



Dreaming New Mexico- 2009 Runner-up Buckminster Fuller Challenge Acceptance Statement

In Dreaming New Mexico we hit on so many design cylinders that it's hard to miss Bucky's influence: comprehensive thinking, anticipatory thinking, systems approaches. What we especially like is the one the Institute named: the "preferred state." That really captures the essence of "Dreaming." What would success look like? What do we really want? What is our dream? It's a transformative process. Most of the time, those of us engaged in social change are compelled into a mode of resistance – of trying to stop all the bad stuff from happening. Seldom do we step back and imagine best-case scenarios. Instead of asking what we want, we settle for what we think we can get. As civilization heads into collapse and an intensive period of creative destruction, keeping our eyes on the horizon is the game-changer. Once you unleash the positive possibilities, everything changes and a huge amount of energy is released.

The principle designers and technical approaches usually miss the people principle. At the end of the day, it's about people and human psychology. It's about building networks and social capital, which is also a major part of what Bioneers does, and now Dreaming New Mexico. That's where social resilience resides. And the wisdom of crowds is real. The intelligence of the larger circle almost always surpasses that of any one individual. So that's something that needs to be added to the mix. Dreaming the future can create the future, and these are shared dreams by many people. It will take a whole lot of us to reach that horizon. It's good to know that there are so many more of us these days, even though it's one minute to midnight. We offer big props to Bucky for lighting the way for so many of us, and to the Institute for keeping the dreams alive and well, and to all those working on behalf of the web of life, each other and future generations.

For the two of us personally (co-directors Peter Warshall and Kenny Ausubel), being awarded runner-up is gratifying beyond words. Bucky Fuller was an important influence on both of us. Whole Earth Catalog, of which Peter was an original editor, was an early promoter of Bucky's work. So for us it's very personal in terms of authentic recognition with deep integrity and intelligence behind it, truly a jury of our peers. In addition, few people understood even what we were trying to do with Dreaming New Mexico and this mysterious "future maps," at least until it existed physically, so being seen in this way alleviated the sense of isolation. It's hard enough to bring "seed energy" into the world against all the inertia and naysayers. Being recognized in this way really gives us some juice.

It was equally gratifying to feel that the 20-year body of work of Bioneers, which birthed Dreaming New Mexico, was seen and appreciated. For the project, the award recognition is a tremendous benefit. It's a huge validation and adds considerable credibility to a project that was really out of left field for a lot of people, and that was very bold and ambitious in its vision. The recognition is adding a deeper layer of respect and strength to the project both in New Mexico and out of state. It's a huge validation for our visionary funders. It's a genuine honor for New Mexicans, especially because it's inherently a collaborative project with many fingerprints on it, and one that builds on great work done by many other people. So the recognition is appropriately being widely shared and felt by many worthy people who have put their hearts and souls into "The Work." That was always our hope and intention, but collaboration is hard, and this kind of award really affirms the value of working together.

The process of the Buckminster Fuller Challenge encouraged us to think even a little bigger. Resources are always so scarce, and we realized what more funding would permit us to do. In particular, we began thinking again about how to use the web to build not only virtual community and connection, but to literally start building the communities that will build real-world projects on the web and serve as focal points for connecting key networks and communities of interest. We especially enjoyed the phone interview. The intelligence of the questions and the interviewers belied a clear understanding of the project and its strategic thinking. Because it's an innovative project, especially during its creation we've often been met

with blank stares. So it was a pleasure to have a dynamic conversation with people who “got” it and asked questions that pushed our own thinking.

We hope the exposure will spread the ideas even more widely and help them stick locally. Hopefully it will help attract the level of funding that is really needed to do the job needed in the limited window of time we have before climate chaos radically reduces our collective options. We also feel really honored to be in such great company of so many other wonderful projects. We wish everyone great good fortune with their efforts.

Dreaming New Mexico: http://challenge.bfi.org/application_summary/367

The Dreaming New Mexico Team

Adam Bly
Edie Farwell
Greg Watson

Bill Browning
Helena Norberg-Hodge

Jamais Cascio
John and Nancy Jack Todd