

Agenda

Day 1 | Tuesday, Oct 27 | Dial-Up: Getting Connected...

Time	Experience	Location
3:00–5:00 PM	Arrival & Check-In	Wayfinder Newport 151 Admiral Kalbfus Rd Newport, RI 02840
5:00–5:45 PM	A Walk in the Park w/ Steve Heath	Meet in the lobby of Wayfinder Newport
6:00–7:50 PM	Welcome Dinner	Telltale Room @ Wayfinder Newport
8:00–9:00 PM	Costume Party Fireside Chat	

Day 2 | Wednesday, Oct 28 | The A-Side: What Is...

Time	Experience	Location
8:45–9:05 AM	Coffee & Name Tags	Compass Room @Wayfinder Newport
9:05–9:15 AM	Connection: ID Icebreaker	
9:15–9:30 AM	Welcome to Newport	
9:30–9:45 AM	Welcome to the Ecosystem Lab	
9:45–10:15 AM	Framing the Day	
10:15–10:30 AM	Travel to Conanicut Island Sailing Foundation	Conanicut Island Sailing Foundation
10:30–11:30 AM	Site Visit	
11:30 AM–12:00 PM	Travel to Wayfinder	Little Clam Restaurant @ Wayfinder Newport
12:00–1:00 PM	Lunch	
1:15–1:45 PM	Facilitated Debrief	Compass Room @Wayfinder Newport
1:45–2:15 PM	AI Storytelling	
2:15–2:45 PM	Bringing It Home: The Continuum and Your Ecosystem	
2:45–3:00 PM	Break	
3:00–4:00 PM	Ecosystem Project Studio (Peer Pods)	
4:00–4:05 PM	The Peak & The Pit	On your own
4:05–4:15 PM	Tomorrow in 10	
4:15–5:30 PM	Break	
5:30–6:00 PM	Travel to Dinner	Newport Craft Brewing & Distilling Co. 293 JT Connell Hwy, Newport, RI 02840
6:00–7:30 PM	Dinner	
7:30–8:00 PM	Travel to Wayfinder	Salerium @ Wayfinder Newport
8:00–9:00 PM	The Kickback (optional)	

Day 3 | Thursday, Oct 29 | The B-Side: What If...?

Time	Experience	Location
8:45–9:05 AM	Coffee & Connection	Compass Room @Wayfinder Newport
9:05–9:10 AM	Introduction of Speaker	
9:10–9:40 AM	Guest Speaker: Dr. Randy Mahlerwein, Deputy Superintendent of Leadership and Learning, Albuquerque Public Schools	
9:40–9:45 AM	Break	
9:45–10:00 AM	Framing the Day	
10:00–10:30 AM	Travel to Site Visit	The Endless Summer 73 Pelham St Newport, RI 02840
10:30–11:30 AM	Site Visit: The Endless Summer	
11:30 AM–12:30 PM	Community Lunch	
12:30–1:00 PM	Travel	Compass Room @Wayfinder Newport
1:00–2:00 PM	The Mixtape Party	
2:00–2:15 PM	Summit Prep Studio	
2:15–2:25 PM	Break	
2:25–3:25 PM	Ecosystem Project Studio (Peer Pods)	
3:25–3:35 PM	Exit Survey	
3:35–4:00 PM	Closing Circle: Sealing Site Visit #1	
4:00 PM	Adjourn	

A Note from the Learner-Centered Ecosystem Lab Team

Welcome, we are so glad you are here!

You have come from eleven organizations, eleven communities, and eleven sets of conditions, carrying work that is still becoming. Each of you is building something that did not exist before: a way for an entire community to organize itself around the growth and flourishing of every learner. That work is brave, and most days it is done without a map.

So we begin this year with questions instead of answers. *Who are we? What are we actually building? What becomes possible from here?*

Over the course of this year, we will gather for three site visits and a Summit. Each time, we will step into a community doing this work in its own way, learn from the people who call it home, and return to our own ecosystems seeing them a little more clearly. Through it all, your peer pod will be your constant: the people who know your work and will ask you the honest questions.

You may notice that our gatherings feel a little different. This Lab is built on *being there*. You will walk through communities doing this work, sit at the table with the people building them, and try things in your own backyard between visits. Clarity comes from the experience, and from the people you share it with.

Nothing here asks you to have it all figured out. Come with the vision you hold and the questions you have not yet answered. Both belong here.

