



BUCKMINSTER  
FULLER INSTITUTE



innpactia

FEST

Financial Ecosystems for Systemic Transformation



Beyond  
Bounce

## FST Field Coherence Development

### Introduction

This Concept Note responds to a call by and to the FEST community for proposals to greatly accelerate the development of the field of Financing Systemic Transformation (FST). The field consists of all those people and activities working to provide systems change and transformation financing at the scale and with the ease of access necessary to respond to today's polycrisis. These Notes can be considered a field "action planning" process to define 3-5 year field development pathways. For more on the field of FST, please [go here](#).

### Goals of the Concept Note

To develop coherence and powerful collaboration of those in the field of Financing Systemic Transformation (FST).

#### 1. Project Leads:

Lead 1: Steve Waddell  
Organization: Bounce Beyond

Lead 2: Juan Lozano  
Organization: Innpactia

Lead 3: Stuart Cowan  
Organization: Buckminster Fuller Institute

#### 2. This proposal is in support of the FEST activities to:

Cohere an FST ecosystem of well-connected people and resources.

#### 3. Describe the activities in 500 words or less, with explanation of how it advances the component.

The FEST community is undertaking a range of activities that require backbone organization support for them to reach their collective potential. This is a proposal to provide that support through the initial community face-to-face convening at MIT at the end of January, 2024 when three-to-five year pathways will be developed. Those pathways will include a longer-term financial plan.

For three years Catalyst2030's Working Group 11 has been convening people to define the field of FST, identify leading participants and produce a strategy for the field's development. In June, 2023 this



culminated with the formation of FEST supported by about three dozen participants and founding members. They are thought leaders and practitioners who are developing the field. See the FEST website for more details ([www.festfield.finance](http://www.festfield.finance))

FEST has a participant-led development strategy. Founding members have submitted concept notes associated with their own work, for actions to develop the field. In order to emphasize collaboration, the proposals have been from two or more organizations. These proposals represent an initiating collective action process. They include concept notes listed in Attachment A. Collectively these proposals represent an will produce activity analogous to action planning to address particular issues and opportunities with the field's development. The product of these activities will be brought together in a convening in early 2024 to define 3-5 year pathways for the field. The activities are:

1. Undertaking a current reality analysis by identifying and mapping those in the field, and their activities.
2. Creating a well-connected coherent ecosystem of people, organizations, resources, and activities that is unleashing the collective potential of the field.
3. Supporting experimental projects that develop FST approaches and make them a powerful, recognized and supported part of the financing and transformation landscape.

Historically this work has been supported financially by Catalyst2030. That funding ceases at the end of June, 2030 and the community activities represent a much more significant action to accelerate development of the field of FST. Supporting the coherence of these next steps by the community requires core community backbone organization support. Bounce Beyond and Innpectia have had leading roles over the first half of 2023 in defining a community development strategy and branding in conjunction with consultation with the community. Buckminster Fuller Institute has offered to provide fiscal sponsorship. They are stepping forward to provide on-going backbone community organizing support.

#### **4. Knowledge about the Field by the applicants**

For three years Steve Waddell, Bounce Beyond Co-Lead Steward, has had leadership with Working Group 11 to define the field of FST, identify leading participants and produce FEST. This builds on 40 years of transformation work including a leading role with the world's largest community credit union; co-founding Canada's largest socially responsible investment funds family; evolving bank-community relationships in the US; and leading Global Financial Initiative for integrating sustainability into global finance.

Innpectia is an impact investment platform that since 2016 transforms the way finance impacts the development of social initiatives dropping down the costs for doing good in the world. Through constant research on the ecosystem needs and through evidence based on a database of more than 2000 impact investors globally, 50,000 Latin American social entrepreneurs and more than 500 experts, our platform strives to provide greater connections across impact investing portfolios and accelerate impact towards SDGs.

Since 1983, Buckminster Fuller Institute has served the international network of Fuller-inspired innovators. It provides fiscal sponsorship for worthy initiatives that are aligned with its work. Its finance design lab reflects this alignment.



