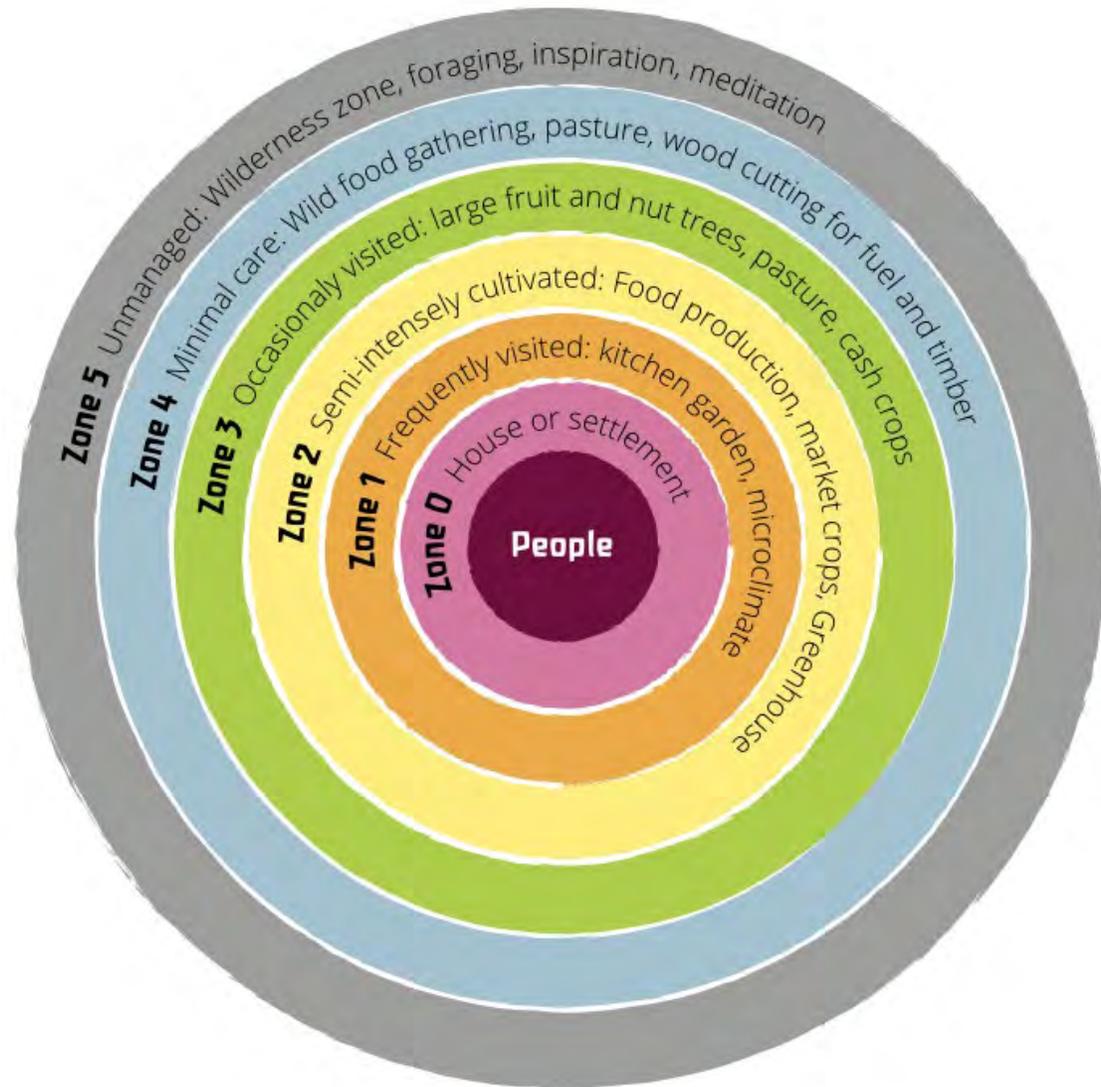


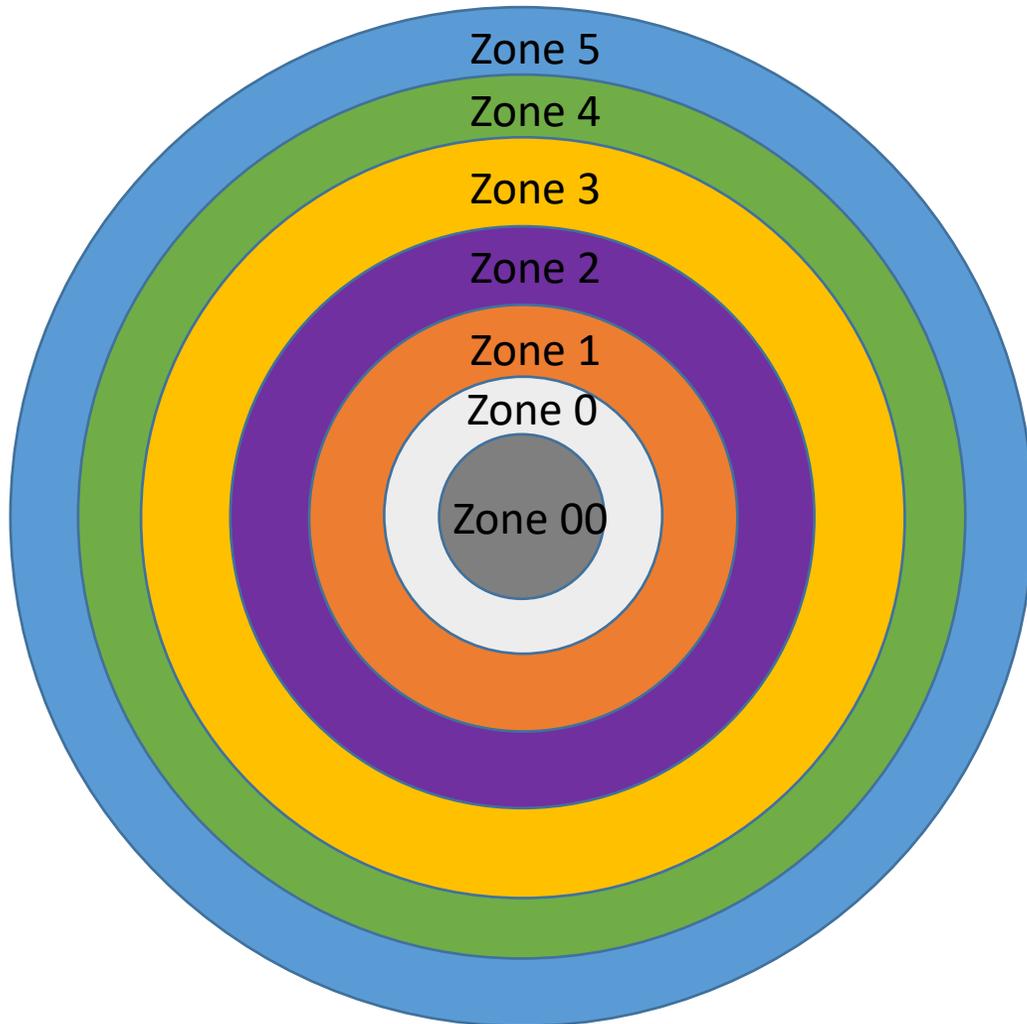
Communities of Practice
Through a
Social Permaculture Lens

What is Permaculture?



Permaculture is a practice of observing nature, and then mimicking its beneficial patterns and processes, as we design systems that meet human needs while regenerating the health of ecosystems.

What is Social Permaculture?



Social permaculture means different things to many people, but in short it's designing social structures that favor beneficial patterns of human behavior.

Zone 00: The Self

Zone 0: The Intimate Group (Partners, spouses, children, housemates)

Zone 1: Friends, extended and chosen family

Zone 2: Work relationships, religious community, local community

Zone 3: Organizations you're a member of, alliances, networks

Zone 4: Larger social systems (eg: food system, educational system, etc)

Zone 5: Nature

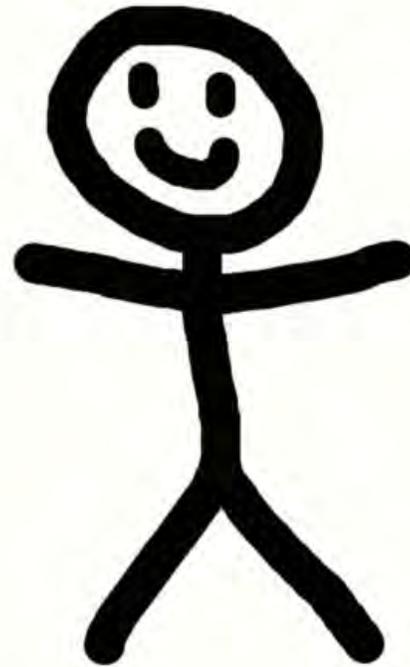
Why Zone 00: The Self?