With gratitude and in partnership,
Team ABC, *your Learner-Centered Ecosystem Lab Advisors*

About This Field Kit

If this binder looks familiar, that is the point. The Mead Corporation introduced the Trapper Keeper in 1978 after noticing that students were juggling more classes, larger workloads, and tighter transitions between them. It earned its name from the uniquely designed folders made to “trap” whatever you put inside. The loud “rip” of the Velcro flap opening at the start of a class became the defining acoustic soundtrack of late 20th-century American schools.

You are juggling a community, an organization, a vision, and a team still taking shape, so we gave you the binder built for exactly that. It is the one thing you need to carry to all three site visits and the Summit, and it will grow as we go, with new pages arriving at each gathering.

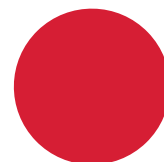
We invite you to use these pages fully. Write in it, rearrange it, and let what you write here become a living record of your ecosystem growing clearer.

A FEW NOTES

- **Start with the arc.** Each site visit opens with a one-page map in your Field Companion, showing the days ahead and the continuum dimensions we are exploring. When you wonder where we are or why we are doing something, look there first.
- **Write by hand.** This kit and its pages are yours. Capture what you notice, what surprises you, and things you’re excited to share with your own ecosystem. Half-formed thoughts are welcome here.
- **Hold the agenda loosely.** What is printed reflects our best plan at the time of printing. This work is emergent, and the days may shift as the cohort’s questions take shape.
- **Bring it back.** Bring this kit to every gathering. Your peer pod meeting, your project planning, and the questions you name along the way will build on one another, and by the Summit these pages will hold the story of your year.

WHAT'S BEHIND EACH TAB

Tab	What lives here
Norms & Agreements	How we have agreed to be with one another
Learning Journey	The full arc of the cohort year: three site visits and the Summit
Who's Here	The cohort roster, your facilitators, host and guests
Peer Pod	Your pod, the people you will think alongside all year
Host Site Profiles	One-pagers on the communities and sites hosting us at each visit
Logistics	Travel details, contacts, and maps for each gathering
Readings & Resources	Articles and references that inform our time together
Tools & Templates	The lexicon, the continuum, pod protocols, planning docs, and conversation guides
Field Companion	For each site visit: the arc at a glance, daily agendas and workbook pages, field notes pages, and a contact page for new connections
Ecosystem Project	The working pages for the project you are building in the Lab



How We Agree to Be Together

We will spend a year in one another's company, in rooms and communities that are not our own. These agreements are how we hold that time. They are not rules so much as promises, made to each other and to the people hosting us. We will read them at the start of every gathering. Let's hold each other to them. If something here is not working, name it. These agreements belong to the cohort.

- **Come with respect, curiosity, and possibility.** We are here to learn, not to judge. Every community in this room, including the ones hosting us, is in the middle of its own story.
- **Make room for every voice.** Notice who has spoken and who has not. Invite the quiet contribution. Step up when you have something to offer, and step back so others can.
- **Listen to understand.** Give the person speaking your full attention. Ask the next question before you offer the answer.
- **Take the learning, leave the names.** What is shared here stays here. Carry the insight home; leave the specifics of who said what behind.
- **Speak from your own experience.** Share what you know directly and what you have lived. Let others do the same, without correcting their story.
- **Be a good guest.** When we are in a host community, we are visitors. Honor the time, the place, and the people who opened the door. Ask before you photograph, and assume there is more to what you see than you can know in a day.
- **Be here.** Phones away, laptops closed, unless a session calls for them. The work lives in the room.
- **Take care of yourself.** Step out when you need to. Rest, eat, breathe. You cannot bring your full self to this if you are running on empty.
- **Hold the plan loosely.** The agenda will shift. Let it. The best conversations tend to be the ones we did not schedule.
- **Bring it home.** Everything we do here is in service of your ecosystem. Keep asking what this means for your community, and say it out loud.

Learning Journey

WHAT: What is the Learner-Centered Ecosystem Lab?

Purpose

The purpose of the Lab is to cultivate a community of leaders working toward a bold vision: education systems transformed to be learner-centered, equitable, and community-rooted. As a Lab member, you will:

- Deepen your leadership and strategy for growing your local ecosystem
- Identify and address key challenges, designing systems-change solutions that can be shared and adapted across communities
- Capture and share stories and insights that illuminate new possibilities for others on the journey toward learner-centered ecosystems

Overview of the Lab

The Learner-Centered Ecosystem Lab brings together organizations that are turning this vision into reality in their own communities. Over twelve months, Lab Members will **visit and learn** from ecosystems across the country, **build relationships** with fellow leaders, **receive personalized advising**, and **advance an Ecosystem Project** that matters to their local ecosystem.

