Leadership for Community TRANSFORMATION

Don Lane, Santa Cruz City Councilmember

“LCT helped me to be more bold and more focused as I partnered with others to transform how our community takes on the challenge of homelessness. It has also given me a new framework and useful tools that are helping me speak about values in the public sphere. No matter what the issue you are working with, LCT can make a real difference in your effectiveness and clarity. I was surprised at how many practical tools were offered. I was not just inspired-- I was ready to implement a plan of action. The entire experience was highly energizing.”

Kirsten Liske, Vice President of Community Programs, Ecology Action

“What I’ve learned in LCT is that when I start from what I am most passionate about and connect my words, actions and plans to my deepest values, their impact is truly transformative. This seems simple but I was surprised at how far away I was from practicing that regularly, even in my social change work. This new grounding and approach is very energizing and invites space for others to shine, contribute and lead from their passion too. I’m stoked and looking forward to continue to learn and grow with LCT practices with so many other awesome leaders in our community.”

Consuelo Alba, Founder & Director of Watsonville Film Festival

“LCT gave me practical tools to perform my community work more effectively, sharpen my capacity to design programs for bigger impact, and allow me to see myself as part of a constellation of stars working for equity, opportunity and creativity in Santa Cruz County. I highly recommend LCT to anyone interested in acquiring practical tools to make their work more vibrant, creative and impactful.”
Leadership for Community
TRANSFORMATION

Allison Guevara, Facilitator and Organizational Development Consultant

"LCT offers a holistic theory of change that extends from the heart and soul to the mind and body. It has reminded me to see the commitment and potential for greatness in myself and in everyone. This has helped me forge new collaborations and unlikely partnerships that are essential for true systems change. LCT has brought more rigor to my work, and more joy. What do I stand for? How will I communicate that? What will my impact look like in the community? LCT offers concrete tools and a community of practice that is helping me learn and grow as a mom, a leader, and a daughter of the Earth. LCT in one word: powerful."

Phil Kramer, Interim Executive Director, Homeless Services Center

"LCT provided me with new tools - a process methodology, and language framework - for tackling seemingly intractable and vexing community issues. With these tools we created a county-wide "All In" strategic plan to end homelessness, which was approved and supported by local government officials. LCT helped me find my voice, and listen in a new way. At times my feelings of injustice and anger would get in the way of true dialogue. LCT helps me express my personal passion in a way that builds a bridge of common ground, creating space for unexpected new alliances and collaboration."

Fernando Giraldo, Chief of Probation, Santa Cruz County

"To be a courageous leader, one that can transform systems, and be a game changer, you need to be firm in what you stand for, unafraid and bold. When you commit to your stand, action is inevitable. You must acknowledge your fears, but can’t let them hold you back; once this occurs you are free to achieve your greatness. LCT helped me firmly stand behind what I believe my role is in promoting justice and equity in our community. It helped me realize that being a good leader is about being trusted to bring results. LCT has helped me to be a game changer."
Leadership for Community Transformation

Monica Martinez, Executive Director, Encompass Community Services
"LCT has taught me the art of meeting day-to-day needs in our community while simultaneously changing the large scale systems they grew from, and this skill has helped to deepen Encompass Community Services’ impact in Santa Cruz County. Building on our strong direct service experience, we are moving our focus to the root causes that bring people in our doors in the first place. We are identifying and addressing the inequities that exist in our community. I frequently recommend LCT to my community partners because providing excellent services is no longer adequate, we need to work together to transform the systems that keep these disparities intact."

Jacob Martinez, Founder & Executive Director, Digital Nest
"LCT was an instrumental part in the creation of the Digital NEST. The NEST was an idea in my head and through LCT became an idea grounded in principals of equality and justice. LCT provided me with a community of peers that encouraged and believed in me throughout the entire program. I graduated from that first stage with an inner strength that I still draw upon when things are challenging. The biggest surprise for me was how much I was able to connect with so many people here in the community. I made some lifelong friends during my time in LCT."

Mireya Gomez, Program Director of Day Labor Center, Community Action Board
"After LCT I interact more intentionally with people and the task in front of me. I regained hope but not like I’ve been able to do at other trainings. LCT allows me to be the me I want to be, making the change I want to make, and in collaboration with those I strategically choose to work with. LCT can expand a person’s capacity to think AND DO beyond their current reach. LCT helps someone carry out their work more smoothly and easily. At least that’s how it feels to me. It also allows for someone to capitalize on mistakes in ways that are simply productive. LCT inspires reflection and action."
Leadership for Community TRANSFORMATION

Greg Pepping, Executive Director, Coastal Watershed Council

"Because of LCT I now approach project design in a new way, and I'm doing a better job of examining overall systems that need to shift to meet our goals for the community. It's tough to make time for training; I get that. I also know that I've never - in my entire life - participated in a professional development effort that has produced more deep, genuine, immediate and gratifying results as LCT - both professional and personal results. I'd describe it as project design wisdom meets mindfulness training meets masterful leadership. There's more in each of us, and this taps into some of that power. LCT is a big part of the Coastal Watershed Council's recent success, and all of our staff will have participated in it by this summer."

Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson, Grant Writer & community organizer consultant

"In my adult life, I have recognized in myself ‘traditional’ leadership skills...self-starter, work well with others....but after participating in LCT, these leadership skills have evolved and gained depth as my work is fueled from a different place. While I cared about my work in the past, today I find it essential to accomplish what I/we have set out to do as the larger community impacts and shifts are more clear to me. There is now a sense of urgency that drives my leadership. I am starting from a different place. I am starting with the vision of what can be different in our community if I/we are successful in what we are doing. I am connecting this vision to what is important to my core as a person."

Leslie Goodfriend, Senior Health Services Manager, Santa Cruz County Human Services Department

"Being a part of LCT helped remind me of why I do what I do. It helped me re-commit to the work I have been doing both in my day job and as a community member. The training connected me to other people in our community who are committed to lead transformational work and reminded me that the best way to make change is to bring people together and work collectively and remember that when we come from our “stand” we can truly transform ourselves and our community."
Leadership for Community Transformations

Julia Feldman, Probation Supervisor, County of Santa Cruz

"The best thing that I learned from LCT is how to get out of my own way. I used to see myself as a “warrior for justice” in an army of one and was constantly battling everyone who blocked the path to justice by proving how right I was and how wrong they were. Since LCT, I have shifted from warrior for justice to “unmessable-with for justice.” I have ceased engaging in back and forth, win/lose arguments and removed my opinions from the equation. I have shifted to alignment for impact, which takes the focus off of personal desires and moves it to a common goal or impact. I have become intentional and strategic instead of reactive."

Keisha Frost, Director of Community Giving & Marketing, United Way of Santa Cruz County

"I am a paradigm shifter. I act in courage. I stand for dignity. LCT provided crucial transformational language to my leadership and work at United Way – This shifted the lens of my fund development outputs from check-marks toward monetary goals to operating for impact and shifting social conditions through my fund development expertise. LCT was instrumental in the development of my “Funding For Impact” model – it is driving change through intentional alignment and opening the space for donors to invest in community impact. My journey with LCT shakes up “business as usual” and continues to provide endless opportunities to do things differently."

Sharon Papo, Executive Director, The Diversity Center

"The Leadership for Community Transformation training was one of the best leadership trainings I have ever attended. It was an excellent investment of my time. I left the nine days with tangible new skills and a new perspective about how to make a meaningful impact in our community. LCT has made me a more effective leader. I have great appreciation to Megan Joseph and the United Way for bringing this incredible training effort to our community!"
Leadership for Community Transformation

Maria Elena de la Garza, Executive Director, Community Action Board

"LCT helped me define what is most important to me and how my values are at the foundation of every idea, every action, and every partnership that I develop and invest energy into. LCT offered skills that enhanced my toolkit as a leader and as a community member. LCT gave me a common language with others that has helped to facilitate community change, work through barriers, and inspire others to join important and critical movements. LCT very clearly taught me that a commitment to leadership is a commitment to action. For example, I was inspired to speak out and organize against youth violence in my community and with others, we created a movement towards a more peaceful city. We also were able to link to a countywide initiative against youth violence and gained strength and support to make our community a safer place."

Susan Brutschy, President, Applied Survey Research

"LCT has given me new skills and capacities to turn data into action. It has enhanced every single one of ASR’s staff members who have participated – they stand in their greatness and their leadership is evident every single day. LCT continues to greatly contribute to long lasting community change. It has revolutionized the way that I communicate about the critical role of the pursuit of well-being. All our partnerships in Santa Cruz County are much more effective, our advocacy stronger, and our accomplishments much more compelling and it shows that our United Way is committed to leading the achievement of impact in all the areas that we care most about. These are all reasons that I LOVE Leadership for Community Transformation – it truly is transformational for one and all."

Cristina Gamboa, MD, Salud Para La Gente

"As a physician, I work every day to make an impact on an individual’s life. I have long had an appreciation for community transformation and well-being but the understanding of how I could participate at the community level came through LCT. Since LCT, my leadership skills are more refined and I have made partnerships with others in the community to address the issues of my interest on a larger scale. By the end of the sessions, you have been given an abundance of new tools you can’t help but want to put in action."