## **5. History of achievements of the applicants**

Steve guided development of the FEST community, their collective production of the report, An Investigation into Financing Transformation, an analysis of the state of the field of FST, and monthly meetings to develop understanding and definition of the field. Steve has documented his transformation work, local to global, with dozens of journal articles and three books.

Innpactia, as a dynamic and innovative platform, since 2015 caters to a diverse range of global institutions seeking to invest in environmental, sustainability, governance (ESG), and impact initiatives within Latin America. Its wide-ranging customer base includes international cooperatives, philanthropic foundations, CSR-driven companies, and impact investment funds. Innpactia provides essential resources to enhance the profitability and impactfulness of their portfolios.

For 30 years BFI has advanced R.B. Fuller approaches through a Design Lab, a Clearinghouse of design innovation practices and principles, communications programs, and educational tools.

## **6. Innovativeness of approach**

FEST emphasizes radical collaboration amongst stakeholders in the field of FST. It is calling for proposals from those active in the field, to support the field's development. Those submitting proposals must do so as collaborations between two or more field entities. This furthers the goal of rapidly expanding the FEST community reach and engagement, as well as spreading ownership. Further, this approach aims to leverage current capacities and knowledge in the field by building on initiatives work.

Another innovative strategy is to create "modules" for funding. Modules are proposals to advance the field's development through the three activities listed earlier, with proposed budgets of \$25,000 to \$50,000, with more possible for experiments.

A third radical collaboration strategy is to limit any one funder to providing \$25,000 to \$75,000 for some specific project or module of activity. This ensures funder ownership is spread. The funders discuss the proposed activities with those proposing it. As well, funders are expected to participate in the project's development, to encourage relational action in contrast to transactional.

These innovations mean that the development process is more complicated than for a traditional approach. This emphasizes the importance of having a solid strategy for providing coherence.

## **7. Applicants' capacity to achieve proposed outcomes**

Innpactia already boasts a thriving community of users, including over 2000 impact investors globally, 50,000 social organizations and entrepreneurs with impactful projects spanning a diverse range of topics aligned SDGs and 500 experts. This collaborative environment fosters the advancement of the SDGs by facilitating match-making with projects and ventures and assessments. Bounce Beyond jointly with Catalyst2030 has convened people in the field financing systemic transformation for three years to develop FEST. The three in Bounce Beyond who will lead development have a combined 80 years in related transformation and organizing activity as personal leaders, coaches, educators, researchers, community developers, and change agents. They have three graduate degrees, and their capacity is demonstrated in dozens of articles and books.



BFI has operated since 1983, demonstrating its capacity as a fiscal agent and steward for R. B. Fuller's design innovation.

**8. How you are responding to the diversity imperative**

Project leadership on the Bounce Beyond side will be provided by two white males and one white female. One of the men is in his 20's, living in the UK; the other two are above 65 years of age with one in Canada and one in the US; and one lead is gay.

Innpactia is a Colombian organization working across Latin America. One lead is Colombian male, and one an Argentinian woman.

BFI's engagement will be led by an American man.

**9. Are there any ways you plan to engage others in the field?**

As provider of backbone support, the role of this activity will focus on engaging all those in the field, with a particular focus on those undertaking projects. There will be regular meetings of those conducting projects and broader engagement through monthly community convenings. The activities are designed to support a face-to-face convening of the community in early 2024.

**10. Please provide a tentative budget.**

\$45,000



## Attachment 1

# FEST Community Concept Notes

## Introduction

FEST is calling for Concept Notes to greatly accelerate the development of the field of Financing Systemic Transformation (FST). The field consists of all those people and activities working to provide systems change and transformation financing at the scale and with the ease of access necessary to respond to today's polycrisis.

The Concept Note call is a community-based action experiment to develop the field by building on current diverse work FEST participants are already undertaking. It also represents a strategy to develop coherence amongst participants and in the field more broadly. The Call has the following restrictions:

1. Funding of \$25,000 - \$75,000: This reflects a strategy to easily engage funders to support and become active in the community through a subscription menu approach. Funders can pick a particular Concept Note to support.
2. Concept Notes have to be submitted by two or more FEST participants, one of which is a Founding Member. This reflects the goals to make collaboration a core operating value of FEST and to expand FEST participation.
3. Notes have to support field development, rather than simply the goals of a particular field participant.