Together, we will explore some of the most important questions facing ecosystem builders:

- Who are we, and what are we building?
- What is actually holding this ecosystem together and what would strengthen the ability for ecosystem players to work together?
- What is our ecosystem becoming, and what will help it continue to evolve?

The Lab is not designed to offer a single model or prescribed pathway. Every ecosystem is shaped by its own people, place, history, relationships, and aspirations. Instead, the Lab creates opportunities to experience the work firsthand, examine it from multiple perspectives, and sharpen the craft and care required to build and sustain a learner-centered ecosystem in your particular context.

Outcomes

Through this experience, we will:

- Explore each of our communities' commitment, readiness, and current conditions for ecosystem development and take bold, intentional actions to advance that development.
- Examine how system design influences the equitable expression and experience of learner-centered education.
- Surface insights and research that informs Education Reimagined's efforts to support the strategic growth of learner-centered ecosystems.
- Build a learning community of inventors, growing the capacities needed to sustain our individual and collective work over time.

As the organizer and coordinator of the Ecosystem Lab, we are honored to help support you and elevate the work to the broader field. Education Reimagined commits to:

- Provide strategic advising and personalized support aligned with each site's ecosystem priorities.
- Facilitate meaningful site visits, shared learning experiences, and opportunities for collaboration, relationship-building, reflection, and peer learning across the cohort.
- Connect Lab Members to relevant people, resources, frameworks, and opportunities.
- Capture, synthesize, and share learning and insights from the Lab, while partnering with Lab Members to elevate their work and contributions to the field.

The Questions We're Exploring Together

At the heart of this Lab are three shared questions that guide our learning, invention, and contribution:

- *Who are we and what are we actually building?* | **Shared Vision | Leadership | Culture**
- *What's actually holding this ecosystem together, and what would strengthen the ability to work together?* | **Partnerships | Resources | Infrastructure | Educators**
- *Who do I need to become to sustain what we're building?* | **Leadership | Culture Data/Metrics**

These questions shape everything we do together. Through the activities below, we'll deepen our collective understanding, build the systems and relationships that make ecosystems thrive, and contribute new insights to the broader learner-centered movement.

How We'll Explore These Questions

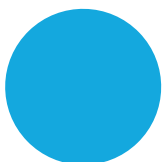
Organizations were invited to participate in the Ecosystem Lab because of their demonstrated commitment to strengthening their local ecosystems and the unique perspective, experience, and potential they bring to this work. As a participating organization, your engagement is an important part of the Lab's collective learning. The commitments below are designed to support meaningful participation, shared learning, and the growth of both your organization and the broader ecosystem.

- **Lab Experiences.** Throughout the year, you'll have opportunities to learn, reflect, and connect through the Lab's four in-person experiences. Each organization will be represented by a primary representative, with 1–2 additional team members to maximize opportunities to collaborate, explore ideas together, and consider how the learning can be applied within your organization and local ecosystem.
- **Learning & Growth.** You'll have opportunities to draw on the experiences and perspectives of peers, receive guidance and support from Lab advisors, and apply new ideas and insights to your work. Your active engagement will help shape both your own learning and the collective learning of the Lab.
- **The Ecosystem Project.** Throughout the Lab, each participating organization identifies and advances one Ecosystem Project. The Project will reflect a meaningful priority within your community that helps move your broader ecosystem forward. The Project creates a place for Lab learning to be applied to the real work of advancing your ecosystem.
- **The Ecosystem Summit & Gallery Exhibition.** The year will culminate in the Ecosystem Summit & Gallery Exhibition, creating an opportunity to share what you've learned and experienced throughout the Lab. Each organization will contribute through presentations, panel discussions, and a Gallery exhibition, with flexibility to shape these contributions in ways that authentically reflect your work, your ecosystem, and the learning that emerged throughout the year.
- **Research & Storytelling.** Throughout the year, you'll have opportunities to help elevate the work of your organization and contribute to a broader understanding of ecosystem-building. This may include responding to surveys, participating in interviews, and contributing to research, communications, and storytelling activities. Your perspectives and experiences will help capture the learning emerging from the Lab and share it with a broader audience, strengthening the field and helping others learn from the work happening within your ecosystem.

