

Igniting Community Courage with Earth Charter Values

Dr Cathy Fitzgerald | Haumea Ecovercity

| ecological artist | ecoliteracy educator | mentor

Founder Director Haumea Ecovercity since 2018

With Angelina Foster | Blueway Studio

Courage In Crisis Mary Robinson
Climate & Nature Conference 2025





INTRODUCTIONS – GREETINGS

Aroha ana ahau ki
taku whakapapa

— I love and give thanks to
my ecological (ecosocial)
heritage

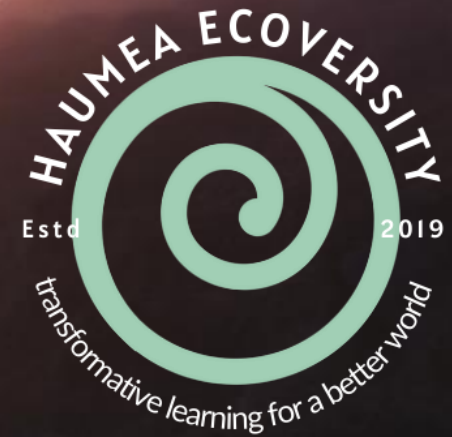
Many Indigenous peoples inhabit an
ecological worldview —
their daily greetings & cultural
practices remind them
what matters most. UN COP

**Ecoliteracy | systems literacy— is
about developing similar holistic eco-
social wisdom for our regions in
Ireland**



Haumea Ecovercity – online Ecoliteracy & Earth Charter courses and now a membership community, with **philosopher Dr Nikos Patedakis (California)**

-for 400 +creatives, educators and cultural professionals since 2019
-Angelina joined our Earth Charter course as part of the Carlow Arts Office-led Gnathoga Nadurtha 3- county community peatlands programme.



EDUCATOR



Why are we here

“...we live in the most destructive moment in 65 million years!”

Brian Swimme, Professor of Integral Studies & evolutionary cosmologist, philosopher, *The New Story*, 2006


Earth's wildlife is down 30%, oceans are heating and rising— we fueling a man-made extinction level event & increasing social injustice.



context

We need a cultural shift because 5 decades of scientific facts, figures and policy alone are **NOT** engaging citizens to act at scale—commensurate with the accelerating breakdown of Earth's life-support systems and increasing social injustice & war that we are all witnessing





“Times are urgent, we need to slow down..”