The work that is done at Zone 00: The Self has stand along value and it serves as the essential groundwork for making changes in communities. When designing a community of practice, we, as designers, are at the center of the design. **Being conscious and thoughtful about the beliefs, patterns and paradigms that we bring to our work will create a more conscious social design project.**

Example Zone 00 Exercise #1

Needs

What do you need to be your best self?



Yields

When your needs are met, what do you give?

Benefits

What are some things that benefit you (privileges)?

Difficulties

What things do you struggle with internally?

Identities

How do you identify yourself?

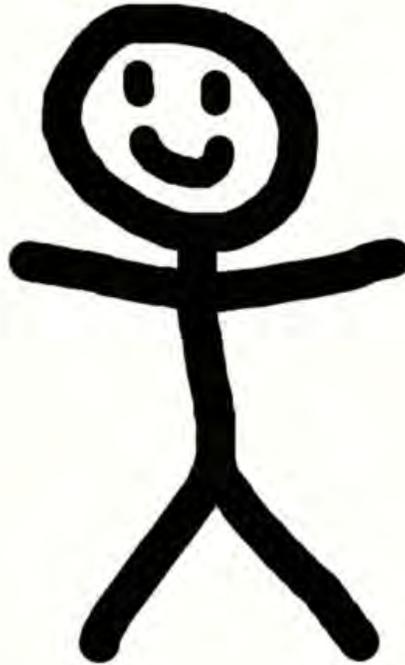
Example Zone 00 Exercise #1

Needs

Good food, rest, love, clear communication, flexibility, compassion, warmth, authenticity

Benefits

Access to higher education, good health, support systems, socioeconomic status



Identities

Connector, student, teacher, partner, explorer, introvert

Yields

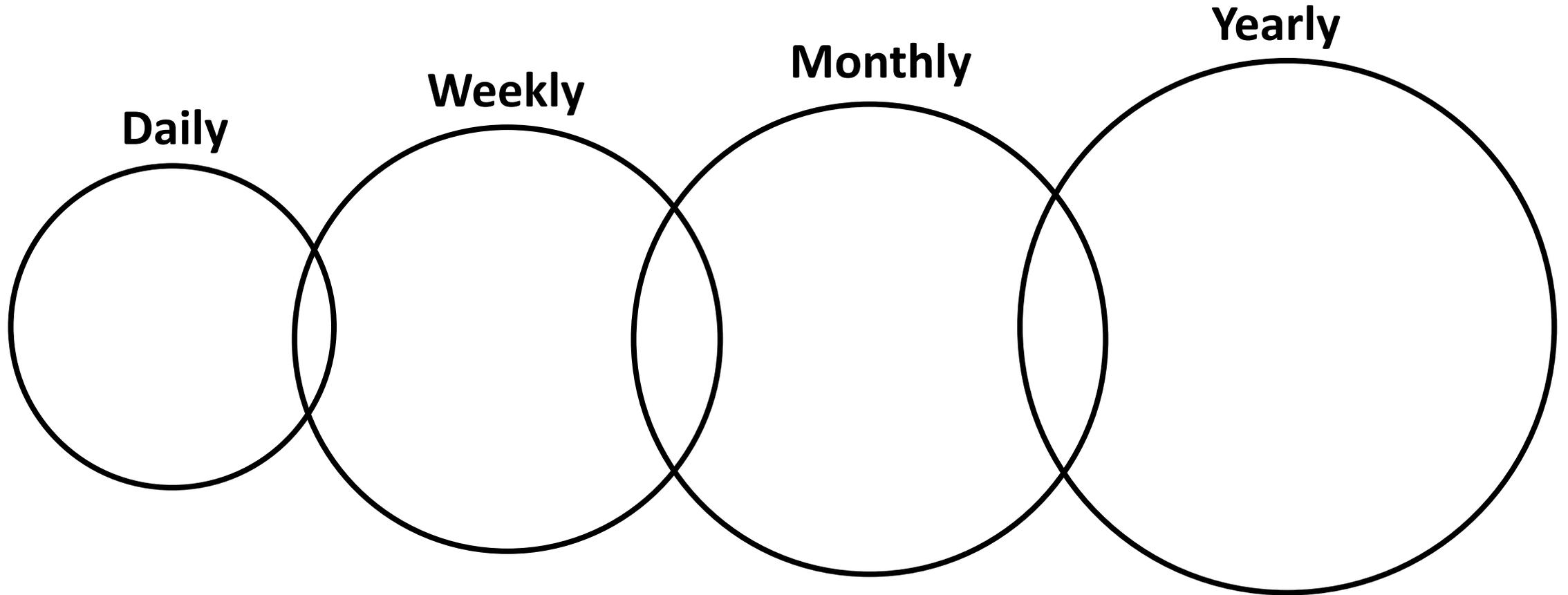
Helper/giver, organization, problem solving, listening, love, trust

