



CAFE DE LA CULTURE

THE VENUE FOR VISIONARIES



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Introduction

Where can you go to have an immersive experience that blends science, history, literature, technology, philosophy, psychology, sociology, anthropology, world music, world dance, spoken word and culinary arts into one evening?

This is the magic of Café de la Culture.



Sonita Alizada

Afghan Rapper and Activist

"Cafe de la Culture makes positive change in the world. It encourages participants to leave their comfort zone and see beyond. These events provide different lenses to look through to understand the causes of injustice in the world, most importantly in the lives of every woman. Through poetic theater, world music, dance, and discussion, this program will enable communities to pave a path which can lead toward a better tomorrow created by our own collective action."





Mission

Café de la Culture is an inclusive pop up event which offers immersive arts and literary salons for a diverse population of activists, thinkers and visionaries. We facilitate important conversations, support local artists and build intersectional community to inspire social change.

View Our Teaser Video



Join in a social renaissance, engage in meaningful discourse with peers and experts from a variety of fields and backgrounds. Build constructive collaborations which bring forth understanding, new ideas and grass-roots social change.



What is an Immersive Arts and Literary Salon?

Imagine a room full of artists, scholars, scientists, activists and philosophers, where you can mingle and draw insight and discovery from unexpected places. There are courses of food and elements to engage all five senses. This is an evening where you can have an intellectual, artistic, culinary experience all in one stop.