WHO: Who is in the Lab?

2026-2027 Learner-Centered Ecosystem Lab Members

4Learning/YouthBuild	Michael Lipset	michael@4learning.com
Amazeum	Sara Wiley Mindy Porter	swiley@amazeum.org mporter@amazeum.org
AMP Lab	Riley Johnson	riley.johnson@fwcs.k12.in.us
B.E. Academy	Tee Wilson	tee@beacademyforgirls.org
Colossal Academy	Shiren Rattigan	shiren@colossal-academy.com
Ephrata	Brian Troop	b_troop@easdpa.org
EQA	Elizabeth Ostberg	elizabethostberg-davis@eqaschools.org
New Village Academy	Ashley Williams	awilliams@newvillageacademy.org
Onward Learning	Mary Jo Fairhead	maryjo@onwardlearning.org
Peer Power	Cortney Richardson	cortneyinspires@peerpowerfoundation.org
WNC Resilience Project	Wes Davis	wes@openwaylearning.org



WHAT'S HAPPENING WHEN: Our Learning Journey Month-by-Month

The Lab unfolds over the course of a year, bringing Lab Members together to learn from one another, experience ecosystems in practice, and apply their learning within their own communities. Each experience builds on the last moving from orientation and community building, to understanding the systems and relationships that shape an ecosystem, to exploring what it takes to sustain and evolve that work over time.

Specific focus areas, deliverables, and touchbase content for the months that follow may be refined based on what emerges from the cohort's work together. This calendar will be updated as that happens.

Date	Experience	Format	Big Idea & Guiding Question	What You'll Walk Away With
Sep 29, 2026	Orientation	Virtual	Where am I starting from, and what am I bringing into this room?	• Cohort & Peer Pod introductions; • Shared learning plan • Pre-work complete
Oct 27-29, 2026	Site Visit #1 & Kick-Off	In-person Newport, RI	Who are we, and what are we actually building? Shared Vision · Leadership · Culture	• Ecosystem Project launched • Advisor Touchbase #1 completed • November Pod Call scheduled • Research Survey due 12/31
November 2026 (date set by Pods)	Pod Call #1	Virtual	Participant-led; Pods set their own time, content, and agenda (templates available)	• March Pod Call scheduled <i>Could also include:</i> • A revised Draft 1 Project Planner considering what has been confirmed or changed since SV #1 • A shared reflection on a recent event, viewed through the Site Visit #1 observation question • A clear picture of where each person's work stands, from an open check-in

Feb 9-11, 2027	Site Visit #2	In-person Dallas, TX	What's actually holding this ecosystem together, and what would strengthen the ability to work together? Partnerships · Resources · Infrastructure · Educators	• Advisor Touchbase #2 completed • Summit Touchbase #1 completed • March Pod Call scheduled
March 2027 (date set by Pods)	Pod Call #2	Virtual	Participant-led; Pods set their own time, content, and agenda (templates available)	• April Pod Call scheduled <i>Could also include:</i> • A revised Draft 1 Project Planner considering what has been confirmed or changed since SV #2 • A shared reflection on a recent event, viewed through the Site Visit #2 observation question • A clear picture of where each person's work stands, from an open check-in
April 14-16, 2027	Site Visit #3	In-person Liberty, MO	Who do I need to become to sustain what we're building? Leadership · Culture · Data & Metrics	• Advisor Touchbase #3 completed • Summit Touchbase #2 completed • April Pod Call scheduled
April 2027 (date set by Pods)	Peer Pod Call #3	Virtual	Preparing to share your story	Gallery drafts/ideas are shared Give and receive feedback on Summit presentations and Gallery art Advisors offer logistics & design support
May 17-19, 2027	LC Ecosystem Summit	In-person Location TBD	Sharing with the field via annual LC Ecosystem Summit & Gallery Exhibition	• Contribute learning, stories, questions, practices, and experiences from your ecosystem. • Bring the story and energy of your ecosystem to the Summit using visual art.

WHO: Who is on the Education Reimagined team?

