

A PROPOSAL · JUNE 2026

The Paradox of How

*A Proposal for the Federated Regenerates United Guild — a systems
science approach to catalyze regenerating communities and their local
ecologies*

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The Federated Regenerates United Guild

A systems science approach to catalyze regenerating communities and their local ecologies

"How do we unravel and deconstruct the invisible norms driving modernity's planetary destruction? Which norms are the culprit and who decides?"

REVITALIZING COMMUNITIES AND SOIL HEALTH

The Regenerates United Guild is a federated, grassroots network of local chapters working to heal ecosystems, restore soil health, and build communities around care rather than consumption — grounded in one principle: **all life belongs**.

Federated structure Local chapters operate autonomously, aligned under shared ecological and social regeneration goals.	Soil as entry point Restoring topsoil to hold carbon, water and biodiversity to grow healthy, nutrient dense food.	Care-based economy Status symbols tied to participation, service, and ecological stewardship replace wealth accumulation.
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THE NEIGHBORSHEDS FRAMEWORK

Storytelling	Place-based programs	Governance	Economy	Technology
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Neighborsheds are place-based regenerative community domains powered by DERR (Doughnut Economic Regenerative Rubric) — a relational technology stack built on Kate Raworth's Doughnut Economics framework. Neighborsheds map assets and liabilities to assess domain needs, offering members robust offers and needs matching for service actions.

ROADMAP

2026	Alpha Pilot — Collaborative trial and prototype building of protocols, frameworks and domain based programs.
2027	BETA Rollout — Block x Block Challenge with Rewild Your Campus + Rotary International + Resource Conservation Districts.
2028	GA Release — Rural expansion via Farm x Farm + Ranch x Ranch with American Farmland Trust, Regenerative Organic Alliance and Savory Institute.
2030	60,000 Regenerates United Guilds worldwide and growing!

CORE BELIEFS

- All life belongs — there are no externalities.
- Humans are not separable from nature.
- Herbicide and pesticide use should carry the same gravity as harm to human life.
- Justice, equity, diversity and inclusion — no human is more worthy than others.
- Status is earned through ecological stewardship, not wealth.
- Seven generations forward in all horizon thinking.
- All humans have responsibility to citizen, care, participate, and steward.

The Paradox of How

*Dreaming a Federated Regenerates United Guild — a systems science approach
to catalyze regenerating communities and their local ecologies*

*How do we unravel and deconstruct the invisible norms driving modernity's planetary destruction?
Which norms are the culprit and who decides?*

*How do we personally and collectively recognize and metabolize our complicity in the destruction of
our planet?*

*How do we show up for the present, compost the past, and reorient towards regenerative futures where
all life belongs?*

*How do we unsubscribe from consumption-based systems and join care-based systems — or create
conditions for their emergence?*

How do we know what is real versus what is perceived to be reality?

Where These Questions Come From

These questions have both inspired and haunted me over the last three years as I've explored how to apply my decades of regenerative agriculture and sustainable entrepreneurship experience to the emerging disciplines of regenerative economics, regenerative technology, and regenerative governance.

WHAT REGENERATIVE MEANS

A method of healing, restoring, and ensuring circular longevity. Regenerative principles are **not** supportive of domination, extraction, hoarding, linear waste streams, unaccounted externalities, othering behaviors of any life form, or production-driven economies.

I co-founded, led, and operated a wine manufacturing company for nearly 20 years — celebrated globally for applying sustainable principles from vineyard to bottle. After my last vintage in 2022, I discovered John Fullerton's Regenerative Economics Course at the Capital Institute and joined Cohort 4. That class cracked something open and sent me deep into other disciplines being reconsidered through a regenerative lens: technology, governance, and the nature of systems themselves.

Regardless of the domain — agriculture, economics, technology, or governance — the principles of healing, restoring, and ensuring circular longevity remained constant. So did my first principle, the one that grounds every application: **all life forms belong**.

Breaking Free of the Modernity Matrix

A life-altering event demanded I abandon the status symbols my life had oriented around since birth — the accumulation of money, property, power, and fame. In doing so, I was able to break free of what I call the "modernity matrix" and its manipulation of perceived reality.

I now imagine a future where status is earned through ecological stewardship and care, rather than wealth or ownership.

During a three-year liminal journey I connected with hundreds — if not thousands — of people and organizations from around the globe who also see the collapsing modernity-based systems and are passionately working on pathways toward a regenerative future. I dream of uniting these "regenerates" to heal and revitalize our planet — of rewilding practices that help us let go of misconceived systems that other life forms in order to create benefit for an in-group. I dream of future societies oriented around regenerative status symbols: being a planet-positive, life-affirming species that strives to *live on the doughnut*.

By replacing modernity's wealth-based status symbols — money, property, fame, power — with new ones tied to participation and service, we can drive the cultural change needed to reorient humanity's compass toward life-affirming, planet-positive futures from the ground up.

