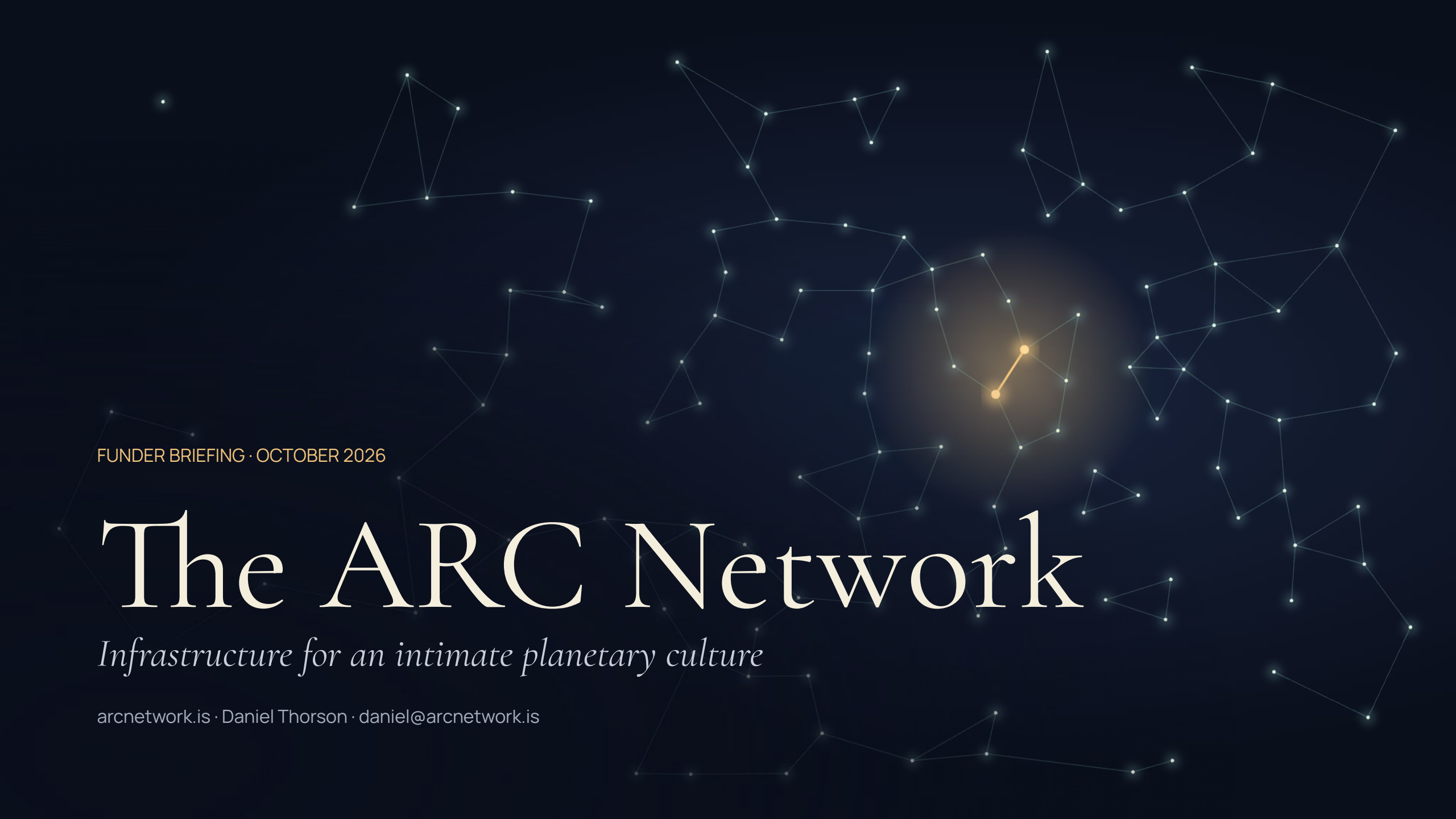




FUNDER BRIEFING · OCTOBER 2026

The ARC Network

Infrastructure for an intimate planetary culture

arcnetwork.is · Daniel Thorson · daniel@arcnetwork.is

THE AIM

WHERE WE ARE GOING

An *intimate planetary culture*: a culture grounded in loving presence, where people are seen, felt, and valued.

WHAT WE ARE BUILDING

The distributed, scaled capacity to deliver *attuned loving presence* to anyone in need.

HOW WE WILL KNOW

Loving presence as available as water from a tap.