Emily Bader	Chief Communications Officer	ebader@educationreimagined.org	312-925-1422
Alin Bennett	Partner for Ecosystems	alin@educationreimagined.org	401-932-4360
Sarah Bishop-Root	Senior Partner for Policy Leadership	sarah@educationreimagined.org	928-679-3098
Demi Edwards	Chief Executive Officer	demi@educationreimagined.org	724-799-4464
Domonique Edwards	Research Fellow	domonique@educationreimagined.org	704-678-8026
Em Liebttag	Chief Innovation Officer	emily@educationreimagined.org	919-357-2350
Bobbi Macdonald	Sr. Partner for Ecosystem Growth & Advancement	bobbi@educationreimagined.org	443-540-8129
Coi Marie Morefield	Sr. Partner for Ecosystems	coimarie@educationreimagined.org	312-504-5507
Sofia Teytelman	Operations Coordinator	sofia@educationreimagined.org	347-659-1233

Who's Here

2026-2027 Ecosystem Lab Cohort



Ashley Williams
Director of Partnerships &
Community Engagement,
New Village Academy



Brian Troop
Superintendent,
Ephrata Area School
District



Brandi Swavely
Instruction and
Engagement Coach,
Ephrata Area School
District



Carol Risse
Teacher,
Onward Learning



Cortney Richardson
CEO, Peer
Power Foundation



Elizabeth Ostberg-Davis
Co-Founder and CEO,
Educators for Quality
Alternatives



Jacy Clugston Hess
Assistant Superintendent,
Ephrata Area School
District



Jake Beers
Instructional Specialist, NWA
Learning Ecosystem /
Springdale Public Schools



Janet Fienemann
Founder, Colossal
Academy Jacksonville



Jeffrey Roberts
Community Coach,
Amp Lab



Mary Jo Fairhead
Founder & CEO, Onward
Learning



Michael Lipset
Executive Director,
4 Learning



Michelle Taylor
Executive Director, Open
Way Learning



Peter Kishpaugh
Coordinator of
Instructional Programs,
Ephrata Area
School District



Riley Johnson
Principal, Amp Lab



Dr. Sara Benson
Lead People & Program
Officer/Director of the Peer
Power Institute, The Peer
Power Foundation Inc.



Sarah Wiley
Sr Manager of Professional
Learning Initiatives, NWA
Learning Ecosystem /
Amazeum



Tanisha Wilson
CEO, B.E. Academy
for Girls



Tenedra Shane
Executive Assistant/Manager
of Academic Initiatives, Peer
Power Foundation



Tony Simmons
Co-Founder,
4 Learning

Education Reimagined Team



Alin Bennett
Partner, Education
Reimagined



Bobbi Macdonald
Senior Partner for
Ecosystems, Education
Reimagined



Coi Marie Morefield
Senior Partner for
Ecosystems, Education
Reimagined



Demi Edwards
CEO, Education
Reimagined



Emily Bader
Chief Communications
Officer, Education
Reimagined



Emily Liebttag
Chief Innovation
Officer, Education
Reimagined



Sofia Teytelman
Operations Coordinator,
Education Reimagined

Special Guests



Catayah Clark
CEO, ELEVATE Carolina /
Legacy Lab



Laura Tavares
Executive Director, WPS
Institute / Legacy
Lab member



Dr. Randy Mahlerwein
Deputy Superintendent of
Leadership & Learning,
Albuquerque Public Schools



Liz Texeira
VP and Managing Director,
Experiential Learning Hub,
Britebound

FabNewport



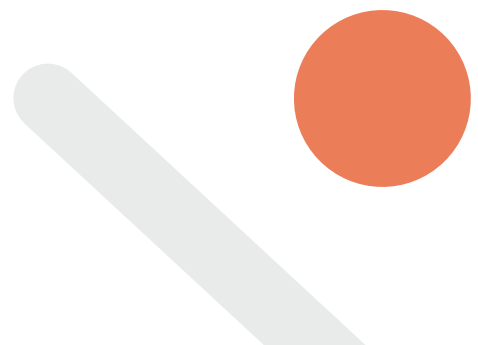
Steve Heath
Executive Director &
Co-Founder, FabNewport



Ellen Pinnock
Director of Community
Engagement & Equity,
FabNewport

Peer Pods

Peer Pods		
Brian Troop Ephrata Area School District, PA Michael Lipset 4 Learning, CA Cortney Richardson Peer Power Foundation, TN	Sarah Wiley NWA Learning Ecosystem (Scott Family Amazeum), AR Wes Davis & Michelle Taylor The Western North Carolina Resilience Project, NC Shiren Rattigan Colossal Academy, FL Mary Jo Fairhead Onward Learning, SD	Riley Johnson AMP Lab, IN Elizabeth Ostberg Educators for Quality Alternatives, LA Tee Wilson B.E. Academy For Girls, TN Ashley Williams New Village Academy, MD
Advisor: Alin	Advisor: Coi Marie	Advisor: Bobbi



ECOSYSTEM LAB • PEER PODS

Pod Call Guide

For the participant-led calls between site visits currently scheduled for November, March, and May

Pod calls are member-led and there's no single required agenda. This guide offers a few possible entry points, each with its own protocol, so your Pod can pick what fits rather than starting from a blank page. The goal is to keep momentum and connection between site visits, not to create homework.