Collectively, the Call process also represents the initiation of field-level strategic planning. Concept Note activity will be input to a meeting the end of January 2024 at MIT.

## 1) FST Field Coherence Development

**Goal:** To develop coherence and powerful collaboration of those in the field of Financing Systemic Transformation (FST).

**Activity:** Support for FEST community development and connections, including Concept Note Calls, community meetings and Stewardship Team support. This will continue until April, 2024 when strategies from the three-to-five year pathways development will be implemented for longer-term coherence.

**Submitted by:** Bounce Beyond, Innpactia, Buckminster Fuller Institute

**Amount:** \$45,000

## 2) Convening Field Leaders

**Goal:** To convene a Systemic Investing Summit to advance the field.

**Activity:** A meeting at MIT at the end of January 2024 will share learnings amongst participants and define a three to five year pathway for accurately FST field development.

**Submitted by:** TransCap, Meridian Institute, MIT Sloan

**Amount:** \$50,000



### 3) Mapping the Field of FST

**Goal:** To identify relationships and dynamics amongst organizations and leaders in the field of FST

**Activity:** This builds on work already being undertaken by Meridian Institute and will produce webcrawl, social network and value network maps and associated data to guide development of the field.

**Submitted by:** Meridian Institute, Bounce Beyond, Maria Balcazar Tellez Consulting

**Amount:** \$25,000

### 4) Developing Pathways for the FST Field

**Goal:** To develop a collective understanding of what the desired field of FST looks like, and pathways to get there.

**Activity:** Undertaking a Three Horizons process with two dozen field participants to describe for the field current reality, desired futures and pathways to the futures growing out of current field activity.

**Submitted by:** Bounce Beyond and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

**Amount:** \$35,000

### 5) Indigenous Commons Kinship Systems Mapping

**Goal:** Identifying models that contribute to increased indigenous self-determination and sovereignty over land, and the potential of finance innovations and Web3 to enhance and scale these.

**Activity:** Continuing a participatory mapping field study started in 2022.

**Submitted by:** Cattail Strategy and [Renilde Becque](#)

**Amount:** \$30,000

### 6) Regenerative Capitalism at the Victoria Forum

**Goal:** Establish a flagship initiative organized around the theme of Regenerative Capitalism

**Activity:** Co-create an open, virtual platform teaching the principles of regenerative capitalism to students across Canada

**Submitted by:** Regenerative Capital Group, The University of Victoria Gustavson School of Business, The Victoria Forum

**Amount:** \$25,000 (\$100,000 is already committed by the Regenerative Capital Group)

### 7) Unlocking the Potential of FST through Technology Tools

**Goal:** Create greater connections among the powerful ecosystem of diverse thought and practice innovators to accelerate the field's development.



**Activity:** Create a database and platform for matching members, facilitating project selection for field development, tracking impact and generating comprehensive reports

**Submitted by:** Innpactia, Bounce Beyond

**Amount:** \$25,000

## 8) Co-creating Funding Ecosystems for Regeneration

**Goal:** To advance development of a community of funding ecosystems for regeneration

**Activity:** A commons of learning will be created with place-based (e.g. bioregions) or thematic (e.g. facilitation services), or a combination of the two (e.g. agroforestry in three locations).

**Submitted by:** Thriving Resilient Communities Collaboratory (TRCC), r3.0, NewStories

**Amount:** \$25,000

## 9) Cases of Ecosystems for Financing Transformation

**Goal:** To develop lessons and learning resources for the FEST community.

**Activity:** Three cases of leading examples of ecosystems for financing transformation in food and agriculture will be developed with comparative analysis.

**Submitted by:** IMP+, Transformational Investing in Food Systems Initiative (TIFS)

**Amount:** \$25,000