THE PROBLEM

The crises of our time share a cause: *we have lost the capacity to see, feel, and value one another.*

VISIBLE SYMPTOMS

Loneliness epidemic, institutional distrust, youth mental-health collapse, communities that cannot repair under stress.

THE AI TRANSITION RAISES THE STAKES

01 Coordination

A low-trust, polarized society cannot coordinate through a transition of this scale.

03 Human worth after labor

If AI absorbs much of what we call work, what remains irreducibly human is the capacity to be in relationship with each other.

02 Simulated intimacy

As AI simulates attention, companionship, and care, our capacity for real human contact may atrophy through disuse.

04 Alignment

AI needs something coherent to align to: people aligned within themselves, and with each other.

For billions, being truly met is a rare peak experience.

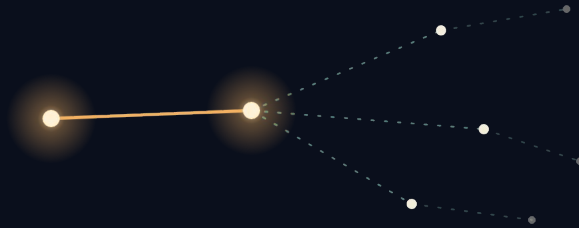
The ARC exists to make it an everyday one.

This capacity is *trainable*, *transmissible*, and *scalable*.



Trainable

Seeing, feeling, and valuing others can be learned: staying with your own experience, meeting someone as a whole person, repairing trust after it breaks. These grow with practice, yet almost no one is taught.



Transmissible

Once someone has been met this way, they don't unlearn it, and they naturally want to give it. They bring it home to partners, parents, children, and colleagues, and each of those relationships can pass it on again.



Scalable

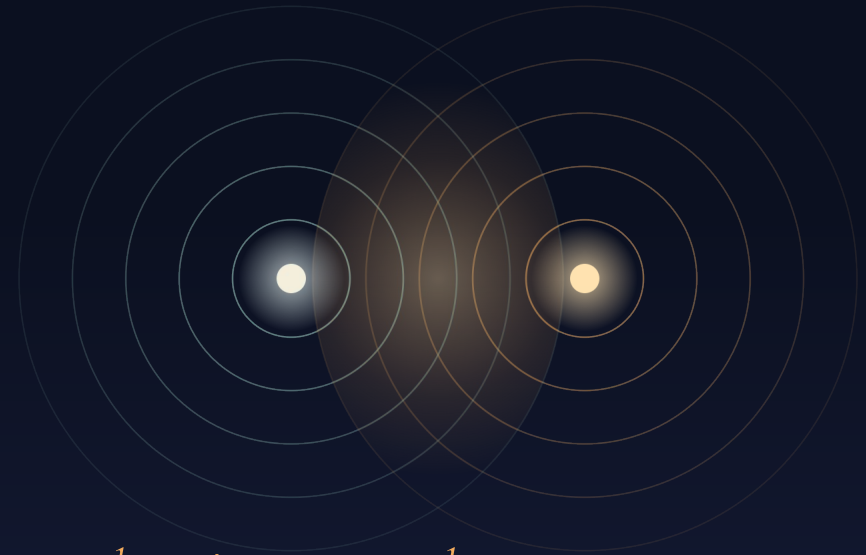
It needs no building, no shared belief, and no expert in the room. Two people and a video call are enough, in any language. Like literacy, it changes a culture once enough people have it.

THE PRACTICE

The smallest expression of intimate culture is *two people learning to love what is true together.*

We call the practice **dyadic unfolding**: two people take turns giving and receiving attuned loving presence.

- 01 Two people meet.
- 02 One takes the space with the truth of their present experience.
- 03 The other holds them in loving presence, seeing, feeling, and valuing them as they are, without trying to fix anything.
- 04 They switch.



The practice dissolves the line between helper and helped: each gives and receives, as equals.

A contemplative relational practice, not therapy, coaching, or crisis response.

Lineage: Circling, Focusing, Aletheia, Burbea.

A *self-organizing network culture*, grown from three roots.

PHILOSOPHY

The Logos Text

The network's textual ground, making the worldview beneath the ARC explicit. It grew out of years of essays in *The Intimate Mirror*, read by 3,500 subscribers.

PRACTICE

Dyadic unfolding

Rooted in Circling, Focusing, Aletheia, the work of Rob Burbea, and John Churchill's Planetary Dharma, and in six years of residential monastic training.

COORDINATION

Diffuse coordination

Inspired by Occupy and Extinction Rebellion. Needs become visible across the network, and members who feel moved take up the response, supported by clear roles and AI routing.