Michael Lang

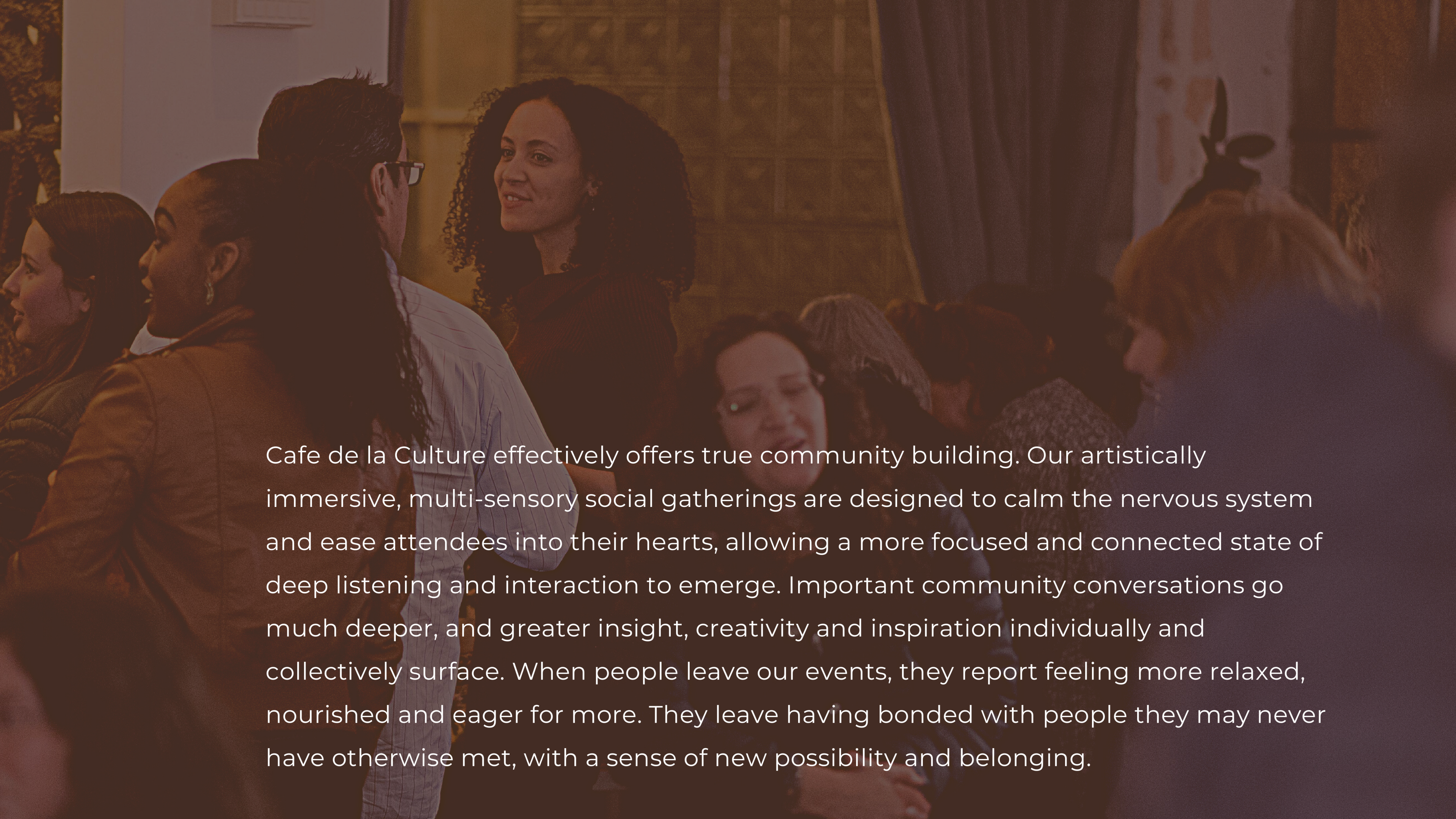
Producer of the Woodstock Concerts

“Delightful, inspiring, energizing,
entertaining and creative...a vibe of vintage...
merged with 21st century consciousness.”

Why This? Why Now?

We live in a polarized culture. People are increasingly suffering from isolation, widespread meaninglessness, loneliness and a lack of deep community belonging. Epidemics of self-harm, eating disorders, depression, social phobia, mass shootings, and suicide continue to rise. Meanwhile, mainstream media and social media platforms reduce the complex problems we face to over-simplified, ideological sound-bytes which make it difficult to find common ground or connection across the divide.

We believe it is urgent to counteract the divisive hate culture that surrounds us. It is urgent that we create spaces where connection and meaningful community conversations can illuminate our common humanity and allow us to deeply connect, celebrate our diversity and collaboratively problem-solve.

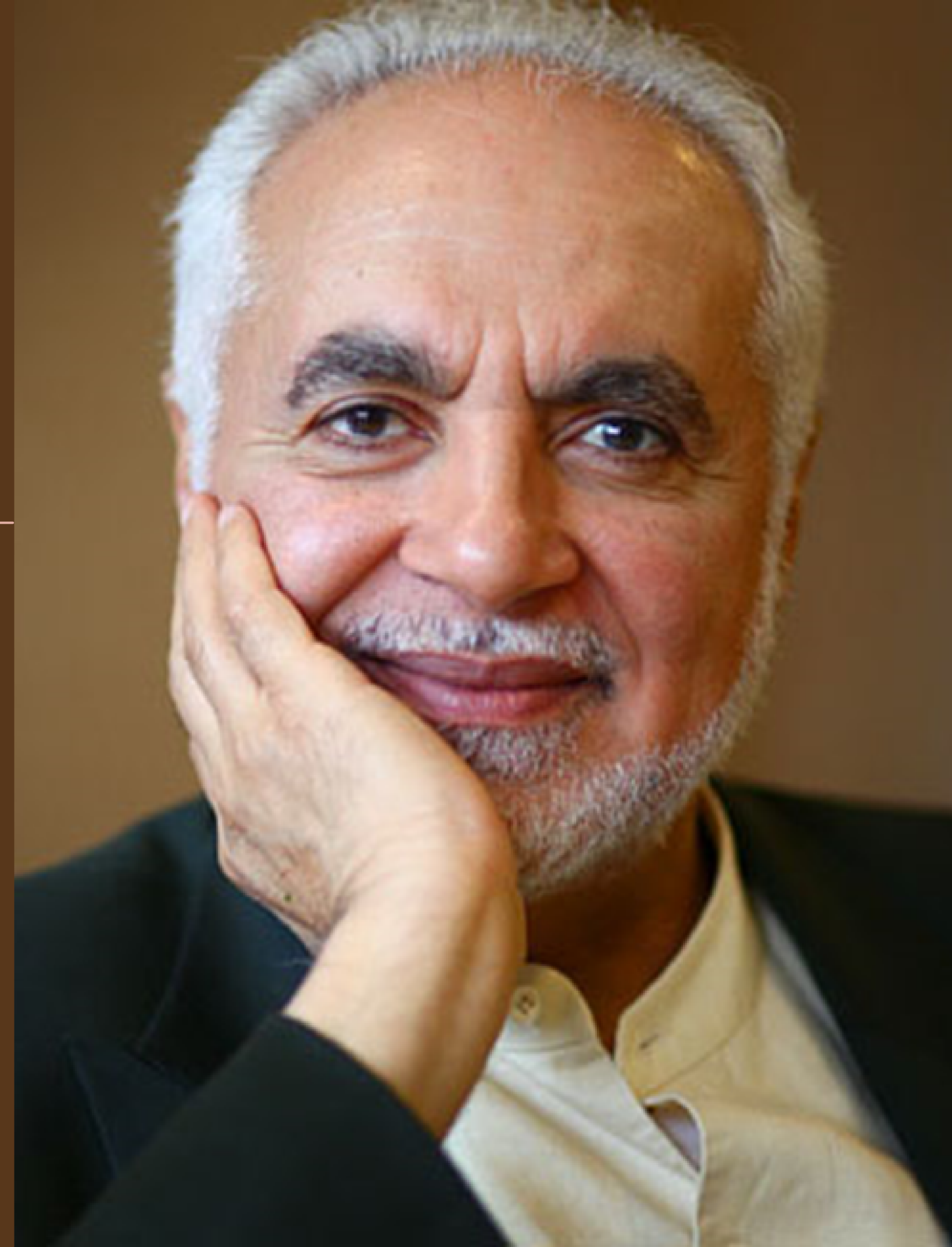
A photograph of a group of people in a social setting, overlaid with a semi-transparent dark orange filter. The people are engaged in conversation, with some looking towards the camera and others looking away. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a window or a wall with some texture.