I. Planning Your Call

1. **Decide when to meet** — Pods set their own timing within the call window. There's no assigned time. Whatever works for the group is right. Plan for 30–45 minutes: long enough to go deep, short enough to protect everyone's calendar.
2. **Choose a convener** — One person sends the invite and keeps things moving. Include the date, time, platform, and invite your Advisor, too. Consider rotating this role each time so it doesn't fall on the same person.
3. **Pick a protocol** — Choose one of the three protocols below based on what the pod needs right now. If another meeting design would serve the pod better, use that instead.

II. Call Structure & Protocols

General shape, regardless of which protocol you choose:

Segment	Time	What Happens
Opening	~5 min	Quick, warm check-in (this is a great place for a brief connection activity!)
Core protocol	~25–35 min	Work through the protocol your pod chose (see below).
Closing	~5–10 min	Name a takeaway; decide together whether to schedule another call before the next Site Visit, if desired.

Protocol A — The Project as a Mirror

Purpose: *Keeps the Project alive and top of mind without creating homework.*

- Each person briefly revisits their Draft 1 (from SV #1).
- Prompt: “What has your real work confirmed, complicated, or changed about what you wrote?”
- Go around the pod; let each person share without immediate problem-solving.

Protocol B — Observation as Ongoing Practice

Purpose: *Keeps SV #1’s core question alive as a living lens on real work.*

- Revisit the SV #1 question: “Where is the vision alive in your ecosystem, and who is leading it?”
- Each person shares one story that has happened since the last touchpoint that answers it.
- Peer reflection follows each story.

Protocol C — Free Space with a Single Anchor

Purpose: *An open check-in for when nothing more structured is needed.*

- Each person names one thing they’re carrying right now.
- Each person names one thing they need from the group.
- The group responds or offers support where it’s useful.

Every protocol closes the same way: an optional prompt about scheduling another call before closing.

III. Making the Time Meaningful

- **Presence over performance.** This isn’t a status update. Come ready to reflect honestly, not simply to report progress.
- **Let silence sit.** You remember ‘wait time,’ right? Don’t rush to fill a pause; people are often still thinking.
- **Listen to understand, not to fix.** Resist jumping to solutions before someone’s finished sharing.
- **Rotate who goes first.** Don’t let the same person always lead or fill the space.
- **Protect the time.** 30 minutes fully present beats 60 minutes half-there. Take what you need.
- **Close with intention.** Always end by naming a takeaway and deciding together when to meet again.

Host Site Profiles

FABNEWPORT

FabNewport is building a community-based learning ecosystem that connects Newport's young people to the people, places, and opportunities around them. It began in 2013 as a volunteer-run makerspace in the North End and has been part of Education Reimagined's Learner-Centered Ecosystem Lab since 2023.

The need. Newport is rich in assets, but proximity does not guarantee access. Transportation, cost, schedules, and missing relationships keep many young people out, and disconnected providers leave them to navigate alone.

The approach. FabNewport builds the connective infrastructure: transportation, trusted adults, partner coordination, and individualized pathways. Each learner develops a Positive Future Vision, moving from interest to experience to relationship to contribution. Older learners serve as Navigators for younger ones.

By the numbers. 400+ young people served annually; 30+ community partners; about 70% of learners qualify for free or reduced-price lunch; 96% report a sense of belonging; 3 vans, treated as part of the learning model.

THE ENDLESS SUMMER

The Endless Summer is FabNewport's free, full-time, year-round learning community, opened in September 2026 with an inaugural cohort of 14 learners ages 11–14. It is registered with Rhode Island as a private school and is one part of the larger ecosystem, not a replacement for it.

How it works. Learners have a home base and use sites across Newport County as places to learn: businesses, farms, natural spaces, cultural organizations, and FabNewport's makerspace. A day might pair a small-group math or literacy seminar with time alongside an artist, naturalist, fabricator, chef, or business owner. Each learner builds an individual learning plan and documents and reflects on their work with trusted adults.

