



## THE VISION FOR FOSL GOVERNANCE

This governance section is an outline to be filled in with specifics by the people who participate as members in the overall FOSL organization. The members of the local Mutual Benefit Companies will be the beneficiaries of this body of work and organize their local governance based on this work. Members of FOSL will be able to claim ownership of the Governance concepts outlined below by review and modification of the FOSL governance. Members of FOSL Mutual Benefit Companies (are also members of FOSL) will be actively participating in their specific entity/community, local environment, with their set of skills, expertise, willingness and conscious intent.

The success of this Governance design for the Foundation of Sustainable Living community including affiliated Mutual Benefit Companies rests on the following assumptions:

- FOSL as a community is intentionally using democratic processes to be socially sustainable, which requires a participatory membership trained and learning to use peaceful, cooperative, respectful means to achieve social sustainability.
- Members are committed to creating and supporting communities as environmentally and socially sustainable and as self-sustaining on every level possible.
- Collaboration, dialog and consensual decision-making for the good of the whole are the currency of the FOSL democratic process.
- The intention FOSL governance must be to do for the good of all. Democracy is a context, a container for self-governance whose level of success is intrinsically dependent on the level of consciousness, knowledge of effective social skills, and involvement of the participants.
- Members are committed to be self-responsible, self-teaching, self-organizing, who commit to be always learning and growing as a life-long commitment.
- To maintain a socially healthy community: Members will hold forums for: enhancing human relations on a regular basis; for newly entering members and community members to focus on fostering healthy relationships; and maintaining community values and integrity. Teachers and workshop leaders will be sourced internally or brought in.
- Member's forum will also be an arena for skills and various topics to support physical and social health of the community such as; living sustainably, nutrition, body care, health and fitness, working for bio-diversity on the land.
- The FOSL community welcomes a diversity of members, which includes all ages, genders, religious and sexual orientation, and ethnic origin.
- All FOSL members and their minor children, 12 years and older, have an equal voice in community. Those with skills, knowledge, expertise, experience, and age will be appropriately respected.
- FOSL leadership is collaborative and situational. Leadership positions are filled by merit, general experience, and expertise in a given discipline and by being held in high personal regard by community members.