Cafe de la Culture effectively offers true community building. Our artistically immersive, multi-sensory social gatherings are designed to calm the nervous system and ease attendees into their hearts, allowing a more focused and connected state of deep listening and interaction to emerge. Important community conversations go much deeper, and greater insight, creativity and inspiration individually and collectively surface. When people leave our events, they report feeling more relaxed, nourished and eager for more. They leave having bonded with people they may never have otherwise met, with a sense of new possibility and belonging.

Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf

Kuwaiti American Sufi Imam, Author and Activist

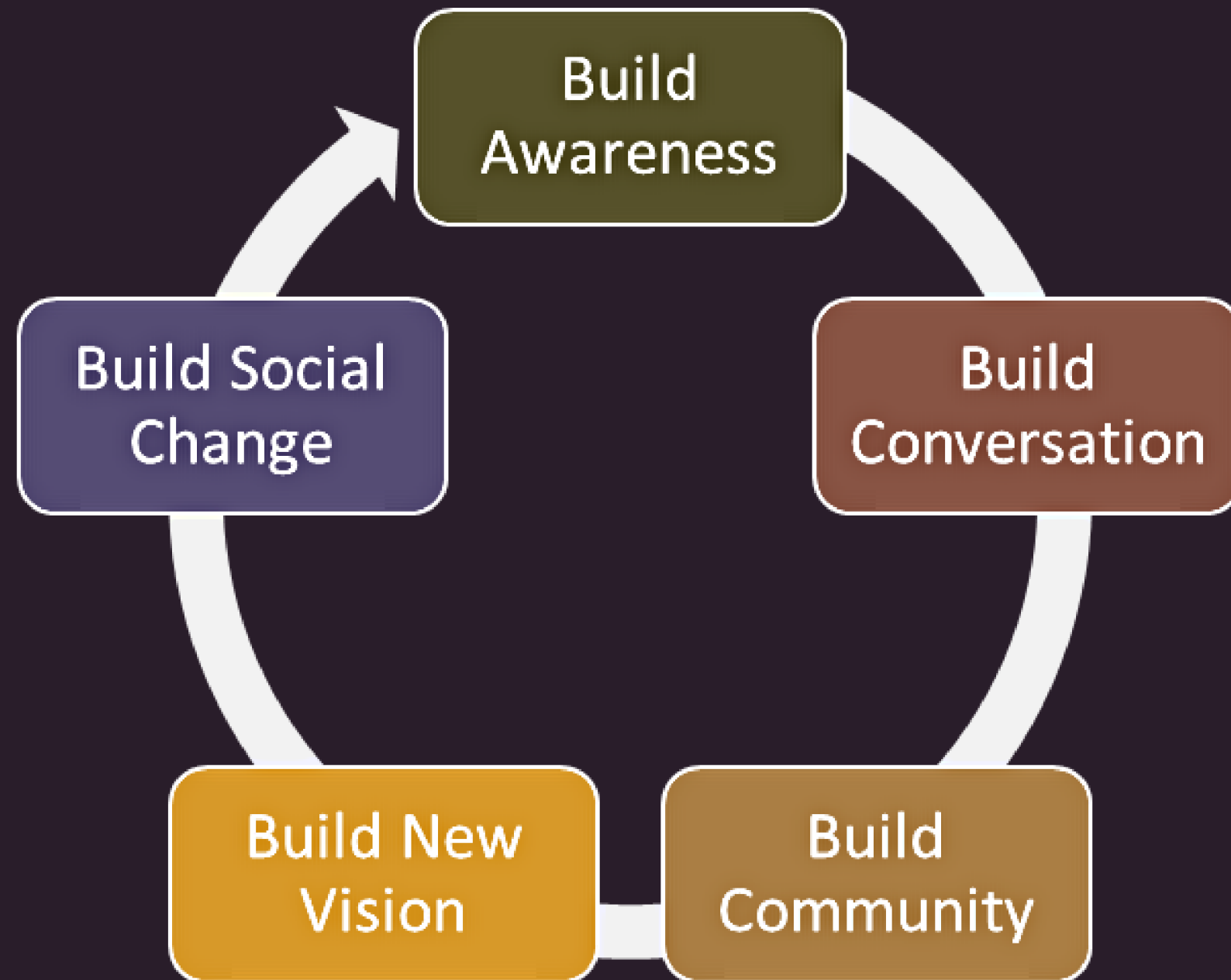
Cafe de la Culture is clearly driven by a vision of unity and understanding among people. I have been amazed by how many lives it touches in meaningful ways by bringing together people of all ages, backgrounds, ethnicities and faiths...This event not only encourages but celebrates diversity and compassion."