From Farming Microbes to a Regenerative Movement

For twenty years I promoted the wines I made by explaining that my most important role was as the *farmer of microbes*. Healthy soil — with bountiful "soil animals" — produces delicious wines. Once the plant, rooted in healthy soil, produced grapes full of flavor and complexity, my job was to steward the emergence of the resulting wine with as little intervention into the natural process as possible.

~380

wines made over 20 years

1M+

bottles filled

7

generations forward in all planning

My journey from farming microbes to now reinforces my belief that creating conditions for humans to relate around restoring healthy soil could become a magic key — unlocking an abundance of emergence ready to reorient us away from the false narrative that humans are born to dominate resources in pursuit of wealth, power, and fame. Humans are meant to live in alignment with all life, in support of our collective wellbeing, for at least seven generations forward.

Introducing the Federated Regenerates United Guild

I have a few ideas on how we might build bridges to a new Regenerative Era, beginning with the co-creation of a **Federated Regenerates United Guild (RUG)**. When considering infrastructure, scalability, connectedness, and the need to activate communities to heal their local ecologies, guilds offer a unique container for igniting a coordinated, grassroots, changemaking movement grounded in systems and complexity science.

A federated RUG could support healing and revitalizing local, regional, bioregional, and planetary ecologies — addressing climate change and fostering conditions for regenerative, democratic societies to shift culture so that status is earned through ecological stewardship and care, not wealth or ownership. By establishing a decentralized, self-governing network of local chapters or nodes — operating autonomously while aligning under shared goals — we could fund and resource the regeneration of soil health at every scale.

The Federated Regenerates United Guild at Scale

As of August 2030, there are 12,000 active RUGs in the United States and more than 60,000 worldwide. Founded in California in 2026, RUG experienced rapid growth throughout 2027 after collaborating with Rotary Clubs and county-level Resource Conservation Districts. Rotary catalyzed grassroots community-led adoption; RCDs became a force multiplier for funding flows by scaling up existing conservation programs that communities and regulators already trusted.

The **"Save the Soil Animals"** campaign launched the Block x Block (BxB) rewilding program, establishing baseline soil health metrics and dynamic impact monitoring. In collaboration with Rewild Your Campus (RYC), it rapidly transformed grass lawns and dirtscapes into rewilded landscapes growing healthy topsoil. In 2028, RUG expanded to rural domains via Farm x Farm and Ranch x Ranch challenges with American Farmland Trust, Regenerative Organic Alliance, and the Savory Institute — diverting what was poised to be a devastating dust bowl event across the United States.

The **Food Is Medicine Festival** emerged as a bi-annual community celebration around locally grown, regeneratively certified food — seeding a systemic approach to community and biosphere wellness that replaced climate-crisis framing with something more generative.

The Neighborsheds Framework

Storytelling	Place-based programs	Governance	Economy	Technology
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Central to the RUG model is the **Neighborsheds framework** — a domain-scale approach to regenerative community I developed over the last three years, proposed for prototyping via an Alpha Pilot Project sponsored by the federated RUG. Neighborsheds was born from the recognition that domain-level change, rooted in place and community, is the missing link between global regenerative ambition and lived, daily experience.

Powering Neighborsheds is the **DERR (Doughnut Economic Regenerative Rubric)** protocol — a relational technology stack built on Kate Raworth's Doughnut Economics framework. DERR enables RUG members to reorient toward "living on the doughnut" — the safe and just space for people and planet. Neighborsheds map domain assets and liabilities to assess community needs, then offer members robust offers and needs matching for service actions. Each Neighborshed functions as both a living laboratory and a replicable model.

An Imaginary Manifesto · The Federated Regenerates United Guild

We are a group of concerned citizens, from around the Earth, who identify as members of the universe of life. The following is our declaration of intent.

We do not believe we are separate from nature.

We do not believe othering any life form is acceptable in order to create benefit for an in-group.

We believe all life belongs, and there are no externalities.

We support regenerative status symbols and living on the doughnut.

We are dedicated to shifting culture with narrative story sharing and domain-based programs.

We are dedicated to weaving democratic principles into technology, economics, and governance.

We imagine a future where identity and status are derived from life-affirming, planet-positive actions — not money, markets, or ownership.

We imagine a future world where meta-relational AI frameworks assist humanity in the midwifing of a Regenerative Era where restoring the earth becomes humanity's central intention.

We imagine a Regenerative Accelerationism Engineering Task Force (RAETF), modeled after the IETF, as the driving force behind the foundational technologies powering the Federated RUG.

We believe all life deserves healthy water and food.

We believe just as homicide is a crime, so should the use of herbicide and pesticide.

We consider seven generations forward in our horizon thinking, dreaming, and planning.

We believe in justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion — no human being is more worthy than others.

We believe all human beings have responsibility to citizen, care, participate, and steward.

We believe freedom begins where we find our personal intersections of passion, purpose, service, and consciousness, as we care for our domains wholly.