Difficulties

People pleasing, self-doubt, anxiety, fear of judgement

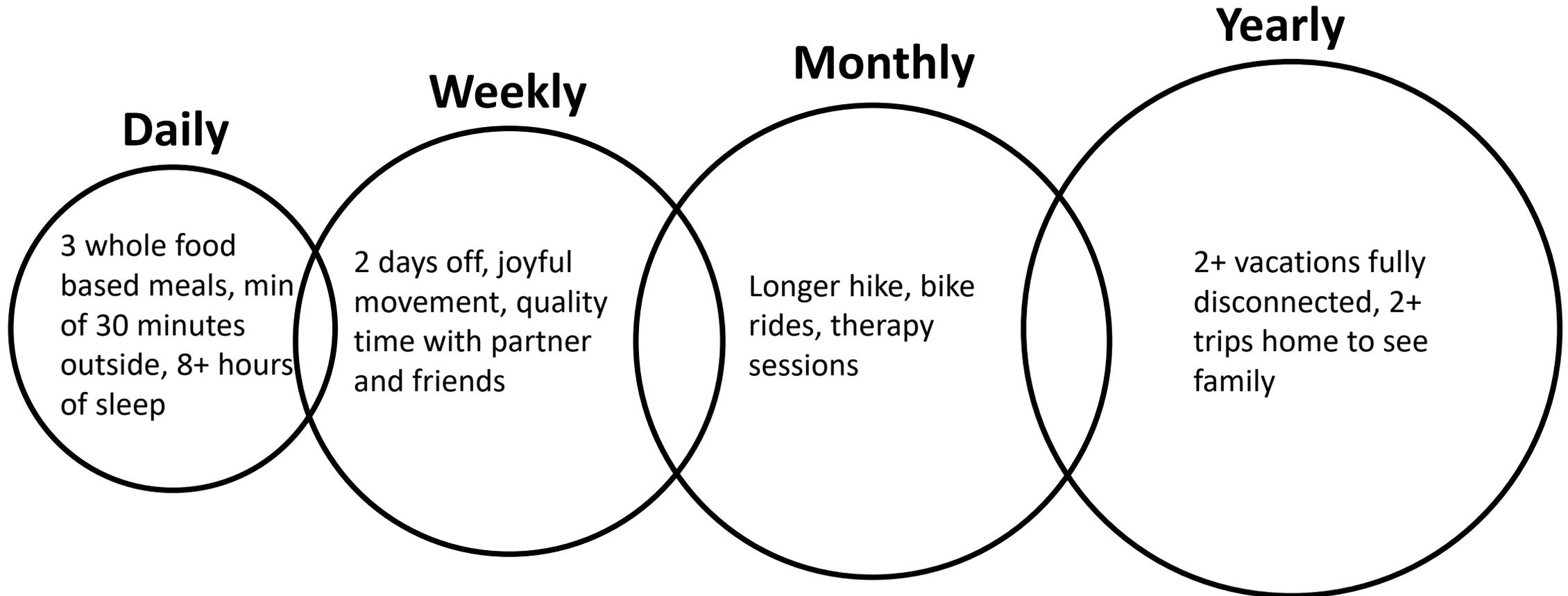
Example Zone 00 Exercise #2

What do you need to thrive?



Example Zone 00 Exercise #2

What do you need to thrive?