We believe that ideas and conversations among diverse people have the power to change attitudes, lives and ultimately, the world.



We are devoted to social change. Here is how we create it.





Carre Otis

Former Supermodel and Current Women's Rights
Activist and Author

“Working with Cara was a highlight. Her focus, passion and dedication to telling the stories that span the spectrum but speak to us all was paramount in my own journey and body of work. I am honored to have collaborated on her panel and join the conversation that is essential to us all and embraces each and every one of us across the board. Thank you Cara!”



Step back in time when Gertrude Stein's legendary salon in Paris was a meeting place for artists, intellectuals and writers. An experience unlike any other.

Our immersive arts and literary salon includes:

- Multi course dinner with featured local chefs
- Panel discussion with activists, academics, and artists
- World music and dance performances
- Spoken word performances
- Art exhibit featuring regional artists and new collections (optional)

Café de la Culture Literary Salons
explore relevant, cross-disciplinary
topics and exemplify how diverse ideas
can intersect and connect

OUR SALONS INCLUDE:

Round Table
Panel

Artistic
Performances

Culinary Arts

Multisensory
Experiences



CHOOSE FROM OUR SALON TOPIC MENU

We customize Café de la Culture events to a wide range of venues..
Bring Café de la Culture to your unique audience and further our mission to spread intersectional ideas.





How Can Happiness Be Measured?

Topics of exploration can include:

- What is happiness?
- Does it make us happy to pursue happiness?
- What is the difference between happiness and joy?
- What is the difference between happiness and meaning?
- What does happiness look like when we remove it from capitalism?
- How does collective joy create wellbeing?

How Do We Define Love?

Topics of exploration can include:

- What forms can love take?
- What is romantic love?
- What is maternal or paternal love?
- What is love for one's country or sports team?
- How does love effect our brain chemistry?
- What is a loving act?
- Does language fail us when it comes to love?
- What is tough love?



What Happens When We Divide Flesh and Spirit?



Topics of exploration can include::

- What is the relationship between the human body and the earth?
- Why have we learned to view the spirit as opposite to the physical world?
- What are examples of cultures that believe that the body is the portal to the spirit?
- What is the relationship of body vs spirit and climate crisis?
- What is eco-feminism?

What Does It Mean To Be An Artist in the 21st Century?

Topics of exploration can include:

- What is art?
- Who gets to call themselves an artist and why?
- Can one claim the title artist for oneself?
- What is the relationship between art and time?
- What is the relationship between art and money?
- Is art a noun or a verb?
- Is art a luxury or a necessity?
- What is the relationship between art and self-doubt?





Customize Your Event

Cafe de la Culture Salons can be customized.

