Introducing Spark 2022
Online information session
Welcome!

What you can expect to get out of this session:

- More information about the Spark course from the School of System Change team, and what you will get out of it.
- Responses to your questions - put them in the chat throughout, or share them during the Q&A.
Check in & introductions
Who we are

- The School of System Change has been initiated and nurtured by Forum for the Future and is working with multiple partners.
- Our ambition is to serve the emerging field of systems change, as a platform for connecting and amplifying spheres of learning and practice.
- We are a networked team, working collaboratively with a growing community of people and organisations in Europe, Asia and the Americas.
- Each Spark has a team of facilitators who lead the learning sessions and will act as your coaches and learning support.
- The programme production team will be your main contact for the application process, logistics and general support throughout the course.
Our capabilities & ethos

- Our aim is to support you to navigate & begin your own, **ongoing systems change journey**
- At the School of System Change, we believe in **celebrating many different ways of learning**, being and holding knowledge.
- Rather than “the way,” we give you a taste of many ways and support you to forge a path that works for your context, circumstances, and skills.
- We aim to use our platform to amplify the voices of practitioners in the field. You will experience participatory workshops with at least six expert practitioners, in addition to your host facilitators, throughout your learning journey with the School.
Course overview

All Spark offering spans over a 1-month period with 5 half day sessions with peer group learning and 1-to-1 coaching.
Spark offerings in 2022

We are offering three Spark courses — one in-person retreat and two online. All our Spark offerings cover the same content and curriculum delivered by a team of leading practitioners from the field. Below are the facilitation teams for each offering.

Spark Retreat

Laura Winn

Spark Europe (Online)

Anna Birney

Payam Yuce Isik

Corina Angheloiu

Spark Americas (Online)

Jennifer Berman

Lisa Gibson
Spark Retreat

Spark Retreat will take place at 42 Acres, our partner in rural Somerset. The course will begin with **two nights and two days** in this beautiful venue dedicated to inner work for outer change, all hosted by the 42 Acres team in a luxuriously renovated farmhouse and cottages.

Activities will take place indoors with learning time in a comfortable yurt as well as outdoors in the woodlands, lakes and meadows. Food provided is organic farm-to-table.

Spark Retreat course fees includes a contribution towards the cost of the residency hire.

Following the two days in-person, we hold peer learning groups and a closing session online.
Who participates in Spark?

We ask participants coming into this course to have the following:

- a foundational understanding of systems change, having learned about and used at least some tools in practice
- some previous group facilitation experience whether through learning offers, workshops or collaborative projects
- an opportunity to apply the skills you are learning from this course in a practical setting
Who participates in Spark?

Mirroring system change principles in our Spark cohort, we aim for our group of 20 to 24 to represent…

- A wide diversity of worldviews, contexts, lived experiences, and perspectives
- A range of sectors - including business, non-profit, government, philanthropy, and any other enablers of change
- Experience in working with a variety of complex, system-level challenges

… in order to spark connections, enable pattern spotting and maximise opportunities for creative and insightful learning.
What are the intensive sessions?

Chance to gather online as a cohort

Dedicated learning time with support of experienced facilitators

Hosted on Zoom, with full group and smaller breakout discussions

Mixture of workshop-style activities, discussion and reflection time
How much time do I need to commit?

Outside of the intensive sessions, participants will be expected to dedicate about **3 - 5 hours per week** to online learning, reading, coaching and exercises concerning their own work challenge.

It is also recommended that you use some of this time to meet with your peer learning groups to discuss content and progress, or set up some other way to work with your team and support one another’s learning.
Before the session:

Before joining on Week 1 session (Oct. 20-22), Jennifer and Lisa have prepared a PDF with pre-readings and resources to help you jump into our session.

Kindly [review this document](#) before joining our first session. Page 6 has outlined a short pre-session assignment to post on our [Slack channel](#).

We invite you to do the following four things before we start on October 20.

1. We are interested in learning about you as a systems change facilitator. **Please share and upload a poem, piece of writing, drawing, video or some other creative expression that illustrates the following:**

   - Who am I?
   - What matters to me?
   - What story am I telling?
Application deadlines & process

Kindly note the different deadlines for the in-person and online offerings.

- For Spark Retreat, apply by **Friday, 22 July 2022.**
- For online Spark Europe & Spark Americas, apply by Friday, **2 September 2022.**

1. Submit your application!
2. Applications screened by the team
3. Invitation for informal chat with member of the team
4. Notification over email to join the Spark cohort
Questions?

Full details & application form:
https://www.forumforthefuture.org/spark-2022

Email us: school@forumforthefuture.org