Technology serves the network. The network serves the practice.

The practice serves the emergence of an intimate planetary culture.

WHAT WE ARE BUILDING

The ARC is building the *minimum viable infrastructure* for a robust network of practice.



TRAINING

Foundations

An eight-week introductory course in the practice of dyadic unfolding.

MEMBERSHIP

The Entryway

People join through mutual discernment. Membership is free. Each member signs the Member Agreement, a covenant that guards the network's integrity.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

The Weekly Weave

A digital system that routes members into dyadic unfolding each week.

THE WHOLE NETWORK

The Gathering

Everyone meets, once a week.

BEYOND THE FOUNDER

A platform for an emerging culture

Needs become visible across the network, and members take up the responses: new spaces, offerings, in-person gatherings. The more members do, the less the ARC depends on central direction.

THE PUBLIC CORPUS

Design, agreements, safeguarding, and theory of change, versioned and public at github.com/arc-network-ops/arc-network-corpus

Technology moves people into relationship, then gets out of the way.

WHERE IT STANDS · TEN WEEKS AFTER OPENING ON JULY 25

As of October 2, the network is *live, growing, and beginning to organize itself.*

34
members

27 active in the Weekly Weave

150

dyadic practice sessions
held across the network

34

through or in Foundations
19 complete, 15 enrolled for October

78

in the pre-membership pathway
70 discernment calls since late May

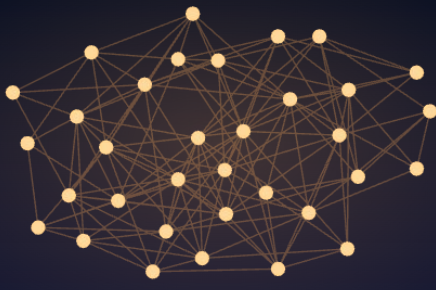
\$15k
in initial gifts



Pathway · 78



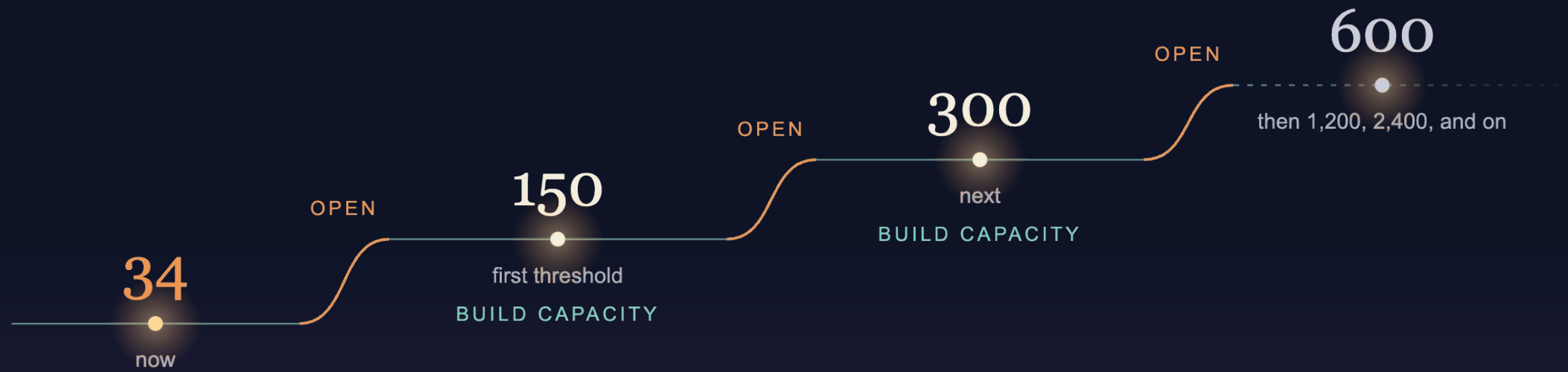
Foundations · 34



Members · 34

HOW IT GROWS

Growth is not the aim. The aim is *a culture of integrity, intimacy, and loving presence* that opens its doors as it is ready.



The ARC at 150 practicing with depth is more valuable than the ARC at 15,000 practicing superficially.

The network opens to more people only when the practice, the people who hold it, and the structures that protect it are ready. The level stretches are part of the plan. Support funds that readiness: the people, training, and safeguards that let the next doors open well.

THE FIRST THRESHOLD

What a healthy network *looks like at 150*

The signs we'll look for, in people's lives and in the network itself.

IN MEMBERS' LIVES

Carried home

Members describe the practice changing how they meet partners, children, friends, and colleagues, and the change lasts.