To create a customized event, let us know:

- The audience size you are aiming for
- The community you are wanting to serve
- Your venue size and capacity
- Your budget range
- Desired dates for booking

We will create a package that fits your needs and goals!

Contact Us



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EMAIL

lecafedelaculture@gmail.com

FACEBOOK

[Cafe de la Culture](#)

WEBSITE


cafedelaculture.com

A woman in a black tank top and pants is performing a backbend in a room. She is standing in front of a piano, with her hands behind her head and her back arched. To the left, a guitar is visible. In the background, there is a bookshelf filled with books, a framed picture of a Buddha, and a statue of a person. The room has a warm, yellowish light.

Audience Reviews

“A panel of world class artists and experts together in one room for an evening and the chance to ask them any question you want on a topic you deeply care about...um, yes please! I attended the salon, "What Does It Mean To Be Human?", and left with specific, actionable insights. That’s what matters. A beautiful evening in good company, delicious food, extraordinary artistic performances—these things were all delights. But the fact that I will be referencing this night in my conversations and actions moving forward on a day to day basis -that is of unique value.”

-Adam Agee, Musician, Boulder, CO

A group of approximately ten people are gathered in a dimly lit, eclectic room, likely a living room or a small theater. They are seated on the floor, on a sofa, and in armchairs, arranged in a semi-circle. The room is filled with numerous potted plants, including large ferns and a tall, leafy plant in the background. Several lamps with warm, yellow light are scattered throughout the room, creating a cozy atmosphere. On the left wall, there are three framed posters with the word "CEYLON" at the top. A large, colorful abstract painting is leaning against the wall on the left. The floor is covered with a patterned rug and several white pillows. The overall mood is intimate and collaborative.

“I loved seeing the discussion evolve through counterpoint: between analysis and creative expression, studies and personal stories, the structured and the abstract. This was nothing short of inspiring. I now have more heroes and more to think about and explore...I have heard voices that I might not have heard without seeing and being part of this incredible collaboration.”

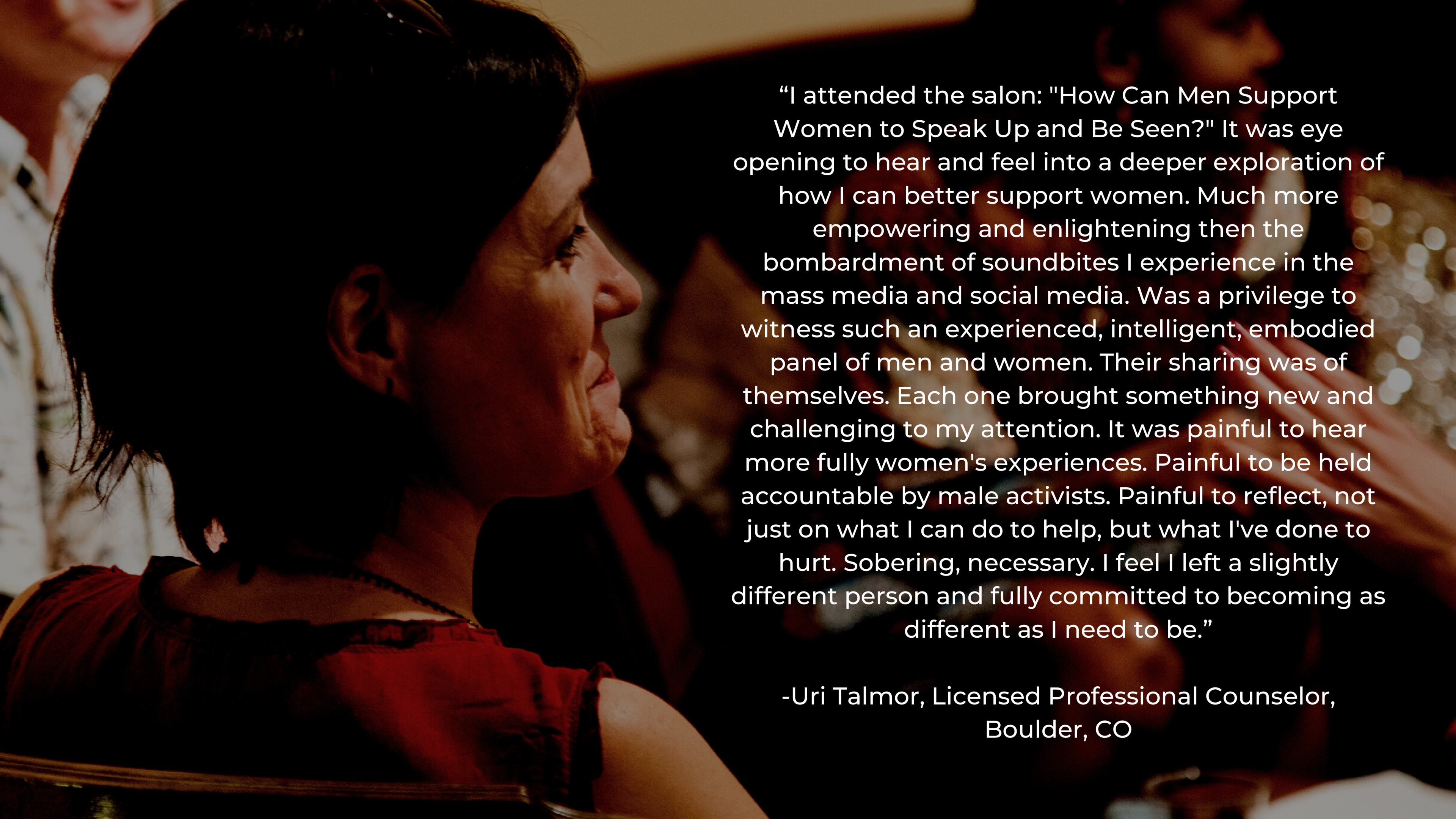
-Geneva Turner, College Student, Woodstock, NY

