. Organizations will also be eligible for a project grant of up to \$10,000 to implement program learnings. Additionally, Cohort members will receive travel support to attend the in-person workshops.

FILMING & DOCUMENTATION

What is the purpose of the film and how will it be used? The insights and video assets generated by the Cohort will support the production of a 20-minute documentary film, as well as the creation of public educational resources. The film and accompanying toolkit will illustrate real-world applications of nature's intelligence and inspire others to embrace nature-inspired solutions for trust-building and social change.

How am I involved in the filmmaking process? Cohort participants agree to be filmed during workshops and video calls and will be asked to record their own projects and learning using simple video equipment, with support and guidance from our film team.

APPLICATION PROCESS

I'm interested! How do I apply? Great! Fill out the [Intent to Apply](#) form by February 12th and we will send you the application (preview questions [here](#)). The deadline to apply is March 1st. *Please note*, all applications must include a Letter of Support from your supervisor authorizing your participation.

When will I know if I am chosen for the Cohort? Interviews of each prospective pair will take place throughout March and early April. Cohort members will be announced April 12th, 2024.