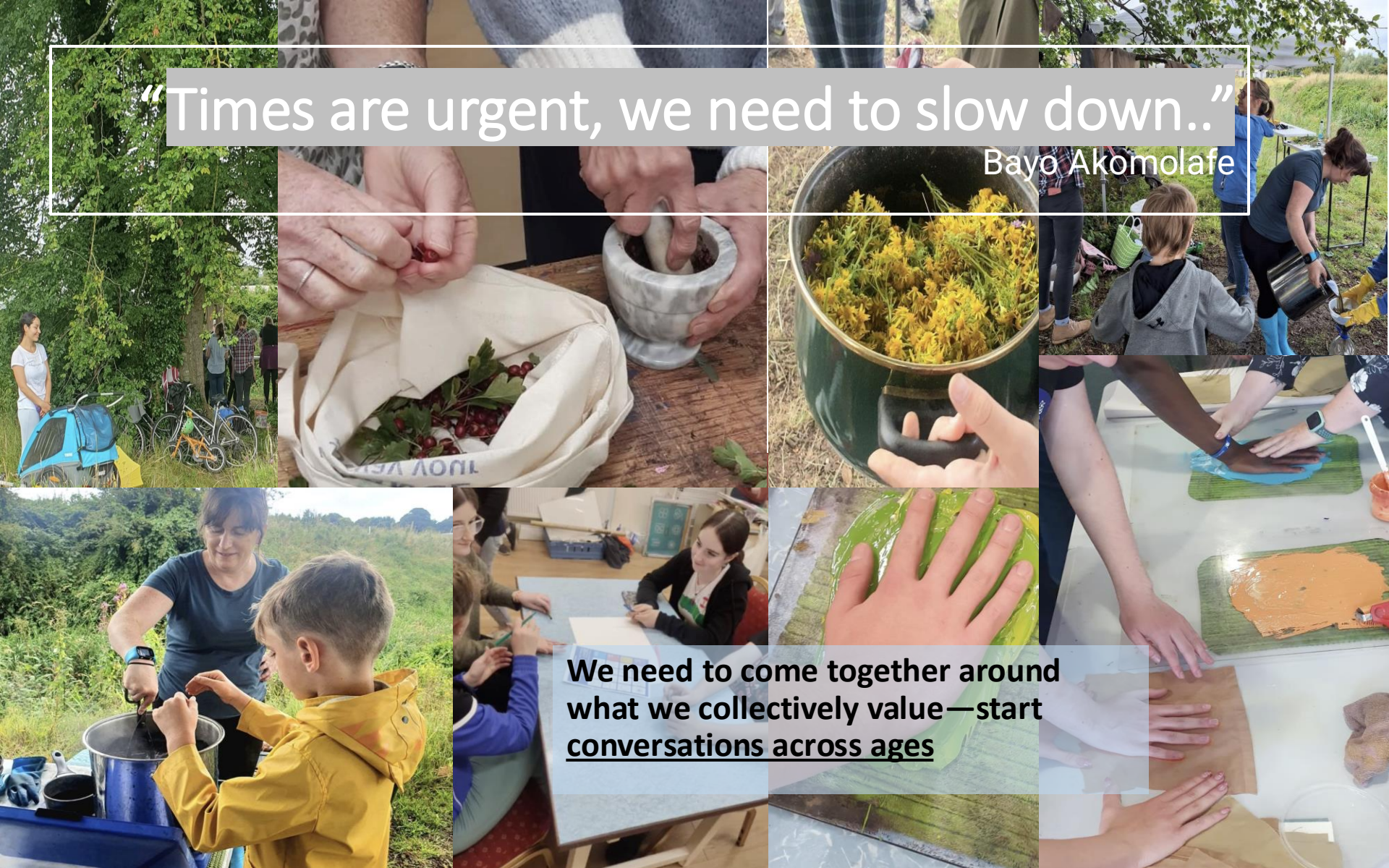
Bayo Akomolafe

As our higher education remains siloed...

how do we spark a shared story of courage, connection and care—to self, community, planet and future generations?

"Times are urgent, we need to slow down.."

Bayo Akomolafe



**We need to come together around
what we collectively value—start
conversations across ages**



“professional, community creatives can facilitate safe, brave (fun) spaces for transformative, intergenerational learning and agency”

Cathy Fitzgerald

And we need to **RECOGNISE** that collective, inclusive creativity, facilitated by ecoliterate creative community professionals like Angelina, provides instances of safe, brave spaces to make the crises personally & locally relevant —activating people’s curiosity & hearts in meaningful ways, that facts and policy can’t achieve alone

Evolve Eco-Social Values



But we need to evolve, expand & become fluent to value more beyond the human realm. In 1948, both the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** the **IUCN** arose—yet, in modern culture, we still treat people and nature as separate & see human /economic aims as a priority. In 2024, Mary Robinson renamed this event as a ‘climate and nature’ conference



Former US first lady
Eleanor Roosevelt

The challenge



Immense Cultural Shift for Dominant Western Cultures

**—to move from entrenched ideas of human supremacy to ecological worldview,
to overcome our alienation from the web of life**

Evolving Eco-Social Values

UN talks since '70s called for 'Nature Charters'
—The Earth Charter was proposed as a UN Charter in Rio 92, but evolved instead as a global civil dialogue process to become a true People's Earth Charter...