Week over week

Months after joining, members are still practicing every week, and still finding it nourishing.

Held beyond the founder

Trained members hold the practice for others, and Foundations runs more cohorts, led by people other than the founder.

IN THE NETWORK

Safeguarding that works

Concerns are raised and received, repair happens, and boundaries hold, including removing people who cause harm.

A living ecology

Members start their own spaces, offerings, and gatherings, meeting needs without direction from the center.

Depth that survives growth

Newcomers are received well and the quality of practice holds as the network nears 150.

When these are present, the network is ready to open toward 300.

A full stack of anti-cult design patterns, *held by the whole network.*

• Founder drift	A written agreement binding the founder, refusal of veneration, and a clear path to step aside.
• Capture, anywhere	Every member learns to notice capture in themselves and the field. Rooting it out is shared work.
• Silenced concerns	Dissent carries no cost, and concerns have routes that never pass through the founder.
• Financial extraction	An income cap on the founder. We receive only gifts: they create relationship, never control.
• Dependency	Leaving is always honored. The practice should widen a member's life beyond the ARC.
• Harm and rupture	Structures for repair, so harm can be faced, worked through, and practiced with.
• Growth outpacing capacity	We grow only as fast as the network can hold people well, and pause for as long as that takes.

Structure is necessary, but never sufficient. Met in practice, rupture and conflict become doorways into deeper intimacy.

THE FULL FRAMEWORK
Safeguarding the Culture →
in the public corpus on GitHub



WHO CARRIES IT

Held by a founding team, *carried by a network years in the making.*



Daniel Thorson

FOUNDER

Six years of residential monastic training and 20,000 hours of practice, including two years in silent retreat. Eight years teaching dyadic and group practice. Organizer with Occupy Wall Street and Extinction Rebellion. A decade hosting the Emerge podcast; author of *The Intimate Mirror*.



John Ooi

FOUNDING COLLABORATOR

Ten years of meditation practice, four teaching. Certified through UC Berkeley's two-year Mindfulness Meditation Teacher program; trained with David Nichtern at Dharma Moon. Four and a half years at UCL Medical School, including ICU support during COVID. Founder of Beings Club, a free community of practice in pairs and threes.

MENTORS AND ADVISERS



Ian Laming, Co-Chief Executive, Tristan Capital Partners
Will Oliver, Co-Founder, In Practise
Shayla Wright, elder and cultural adviser



FRIENDS OF THE ARC

Friends who advise the work: a web of friendship and support.
Jonny Miller,
Dechen McSweeney, **Cheryl Hsu**,
Nathan Snyder, **Mitra Peter Park**,
and others



THE MEMBERS

Members already beginning to carry real parts of the work: supporting the training, first-contact calls, membership discernment, welcoming newcomers, and network design.

An independent governing board will be formed to hold fiduciary oversight as the ARC grows.

THE ASK

\$500,000 takes the network through its first threshold.
\$100,000 needed today.

NOW · \$100,000 THEN · \$400,000 MORE, AS INSTITUTIONAL GIVING OPENS



The first \$100,000 comes from individual gifts and resources the next six months, including the IRS determination letter that opens institutional giving. Every gift is a gift, not an investment: it carries no ownership or control. Foundations revenue, not counted here, extends the runway.

\$180k
Founding team

Daniel and John, full-time on building the network.

\$60k
Technology lead

Part-time, building the network’s coordination systems and tech stack.

\$60k
Training lead

Holds Foundations beyond the founder and deepens the culture of practice.

\$40k
Operations

Half-time, with AI support: admin, finance, legal, and fundraising.

\$35k
Network fund

For network emergence: retreats, meetups, new spaces, and offerings.

\$30k
Access

Foundations places for those who couldn’t otherwise afford them.

\$40k
Tools, legal, insurance

Hosting and AI tools, the IRS letter, counsel, bookkeeping, and insurance.

\$55k
Reserve

So the network grows at the pace it can hold, not the pace of fundraising.

AN INVITATION

Become a patron of a relational commons, *in service of a moonshot.*

Fund it the way a library or a park is funded: as a gift to the world our children inherit.

THE MOONSHOT

Loving presence as available as water from a tap.

Founding patrons resource the network to its first threshold. Along the way, we share openly what we learn: what works, what doesn't, and what changes.

If this moves you, let's talk.

Daniel Thorson · daniel@arcnetwork.is · arcnetwork.is

How giving works: 501(c)(3) status pending. Gifts from individuals are tax-deductible now; institutional gifts open once the IRS determination letter arrives.