Theo EJ Wilson

Host of History Channel series "I Was There", TEDx Speaker, CNN contributor

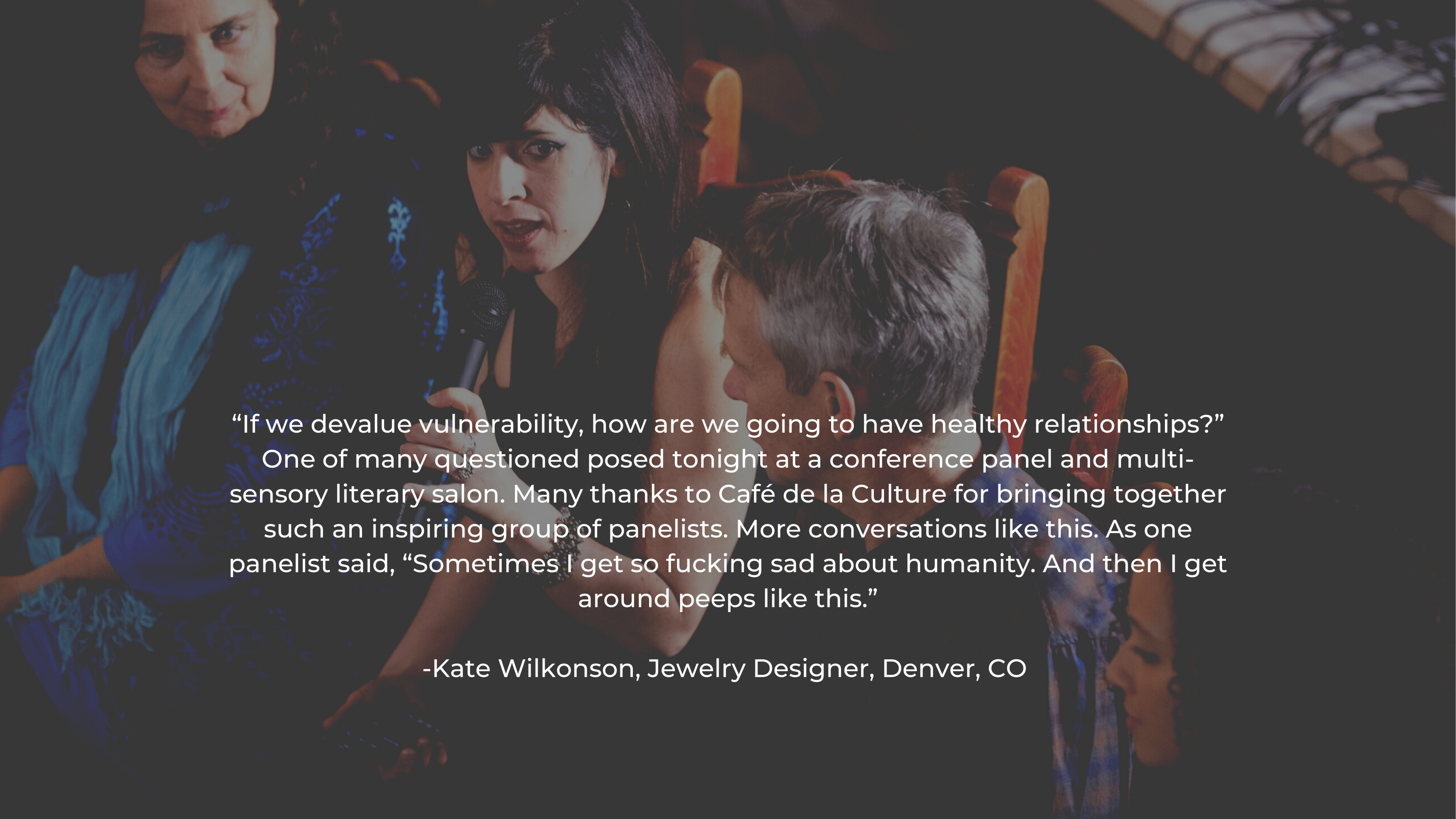
"This work gets granular in how we process trauma into something useful. The presenters are actual survivors of the harmful actions of others and themselves. They let us observe the raw emotion behind their pain, and as we observe their transformation via their art, we are transformed as well."