**The People's Earth Charter —
a Holistic Ethical Compass**

—a foundational visionary document like the UDHR, to help all people think and care for others, AND their places, AND for planetary AND intergenerational wellbeing...



Evolving Eco-Social Values



+



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Peoples' Earth Charter is nearly 25 years old – its universal principles remain fresh & particularly resonate with youth, more educated in holistic systems thinking – who are benefiting from global shift toward ESD evolving these last 20 years

EARTH CHARTER ELIVENS ALL PEOPLE'S HEARTS TO CARE & ACT AROUND

4 interconnected pillars:

Respect and care for the community of life

Ecological integrity (care /restoration of habitats)

Social and Economic Justice (just transition)

Democracy, Nonviolence and Peace

Offers creatives and their audiences/communities many entry points for engagement, an accessible ecological vision & language, 66 translations and symbols that kids love

“Earth Charter + creativity creates inclusive, safe, brave spaces to share our love for life on Earth”

I Respect and Care for the Community of Life	1 Interdependence of all life	2 Love and responsibility	3 Democracy and freedom	4 Justice across generations
II Ecological Integrity	5 Protect Earth's diversity	6 Prevent ecological harm	7 Sustainable lifestyles	8 Share knowledge
III Social and Economic Justice	9 Eradicate poverty	10 Equitable human development	11 Gender equality and equity	12 Dignity, inclusion and well-being
IV Democracy, Nonviolence, and Peace	13 Transparency and participation	14 Integrate values into education	15 Respect all living beings	16 Nonviolence and peace

Turning conscience into action.

The Earth Charter is a document with sixteen principles inspiring a global movement for building a just, sustainable and peaceful world. It is the product of a decade-long, worldwide dialogue on shared values.

Founded by visionaries in the year 2000, we invite the visionaries of today to use the Earth Charter as a reference for decision-making and planning.


When you incorporate it in your life, and apply it to your business, school or community, you begin turning conscience into action to make all life on Earth thrive.

We know you're ready. Now, let's get to work!

 **Earth Charter.**

www.earthcharter.org



It's symbol is a  **dove** – the Earth Charter is a Peace Charter, evolving a culture of peace toward all life on Earth

Recognised as the missing integrated ethical principles needed for **Agenda 2030**, the **UN SDGs**, & **The Global Pact for the Future**



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Earth Charter

Toward a New Worldview

Vision

Values

Actions

Being/Creating

Holistic/Systemic

SDGs

Maintains the Same Worldview

Goals

Objectives

Outcomes

Achieving/Producing

Multidimensional/Additive

Earth Charter Vision, Principles & Stories, rather than setting or ticking goals, advances humanity's destiny..

“for being more, rather than having more”



Earth Charter Young Leader — Hasiba Syed, Gurjarat, India

Earth Charter in Action. Powering a global movement.

“..Leadership, Sustainability, and Ethics (LSE) course through [Earth Charter International](#) activates youth...

“The course reinforced my belief that **true leadership isn't about being the loudest voice, it's about being grounded in values** and focused on creating meaningful impact.”



20 YEARS

50 000 ENDORSEMENTS

89 COUNTRIES

2 000 ALUMNI





The Earth Stories Collection

A planetary mythology to bring individuals back into relationship
with Humanity, the Community of Life and planet Earth



Power of Story & Inclusive, Collective Creativity:
Angelina activated 'River Goddess Berba
Creation Story for Future Ancestor Festival' —
Invited 3 storytellers: **Bríd Brophy, Judith O'Brien
& Emily Rainsford** — first entry from Ireland