Where it came from. Learners asked for it. Kevin and Hunter were among the young people whose interest pushed FabNewport toward a full-time environment, after more than a decade of listening and experimenting.

What to know. The model is new, and FabNewport is not yet making outcome claims. In year one it is documenting attendance, engagement, belonging, competency growth, learner work, family experience, and Positive Future Visions.

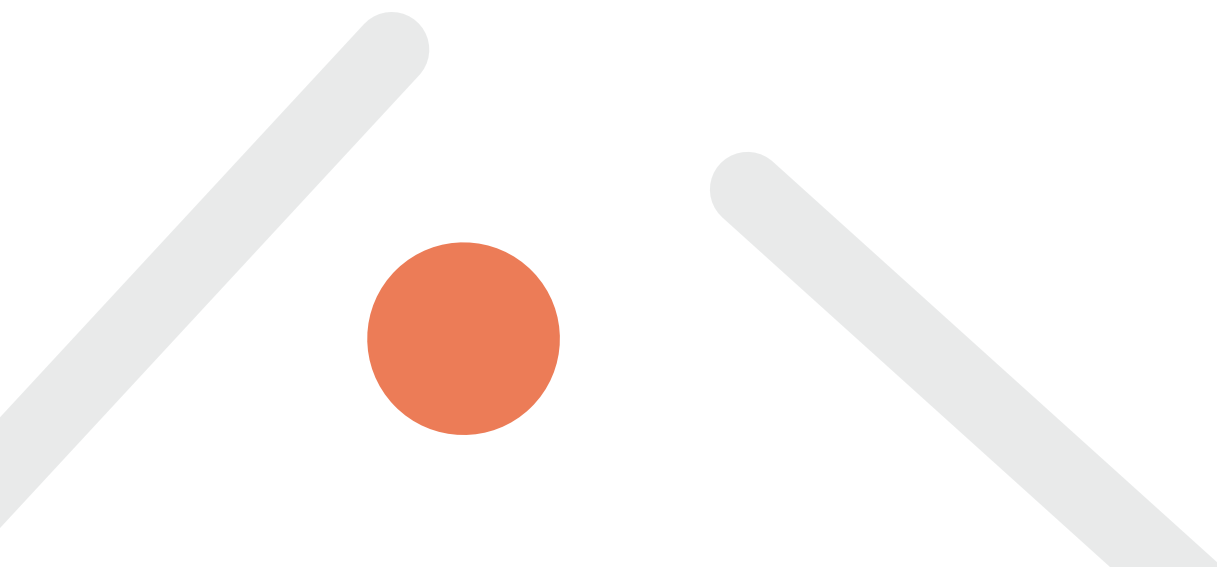
CONANICUT ISLAND SAILING FOUNDATION

Conanicut Island Sailing Foundation (CISF) creates marine and environmental stewards through education and hands-on coastal experiences, with a commitment to affordable access. Bradford N. Swett founded it in 2000 on the belief that everyone should be able to get on the water. It is based at Fort Getty in Jamestown, across the bay from Newport.

What it offers. Youth and adult sailing instruction, marine science education, Sea Adventure Camp, school field trips, and after-school and home-school programs. Its Ocean S.T.E.A.M. Initiative has run in-school programs with Jamestown schools since 2016, from boat-building for first graders to a year-long fourth-grade marsh study.

By the numbers. About 1,000 young people served across more than 1,700 program hours in 2025. Its Free Sailing program, open to all ages with no experience needed, is in its 20th year.

Why it matters here. CISF shows what a single community asset looks like when access is the design principle, the kind of partner an ecosystem connects learners to.



Tools and Templates



Continuum
for Ecosystem
Development



Ecosystem
Lexicon



Practitioner
Lexicon



Digital
Resource Hub

Research

Education Reimagined **advances thinking** on learner-centered education and ecosystems by **curating, producing, and leveraging evidence-based research** and resources to catalyze the invention of a new public education system.

01

How do emerging learner-centered ecosystems build the capacity and conditions needed to continue developing toward greater durability as community infrastructure for learning?

02

What leadership roles and practices support ecosystem development across organizational and community boundaries, and how do leadership, responsibility, and stewardship become distributed across people and organizations over time?

03

How do relationships, partnerships, infrastructure, organizational capacity, financial resources, policy and public systems, and other contextual conditions support or constrain ecosystem development?