A woman with dark hair, wearing a red top, is shown in profile, looking towards the right. The background is blurred, showing other people in a social setting. Overlaid on the right side of the image is a white text quote.

“I attended the salon: "How Can Men Support Women to Speak Up and Be Seen?" It was eye opening to hear and feel into a deeper exploration of how I can better support women. Much more empowering and enlightening than the bombardment of soundbites I experience in the mass media and social media. Was a privilege to witness such an experienced, intelligent, embodied panel of men and women. Their sharing was of themselves. Each one brought something new and challenging to my attention. It was painful to hear more fully women's experiences. Painful to be held accountable by male activists. Painful to reflect, not just on what I can do to help, but what I've done to hurt. Sobering, necessary. I feel I left a slightly different person and fully committed to becoming as different as I need to be.”

-Uri Talmor, Licensed Professional Counselor,
Boulder, CO

A photograph of a woman with dark hair and bangs, wearing a black top, speaking into a microphone. She is seated at a table with other people. To her left, an older woman with short grey hair is looking towards the camera. The background is dark and out of focus, showing other people and what appears to be a conference setting. The text is overlaid on the image in white.

“If we devalue vulnerability, how are we going to have healthy relationships?”
One of many questioned posed tonight at a conference panel and multi-sensory literary salon. Many thanks to Café de la Culture for bringing together such an inspiring group of panelists. More conversations like this. As one panelist said, “Sometimes I get so fucking sad about humanity. And then I get around peeps like this.”

-Kate Wilkonson, Jewelry Designer, Denver, CO



Rev. Doc. Matthew Fox

Acclaimed Spiritual Theologian,
Episcopal Priest, and Activist

“A Venue for Visionaries seems like just the right thing in our time where visionary action is so needed. Cara Cruickshank is the ideal leader to inspire the community.”

About the Host

Cara Cruickshank

Cara Cruickshank is a Brazilian-American who has lived in France and the U.S. She is founder, curator and host of Cafe de la Culture. She is writer, director, and producer of theater for social change, including the multimedia theater production "The Alchemy of Imperfection", which premiered in Paris and has toured throughout the U.S. since 2017, exploring female topics that defy cultural boundaries. For the past 15 years Cara has designed and led empowerment, diversity and gender studies workshops, courses and intensives for marginalized and international communities in the U.S., Brazil, Turkey, and France. She has likewise curated and moderated conference panels and round tables nationally and internationally on an array of social justice topics throughout #MeToo, BLM, and beyond. Most recently, Cara has been leading empowerment and holistic education programs for refugee and immigrant youth in the U.S. In 2022 she made public speaking appearances on women's advocacy at Bard College and the University of Michigan, was a featured poet at Spoken Word Paris and a spotlight poet opening for World Slam Champions Rachel McKibbens and Dominique Cristina. Cara currently teaches a self-empowerment and feminism course to Afghan women through Afghan Youth Leaders Assembly.