Berba Creation Story

Safe, Brave, Fun Spaces

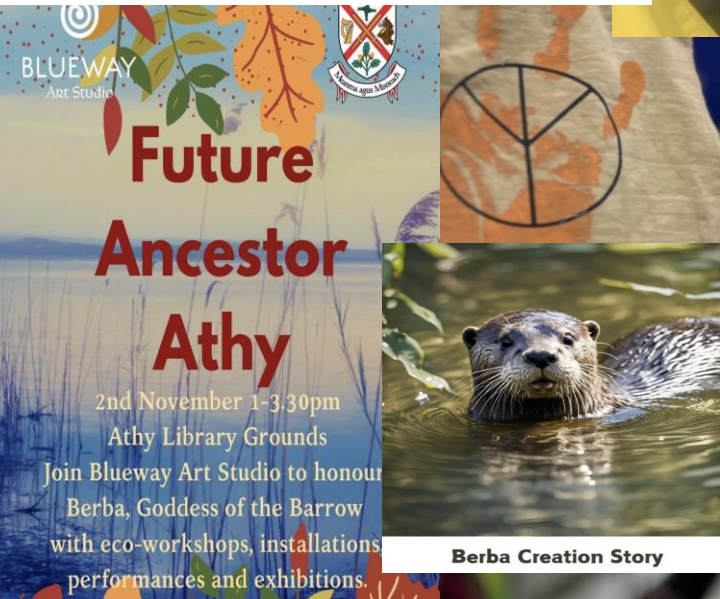












Future Ancestor Athy

2nd November 1-3:30pm
Athy Library Grounds

Join Blueway Art Studio to honour Berba, Goddess of the Barrow with eco-workshops, installations, performances and exhibitions.

Berba Creation Story



-  **Handprint Prayer Flags –community – intergenerational**
-  **Eco-Protest Banners –Anchor Youth Club.**
-  **Bosca Bherba & Clay Plate Breaking – Community wishes for better world**
-  **Berba's Reverie – Video installation. Deirdre S.**
-  **Photography Exhibition – Berba's Animal Friends**
-  **The Murphigans –enchanting tree installations.**
-  **Griese Youth Theatre – 'Cry Me a River'**
-  **3 piece teenage all-girl rock band from Athy**
- Traditional Irish music by Comhaltas Athy**
-  **Botanical Ink-Making – With Angelina & Clare Hartigan – Community 'Wall of Gratitude' to River Goddess Berba**
-  **Lighted Soul Boats for remembrance**
-  **Screenprinting EC Workshop – Led by Emily & Anchor Youth Club.**

“

Lig dár tréimhse anseo
a bheith mar an am go bhfuil
cuimhne air don ómós nua
don saol bheatha, an réiteach
daingean chun a bheith féin-
chothaitheach agus an
iarracht i gcomhair Ceartanas
agus Síocháin a bhaint
amach, chomh maith le
céiliúradh áthasach na
mbeatha.

The People's Earth Charter
The Way Forward

Translation by:

@phoebe_cope_studio for all Irish Citizens
everywhere

Commissioned by Haumea Ecoversity
Translation supported by Creative Ireland
for the Carlow Drummin Bog project

“

Let ours be a time
remembered for the
awakening of a new
reverence for life, the firm
resolve to achieve
sustainability, the quickening
of the struggle for justice and
peace, and the joyful
celebration of life.



The People's Earth Charter
The Way Forward

1-3 July 2025, The Netherlands

Earth Charter +25 Event

**Planetary Consciousness, Ethics of Care and
Intergenerational Justice**



Thank you for listening!

Comments /Queries welcome:

Email: Cathy@Haumea-Ecoversity.com

**Join the Haumea Ecoversity Community |
Mentoring | Ecoliteracy CPD:**

HaumeaEcoversity.com

Insta: [@Haumea_Ecroversity](https://www.instagram.com/Haumea_Ecroversity)

LinkedIn: [/cathyfitz](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cathyfitz)



"The real work of p
small, humble, and
(insofar as it involve
and rewarding. Its j
many to count, too
too many to be pub
rewarded, too small
rich or famous."

Farmer, forester, wr
Wendell Berry



Angelina and youth theatre groups acting, sharing & speaking their creative Earth Charter wisdom —to Irish Senators in 2025 – fluent, intergenerational creative conversations we need more of..

