

Mapping Our Society exercise

Culture Power: exploring our shared passions, a group of people interested in cultural issues gathered. We coined the phrase Culture Power.

Topics discussed:

The Artist's path: we can't be organized, we don't follow rules, arts should never be codified, but artists shouldn't be indulgent or neurotic.

What people expressed passion for:

- arts and healing
- Culture Power: Shambhala Culture vs. Walmart: promoting activities like the Music Room, Studio Rally and tea ceremony - the power of art and culture to communicate, uplift and tame. Performance space.
- creating landing pads for drala – sacred space and Shambhala Culture.
- the sacred spaces of the local indigenous people
- embodying sacredness in nature - a park or landscape.
- creating a place to do all the above: a Kalapa Center

The following are thoughts around how to create a Kalapa cultural centre:

- Using dharma art teaching to learn about sacred space – begin by evaluating our current center.
- What is a power spot and how do we create it? We have a weak container but would like to make it stronger and more vivid – drala invocation.
- The passion to extend the vision out – outward looking. But also, the need to stabilize and maintain the transmission first: a vivid center, so that we have something to radiate and build on.
- The inspiration to host events with an atmosphere of a tenno room, an empowered meeting space, communication going in both directions. A space for 3-400, to host events like the Shambhala Institute, the arts, Buddhist activities. Naropa Institute as a model for people for extending the vision out.
- A Kalapa Centre could be created from bottom up, rather than top down. It is not just about the product. It is a way to learn: how do we create sacred space and embody what we have been given?
- The spiritual content of a Kalapa Center - ideally it could be like walking into the mind of the guru. How to embody the mandala in a physical space? Sacred space as transformative. What does it mean to embody sacredness? How does environment create mind? What kind of mind do we want to invite?

Afternoon session: Creating a Kalapa Centre

- Shambhala Culture/sacred space isn't comfortable – it has an edge to wake people up. Not conventional space - transformational space.

- Is Shambhala just a collection of special interest groups? What unifies us, and how can a sense of totality of vision be expressed in our Kalapa Center?
 - Seating the International within a living culture. What is our place within Halifax, in terms of location and also the social/human community? Visualize a cultural stupa with a soup kitchen – heaven and earth.
 - Drala in sustainable development and sacred architecture: how to bring them together without losing the bigger vision. The need to set priorities for development. What guides the design or search process?
 - Are we talking about a cultural Centre independent of the SC or part of it?
 - The stronger and more vivid the centre, the stronger the radiation.
- The kalapa Center as more than an administrative seat. A place of culture. You can see our culture reflected in sacred space. Performance space. Gallery space. Tenno space for empowered meetings. A focus for culture in Halifax and the Maritimes, hosted within a Shambhala container.

Three uses:

1. Community center with social vision: families and children, soup kitchen. Shambhala Society as inclusive and outward looking with social vision.
 2. Tenno Seat – empowered meeting space to foster enlightened institutions and dialog/governance. The International Seat of governance.
 3. Sacred space with magic and spiritual presence so that it can transform these activities, (SS to GES) and preserve the mind transmission of the lineage. Place of practice.
- The International is exploring different possibilities for the SC including a business centre, like the Bloomfield Centre. Brief review of past searches. How does the selection of a space impact how we manifest and what we invite? From the perspective of sacred architecture, different uses require different physical structures and position within the city. Local, national, or international visions will require a different architecture to allow them to fulfil the intended vision. The need to prioritize our goals to guide a search.
 - We have to manifest kindness among ourselves to be able to manifest Kalapa.
- * How do you visualize Kalapa?