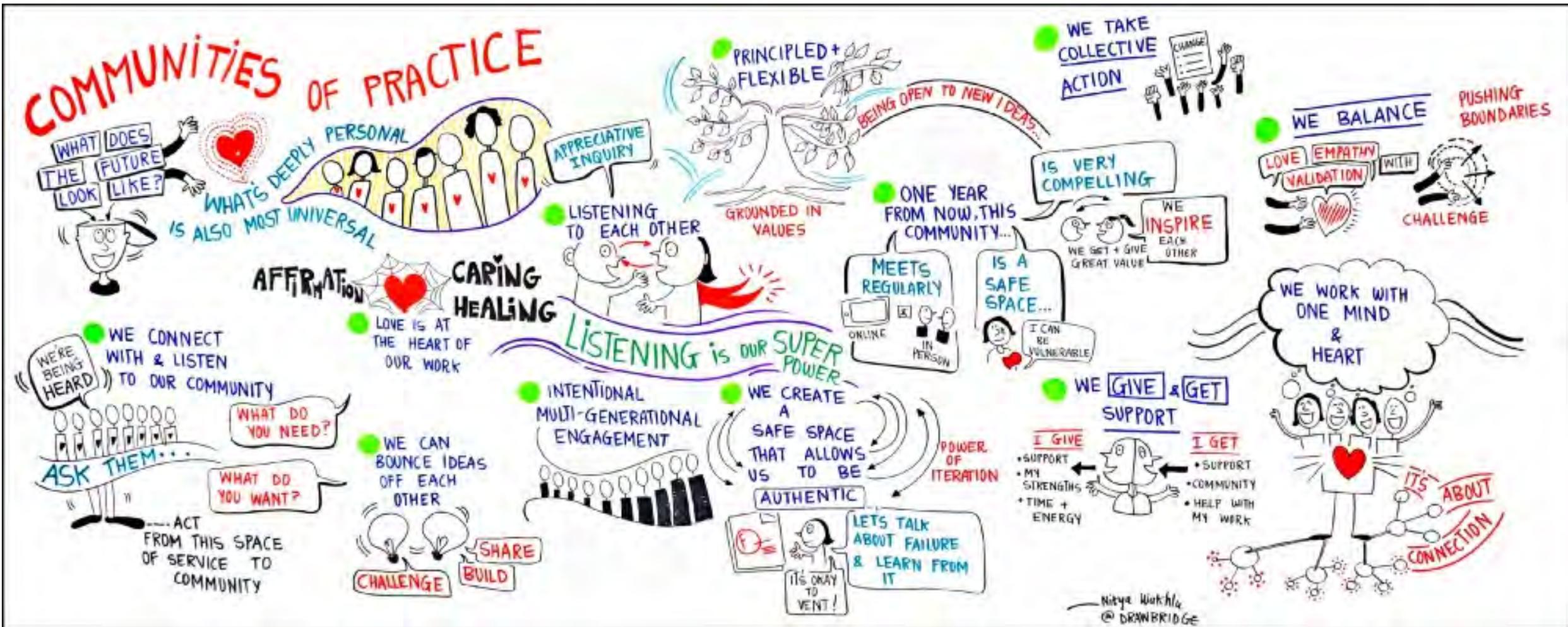
What is a Community of Practice?

A community of practice (CoP) is a group of people who share a **common concern, a set of problems, or an interest in a topic and who come together to fulfill both individual and group goals.**

Communities of practice often focus on sharing best practices and creating new knowledge to advance a domain of professional practice. Interaction on an ongoing basis is an important part of this.

<http://www.communityofpractice.ca/background/what-is-a-community-of-practice/>





Graphic illustration by Nitya Wakhlu, produced at the Experience Engagement conference in October 2015.

Why Social Permaculture for Communities of Practice?

Using a social permaculture lens allows us to design communities of practice that are context-sensitive and based on deep, thoughtful observations of the environment and whole systems. **This ultimately creates a holistic approach that is 1) truly regenerative and 2) responsive to context.**

Why Slow Down to Design?

- To make conscious decisions rather than follow reactive impulses.
- To have the freedom to engage creativity, rather than defaulting to the status quo.
- To inventory contextual conditions and make thoughtful observations.
- To consider and weigh multiple possibilities without attachment to a single solution.
- To be able to make mistakes.