04

How do ecosystem leaders navigate and respond to these conditions as they work to advance and sustain core ecosystem functions?

05

In what ways, if any, does participation in learner-centered ecosystems support young people's civic engagement, community connection, and leadership?



Partnerships as
Infrastructure Brief



Ecosystem for the
Future of Learning



Known, Supported,
Connected



Ecosystem Research
Databook



Too Essential
to Fail



Where
Learning Lives



Full Collection of
Learner-Centered
Insights

Field Notes

One page per visit, session, or walk. Use as many as you need. These are for you, so write loosely, draw if you want to, and do not worry about finishing a thought.

Site visit	☐ SV1 ☐ SV2 ☐ SV3 ☐ Summit
Date	
Where I am / what we're doing	
Who's in the room	

What I noticed

What surprised me

What I want to steal for my ecosystem

Questions I'm still holding

One line to carry home

One page per visit, session, or walk. Use as many as you need. These are for you, so write loosely, draw if you want to, and do not worry about finishing a thought.

Site visit	☐ SV1 ☐ SV2 ☐ SV3 ☐ Summit
Date	
Where I am / what we're doing	
Who's in the room	

What I noticed

What surprised me

What I want to steal for my ecosystem

Questions I'm still holding

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New Connections

The people you meet this year, in the cohort and in the communities that host us, are part of what you take home. Collect them here before the names blur. “Take the learning, leave the names” applies to what people share; it does not stop you from staying in touch.

Name	Organization & Role	Contact

A note on follow-up. Pick one person from each gathering and reach out within the week. A short message while the conversation is still fresh does more than a perfect one sent a month later.



The Ecosystem Project

What is it?

Throughout the Lab, each participating organization identifies and advances one Ecosystem Project. The Project will reflect a meaningful priority within your community that helps move your broader ecosystem forward (inclusive of shared systems, partnerships).

The Project creates a place for Lab learning to be applied to the real work of advancing your ecosystem.

Your role.

Identify a Project that:

- Advances a real priority for your organization's community
- Supports the continued development of your ecosystem
- Provides focus for coaching, experimentation, reflection, and learning throughout the year
- Results in a tangible contribution that could be shared with others although not required.

The role of the Lab & Advisors.

Provide a place to test ideas, receive advising, and learn alongside peers doing the same. Dedicated time, examples, and guidance for developing it are built into every Lab experience.



Ecosystem Project Timeline.

Touchpoint	Your Role	Advisor's Role
October / Site Visit #1	Draft your Project's opening frame — what is this ecosystem, who's it for, what problem does it solve. Share it for peer feedback before the visit ends.	Help you name the real priority the Project will address.
November / Peer Pod Call #1	Bring Draft 1 back to your pod — name what real work has since confirmed, complicated, or changed about it.	Provide templates for Pod Call structure Attend peer-led call
February / Site Visit #2	Add the systems & structure layer to your Project — partnerships, infrastructure, resources, dependencies. Share Draft 2 with the full cohort.	Pressure-test the structural layer with you.
March / Peer Pod Call #2	Bring Draft 2 to your pod for feedback, and work through what's still unresolved heading into SV3.	Provide templates for Pod Call structure ; Attend peer-led call
April / Site Visit #3	Write the sustainability & evolution layer — what's changed, what you're releasing, what evidence shows growth. Take stock of how your ecosystem priority has advanced, what has changed, what you have learned, what remains unresolved, and what the next phase of the work requires.	Help participants make meaning of their progress and identify what they are carrying forward beyond the Lab.

LC Ecosystem Lab · Planner

Project Planner

Remember, this is a starting point, not a final answer.

Organization / Team Member Names

What is your ecosystem priority this year?

What are you strengthening? *Are you deepening something that already works, or repairing something that's currently fragile?*

What will that look like once fulfilled, expressed, or achieved?

What might your ecosystem need that would be better-informed by what you learn in this year's Lab? *Where do you feel least confident, or most in the dark, right now?*

Which on-ramp feels closest right now — make it visible / tell its story / turn practice into a resource / something else? *What's pulling you toward that one — instinct, urgency, or what feels most doable? This can change.*

Who locally needs to be involved to advance this? *Whose absence would make this project impossible to complete?*

What's the real priority this addresses for your community? *If you had to defend why this matters more than something else you could be doing, what would you say?*

Advisor touchbase notes:

