OPEN

Open Partnership Education Network

smarter, better connected cities, learning together

EXPLORE

EXPERIENCE

EXCHANGE

OPEN

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ABOUT THIS WHITEPAPER

This whitepaper tells a story of people and their dreams and how these can be woven into the fabric of a community's business, government, social and individual interests. Our protagonists are storytellers of the past and the future. They journey, both alone and together, on a path paved with a shared philosophy of inclusion that translates into verifiable values, clear principles and trusted relationships.

Within the Open Partnership Education Network (OPEN), these creatives tell us about a future that is ours to EXPLORE - the journey's starting point. And of engagements to EXPERIENCE - collaborations where our voice matters. And then, as motivated, to EXCHANGE with others in ways that deliver extended value - the new learning paradigm. These three interconnected OPEN environments shepherd a learner's journey from initial curiosity into the work of involvement and through lasting community impact.

OPEN is a framework with services and systems that create smarter, better connected communities, learning together.

Join us as we move into the new OPEN world.

OVERVIEW
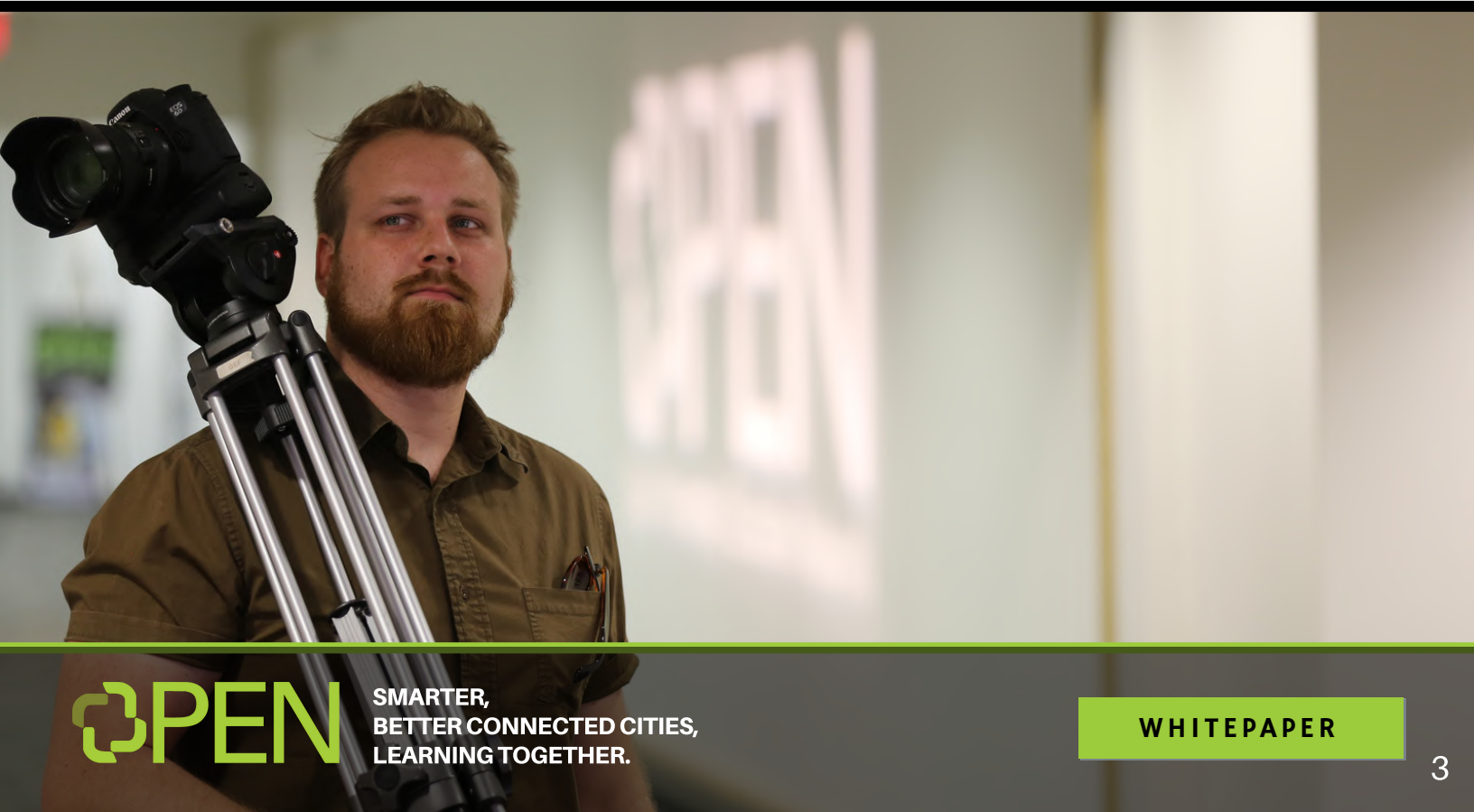
SMARTER, BETTER CONNECTED CITIES... LEARNING TOGETHER

OPEN is there – online and in person – to support the community development process at each step of the way with activities and tools that enable the work of community thought leaders and creators to scale.

Move Into the OPEN

Mission & Vision

OPEN Framework

Roadmap

1.0 MOVE INTO THE OPEN

1.0.1 WELCOME TO THE OPEN WORLD

The OPEN concept presented here moves communities into the forefront of how local social and civic institutions, businesses, city government and citizens come together to build their shared community. In real and working ways, OPEN reflects the best elements of a truly connected community. OPEN provides an online platform of activities, collaboration tools and learning within a single real and electronic environment. Online experiences pair with complementary in-person activities such as speakers, festivals, practical and visionary idea demonstrations, conversations, celebrations and community-of-interest gatherings that occur year-round. The OPEN world invites everyone – for little or no charge – into a stimulating world that dares participants to dream big and act local.

In 2021, OPEN emerges from its birth in a university setting into a broader role as part of the community at large. Here, today, we are all teachers and all learners curiously and actively trying to make sense of the world's complex issues. OPEN begins its new life with gratitude for our heritage and relationships forged over time and ready to be shaped in new ways.

1.1 MISSION AND VISION

1.1.1 MOVING LEARNING, IDEAS AND IMPACT FROM SILOS INTO A DISTRIBUTED WORLD

The Open Partnership Education Network, originally developed out of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg with the support of the Aresty Family Foundation, transforms a city's best ideas, resources and people from silos of expertise and practice into a connected community of innovation and impact. We do this through a framework rooted in open source thinking--where ideas, events and initiatives can grow organically ---and by offering tools to make that happen.

1.1.2 MISSION

OPEN's mission is to make us smarter, better connected cities by making it easier for citizens to be inspired, educated, trained, funded and engaged in practical ways to address the issues we all face.

1.1.3 VISION

OPEN intends to catalyze and support city-scale collaborations in ways that tap the potential of all to learn, engage, share, partner and build future-facing solutions that start in a localized context but impact the world.

1.1.4 GOALS

• Learn from and leverage the diversity and depth in our community, tapping near-at-hand resources, insights and creativity.

• Discover areas of duplication or advancement that can speed performance, reduce waste, and save coordination costs between groups with similar missions.

• Harness technologies that transfer knowledge capital so that cities can learn, act, and grow together.

1.2 OPEN FRAMEWORK

1.2.1 EXPLORE

In EXPLORE, community activities coalesce around general **ideas that drive thematic community dialogue year-round.** These themes serve as gateways that connect learners to a community of shared meaning collectively, yet provide them opportunities to grow into personal relationships and engagement.

1.2.2 EXPERIENCE

In **EXPERIENCE, ideas are brought to life via online and in-person gatherings**: lectures, discussions, large and small events, convenings, socials, festivals, conferences, artistic expression, community news gathering, rich media, and other sources of ideas, inspiration and actions.

1.2.3 EXCHANGE

EXCHANGE is a collaboration environment in which groups define their policies, set standards, shepherd resources and report to others as they set their course and perform on their goals. When appropriate, EXCHANGE facilitates online identity, access, pairing, trades, courses, credentials and transactions so that ideas, teaching, validation, as well as perspectives and skills can be shared easily and broadly.

1.3 ROADMAP

2016-2018
Inaugurate

- Foundational Identity
- Creation of learnOPEN site and wiki (beta)
- Introduce OPEN Framework
- Formalize Core Partnerships
- Launch first OPEN Microevents
- Launch first Signature events
- Build OPEN Reel media, creators network
- First Theme Sponsors (2); Big Idea Award
- Design membership program
- Author first strategic plan

2021
Launch

- Publish OPEN Whitepaper
- Launch independent learnOPEN LLC. & learnOPEN Foundation (nonprofit)
- Reboot OPEN Media assets (.org,.social,media)
- Launch Community Learning System CLMS
- Launch membership program (BETA)
- Deploy learning credentials framework
- Curate 2022-2023 OPEN Season
- Secure theme sponsors
- Develop strategic technology partnerships
- Explore Events on OPEN Reel 360/AR
- Design first learnOPEN Festival

2024-2026
Scale

- Deploy OPEN Framework in other communities
- learnOPEN as model for community-oriented, localized learning, events, credentials, and media
- National-scale OPEN Events
- National-scale OPEN Reel media channel
- National-scale learnOPEN Festival
- Launch Web3 Currency Exchange Model
- Scale OPEN brand / sponsorships

2019-2020 *
Codify

- Codify partnerships and framework
- Refine Proof of Concepts events, media
- Host and Refine signature Featured events (NPR partner)
- Explore new Microevent concepts
- Launch first official OPEN Season (2019)
- First OPEN livestreams
- Refine brand and content
- Identify credentialing platform
- Explore spin off from university as independent enterprise

*Due to COVID-19, all programming ceased Feb. 2020

2022 - 2023
Expand

- Expand OPEN Team
- Launch OPEN Season with Membership Model
- Expand OPEN Reel and other media channels
- Refine endorsement credentials framework in use case
- Test first OPEN experiences in metaverse / 360 / AR
- Expand learnOPEN wiki environment
- Explore blockchain for Community Learning Exchange (CLE)
- Analyze and Refine as Necessary
- Hold first learnOPEN Festival in single use case (2023)

community learning

EXPLORE

A COMMUNITY'S LEARNING JOURNEY BEGINS HERE

We are surrounded by information and opportunities to learn. In EXPLORE, these activities begin the learning journey, serving as gateways that connect the learner with a community in ways that can grow into relationships and engagement.

Smarter Cities
Community Themes
Theme Series Conversations

2.0 SMARTER CITIES

2.0.1 THE COMMUNITY LEARNING PROBLEM

In today's learning paradigm there is a disconnect between the way we engage in community-based events of an intellectual nature, and how these events mature, iterate, and evolve in scope and impact over time. Traditional community learning experiences, such as lectures and workshops, have aspired to transfer information and knowledge gained from these experiences to affect change, yet knowledge flows are now in chaos due to multiple stresses. Today, learning exists in a space with fluid boundaries that are at their core independent from institutions. Put simply, learning is happening everywhere, in ways that are relevant to local and personal interests while connected globally in countless ways. Yet, how to tap into this vast potential learning environment with the ability to capture, verify and scale relevant learning experiences remains elusive. A gap exists between what is being delivered via today's traditional institutions and the unlimited decentralized opportunities for informed, engaged, enlightened learning that leads to action in this electronically connected world. A new learning matrix needs to include the ability to deliver personal, practical value as well as local social action and impact.

DIAGRAM A : CHALLENGE - SILOED COMMUNITY LEARNING

Current Community Learning Paradigm (Closed Systems)

Institution-centric
Silos of Practice
Minor Intersections
Lack of Context
Lack of Cohesion
Deductive processes
Minimal Continuity
Missed Synergies
Redundancies
Mission creep
Fragmentation
High Coordination Costs
No Collective infrastructure

2.0 SMARTER CITIES

2.0.2 A CHAORDIC SOLUTION: THEMATIC COMMUNITY LEARNING

The OPEN Platform proposes a 'chaordic' solution to the community learning challenge– harnessing chaos within the order of an agreed-upon structural framework. By inviting, nudging, suggesting and rewarding open conversations, collaborations and creativity, education (and society) can be transformed from today's focus on teachers-and-learners to peers-working-for-purpose.   Therefore, OPEN provides a meta framework, inspired by inductive open source thinking, from which existing groups can continue to collaborate, tightly or loosely, indefinitely. Here, everyone is a teacher and a learner. Through thematic dialogue, we discover and apply what is amazing about each other's experience and ideas. This new lens of everyone-learning-from-everyone can be both expanded and harnessed via electronic and personal interconnections. Solutions can be easily created that meet the needs of individuals and the community as users morph between teacher-learner relationships.

DIAGRAM B : SOLUTION - THEMATIC COMMUNITY LEARNING

Live Well · Future City · Frontiers · Seeds · Common Ground · Rad Schools

Thematic Dialogue
Community-building
Continuity & Follow-Up
Cross-disciplinary engagement
Reduced redundancies
Rich collaborative media
Incentive alignment
Open governance
Collective infrastructure
Wikis & inductive processes
Community-facing research

2.0 SMARTER CITIES

2.0.3 THEMATIC COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: ENGAGING AROUND WHAT MATTERS TO US

Nurturing and sustaining knowledge societies in a context as diverse as "a city" demands a malleable framework where ideas and views can be shared in their ethereal state, yet provides just enough compartmentalization to inspire cohesion. OPEN accomplishes this through THEMES. Themes encompass ideas that transcend a community in many ways.

OPEN's general programs, tools and events come into play around areas of focus, each defined as a THEME. A theme is a multi-dimensional topic that touches almost everyone in the community in one way or another – today and long-term. OPEN invites all of our voices, ideas, resources and engagement to converge within the context of each theme. As concepts become more clearly defined through collaboration, OPEN empowers solution proponents with connections to expertise, resources and potentially even funding to bring these themes to life through experiences and community-led initiatives.

Common Ground   Future City   Live Well   Rad Schools   Seeds

2.1 COMMUNITY THEMES

2.1.1 IDENTIFYING & CURATING THEMES

Themes are not concrete subjects, like "technology", but rather abstract motifs, like "common ground" or "seeds", that capture the essence of a transcendent idea in a binding but non-dominant way. Themes are identified informally through OPEN partner dialogue and interactions, and codified formally by the inductive OPEN process and systems, including OPEN directors which serve the role of their namesake--to *direct* energy, ideas and resources through a current of momentum.

By taking a transparent, cross-organizational, and "open" approach to community learning, resources migrate organically to practical uses, and themes that transcend a city begin to take hold. This process makes us, literally, smarter, better-connected citizens learning together – through OPEN. OPEN seeks to do this by infusing the principles of Open Innovation (OI) and Open Source (OS) thinking into how communities learn and build solutions together. "Openness" as a broad paradigmatic approach has increasingly become an area of interest for scholars across a wide range of disciplines and industries. Recent research into "open" or "openness" has focused on the changing knowledge landscape of long-established and conventional methods, processes, and techniques across different industries and organizational structures. (Balser, Diasio, and Kendal 2020; Media, Technology and Education in a Post-Truth Society, 2021).

DIAGRAM C : CLOSED SYSTEMS / SILOED COMMUNITY LEARNING
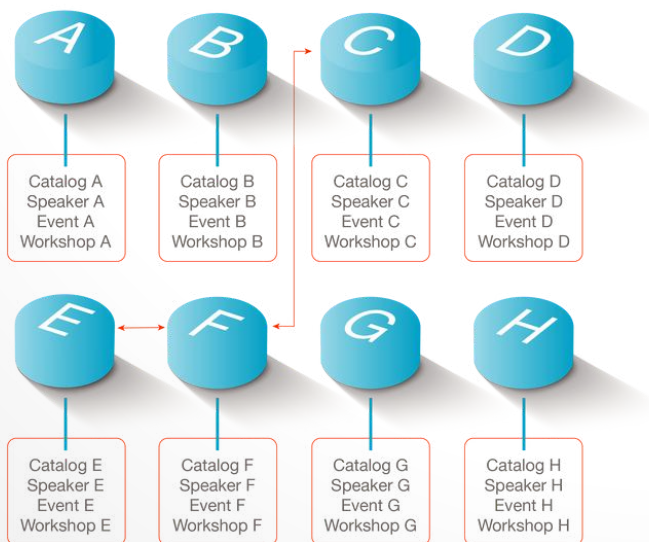
In a **Closed** Paradigm, individual organizations provide insiders (members, constituents, donors) access to learning and credentials. Learning-oriented events and experiences originate and are fulfilled through a single organization, or series of organizations acting in isolation. Cross-silo collaborations are often deductive (a prescribed purpose to be met) and redundant (multiple actors doing similar tasks), resulting in higher coordination costs for all.

2.1 COMMUNITY THEMES

2.1.2 THEME LEADERSHIP

Today's "chaordic" world requires each of us to serve as a leader at some point, and to join in concert with other leaders to imagine the world we seek to build together. OPEN is our support partner for that journey.

Theme leaders are self-assigned or may be recommended by other partners to work alongside OPEN Director(s) to shape a themes' priorities. Theme leadership is an evolving and self-organizing process rooted in openness and inclusion. "Leaders" are not derived by their institutional affiliation but emerge from all walks of life. Professors, activists, poets and freelancers are all welcomed equally to participate--and lead.

2.1.3 THEME FACILITATION

OPEN's Theme Leadership brings leaders to light within the context of community and cause. Here, we navigate the dance between reality and possibility as we explore bold, perhaps even controversial, ideas for change. OPEN's informal convening and exchange capabilities invite each of us to discover our passion for stepping out, risking and exploring. As our collective suggestions resonate with others, we can develop like-minded communities to explore, test and refine ways we can thrive together.
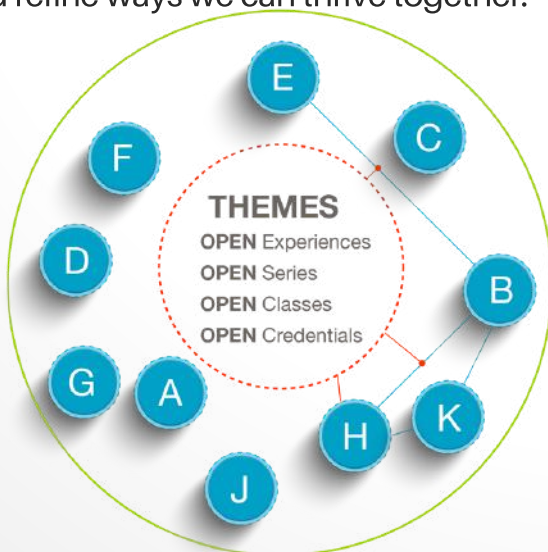
DIAGRAM D : OPEN COMMUNITY LEARNING

In an **OPEN** Paradigm, a loose framework is provided to stimulate inductive collaboration, co-creation and refinement between a constellation of community players. Open source principles, coupled with emergent technologies, allow community capital to be identified transparently, thus synergies are better aligned and institutional silos break down in favor of commonly defined deliverables.
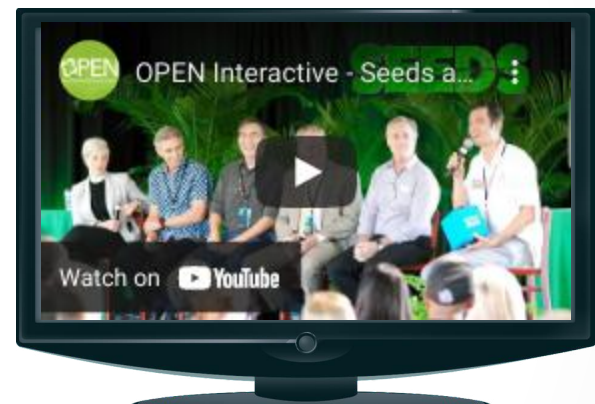
2.1 COMMUNITY THEMES

2.1.4 LAUNCHING THEMES

Themes are formally launched each year through a community-galvanizing event, such as a festival. The idea is to leverage ongoing events synergistically, thus infusing an intellectual dimension into an already existing cultural happening.

For a beta use case, OPEN partnered with the Et Cultura Festival (EtC) to launch four themes in St. Petersburg, Florida. OPEN and EtC co-produced dynamic interactive sessions featuring over 100 speakers across multiple venues throughout the city. Each day of the festival dedicated conversations to a particular theme, each curated by an inaugural cohort of theme leaders. OPEN themes included: **Seeds** – *Sustainable Healthy Food and Urban Agriculture;* **Radical Schools** *– A Fresh Take on Learning through Music and Sports;* **Future Cities**– *Building a Smart, Inclusive city for All; and* **Live Well** – *Habits for Healthy Eating and Living.*

2.1.5 THEME SOCIALS

Beyond theme launches, the OPEN program supports continued networking and socials so thought leaders in a community can connect, share, and build forward-facing solutions in the city. Utilizing funky and caring holding environments, theme leaders can explore and curate a season's priorities; they can expand on topics, speakers and events; and they can build projects utilizing OPEN tools.

SEEDS THEME LAUNCH

2.2 THEME SERIES

Within themes, a community may choose to focus on a specific topic over time by curating a *Series*. The purpose of a Series is to provide additional context to a complex challenge broadly speaking, but to land on these challenges in a localized context with actionable purpose.

2.2.1 *OUR DILEMMA SERIES*

For example, in a Series titled "Our Dilemma", local thought leaders intersecting technology, media, and wellness may explore the effects of social media and emergent technologies on society. Through the series, participants will identify how these developments manifest in their respective locality, and they land on tangible initiatives for addressing these challenges moving forward.

2.2.2 *GOOD INTENTIONS SERIES*

In a "Good Intentions" series, civic and community leaders may explore the effects of policies related to education, voting, or urban planning that have affected groups in varying ways. The purpose of this series is to retreat from oft-myopic and time-bound discourse, which in turn results in polarizing or biased stances. By framing conversations from a standpoint of positive intentions, yet acknowledging multiple lenses, a community of engaged participants deconstruct why policies emerged, confront the effects of these policies, and construct a new path forward in a civic context.

CONVERSATIONS

EXPERIENCE

GALVANIZING MOMENTS TO
INSPIRE LIFELONG LEARNING

An "event " is just the beginning of community learning in the OPEN.

OPEN Partnerships
OPEN Events
OPEN Media
OPEN Membership
Emergent Experiences

3.0 OPEN PARTNERSHIPS

3.0.1 TIMELY CONVERSATIONS, TOGETHER

Partnerships – from formal to simply collaborative – are at the heart of OPEN's ability to create change.   Therefore, from the onset OPEN has deployed a "think cooperative" (vs think tank) philosophy to move intellectual groups into a collective Open Partnership Education Network. OPEN helps these activities get organized, attract participants and supporters, and perhaps even establish business-like practices that enable the work to scale. OPEN's tools and services speed connections, agreements and performance.

DIAGRAM E : OPEN PARTNERSHIP MUTUAL BENEFITS

How OPEN Supports **Partners**	How Partners Support **OPEN**
OPEN provides a framework for partners working on similar topics to communicate, share, and collaborate more transparently	Partners engage in the OPEN Wiki by posting their ideas, providing feedback, and offering resources to others in the OPEN community
OPEN provides resources (co-sponsorship, production, and marketing assistance) to support or create learning experiences in the community	Partners collaborate with OPEN and other partners to craft, co-sponsor, and connect co-created learning experiences (speaker events, panels, workshops)
OPEN hosts a web portal, learnopen.org, that connects the public to intellectual learning experiences offered by partners	Partners make their public calendars and social media properties available to synchronize with the learnOPEN portal
OPEN and Community Festival host a yearly event where themes are launched (and capstoned) through powerful interactive sessions within the community	Partners tap into their networks to organically attract national thought leaders to the community and create next-level interactive sessions

3.0 OPEN PARTNERSHIPS

3.0.2 SYNERGISTIC CO-PRODUCTIONS

Co-productions between ethos-aligned organizations illustrate a more resourceful and vibrant living organism, with deeper content and relevance to one's community. OPEN moves community conversations into synergistic experiences by promoting inclusive holding environments that leverage assets and capture sustainable synergies. Productions are intentionally designed to unite national speakers and community members through rich content and collective voices to build momentum. These formative learning experiences empower people to connect in real time and make lasting links to the content and each other, many of which drive policy and carry over to other events or nebulous wiki discussions. While OPEN ignites communities through these galvanizing productions, it also exhibits the potency of partnerships.

CO-PRODUCTION ON MEDIA AND CIVIC DISCOURSE

*As a beta use case, OPEN partnered with National Public Radio (NPR) to host a national broadcast of 1A with Joshua Johnson. OPEN convened prominent partners to host a conversation on media and civic discourse, which aired live to a sold out audience and broadcasted nationally. Partners included **National Public Radio (NPR)**, the **Poynter Institute**, and local NPR affiliates **WAMU** and **WUSF**.*

TRUTH SEEKERS

3.1 OPEN EVENTS

3.1.1 MICROEVENTS

Through Microevents, OPEN offers a supportive, non-hierarchical environment for collaboration – come and go as you please, connect as you like, have fun in the process. Neighborhood communities, individuals and dedicated groups bring ideas into being around localized events – encompassing not only discussions, but hands on demonstrations, film screenings and more. OPEN leverages its resources to elevate the reach of local groups, such as nonprofit agencies, schools, universities, or even non-institutional players. Microevents empower the business, civic and cultural leaders in the community to work together in new ways with each other and with individuals and small groups whose ideas may envision the future differently. OPEN is there – online and in person – to support the community development process at each step of the way – particularly those emerging within OPEN's themes. OPEN helps these activities get organized, attract participants and supporters and perhaps even establish business-like practices that enable the work to scale.

COMMUNITY STORYTELLING

OPEN-facilitated partnerships and ideas have come to life throughout in every corner of city life. Dedicated groups have used the OPEN platform and brand to bring ideas into being around themes like immigration, climate change, and urban gardening – encompassing not only demonstration gardens but also the changes in city regulations to change policies (see use cases).

PEACE LEADERS

3.1 OPEN EVENTS

3.1.2 SIGNATURE SPEAKERS

For next-level intellectual engagement, the Signature Speaker Series brings leading thinkers from across the country—and perhaps world—into a community's midst. Signature Speakers are embedded as keynotes into existing conferences, mini-conferences, or festivals. Likewise, multiple partners may join forces to co-produce a stand-alone Signature event. This approach leverages OPEN's resources to elevate the reach of local groups, such as nonprofit agencies and universities; yet collectively, Signature events can tell a story far beyond their original setting.

The Signature Speaker Series is a living example of the open source, co-production philosophy in action for the benefit of smarter cities in any context. The Signature Speaker model is designed so that other philanthropists may support similar distributive approaches to advance community learning.

PAST SIGNATURE SPEAKERS

Jeff Goodell - Writer & Rolling Stone Editor
Geoffrey Canada - Education Disruptor
Charlie Shrem - Crypto Pioneer
Jeff Speck - Author & Urban Planner
Gilbert King - Pulitzer-winning Historian
Roxanne Meadows - Futurist & Co-founder of Venus Project
Hedrick Smith - Pulitzer-winning Journalist

REBELS & PIONEERS

3.1 OPEN EVENTS

3.1.3 CONFERENCES AND FESTIVALS

OPEN is a strategic partner to festivals and conferences, responsible for jointly planning speakers and other interactive programming. OPEN helps curate conversations with outside experts and local leaders through presentations, panel discussions and interactive in-person experiences, including solution demonstrations. These gatherings construct learning gateways through experiential opportunities and funky holding environments. This provides contributors a
lively system to breathe vibrancy and momentum into their respective communities while simultaneously attracting new audiences who may have engaged for other reasons.

MOVING CONFERENCES & FESTIVALS TO IMPACT

In a beta use case, OPEN partnered with University of South Florida faculty to support the Conference on Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR). Through the collaboration, partners invited national thought leaders to the city on multiple occasions to heighten awareness and discussions on coastal adaptation and the sensitivity of the environmental landscape.

DISRUPTORS

3.2 OPEN MEDIA

3.2.1 OPEN REEL MEDIA

Robust digital media is essential for reaching a modern audience, sustaining engagement with that audience, and maintaining cohesion across mediums. OPEN's Media domain enables participants to capture their interests in digital formats shaped as news, opinions, ideas and other types of programming.

The MEDIA domain within OPEN operates in areas of both content creation and content delivery. This domain serves learners, leaders, faculty, local filmmakers, documentarians, traditional and alternative news organizations, celebrities, activists, visitors and ordinary folk.

Everyone has a story to tell, an opinion to express, a contribution to make-- and nothing connects this better than rich digital media.

OPEN supports the creation of professionally-produced, community-sourced media speaking to topics raised in OPEN themes.

ARTER,
ETTER CONNECTED CITIES,
LEARNING TOGETHER.

3.2 OPEN MEDIA

3.2.2 OPEN CHANNEL

In most cities, average community members are becoming enlightened storytellers in ever-creative ways—through social media, video, podcasts and more. OPEN Reel offers a home, contextually placed around themes, for these stories to live, thrive and intersect. Whenever possible OPEN creators collaborate to showcase content and ideas related to activities such as speaker events, festivals and special programs. The OPEN Channel and co-branding "bumpers" provide a Network reach from which creators can grow their respective craft, brand, and audience.

3.2 OPEN MEDIA

3.2.3 OPEN NEWSLETTERS

For community connections, OPEN collaborates with leaders and organizations to share intellectual activities and happenings in the city. The OPEN Newsletter collates news of an intellectual nature, projects, upcoming events, and other learning-related content in a single periodic newsletter.

3.2.4 OPEN SOCIAL MEDIA

OPEN incorporates a rich social media presence to support all groups, especially organizations with smaller audiences. This includes active engagement and cross-promotion of related content to connect like-minded groups, host or co-distribute podcasts, webinars, even online events.

3.2.5 OMNIMEDIA

Beyond digital platforms, OPEN invests in engagement where community members can touch and feel experiences in a tactile manner. This maximizes inclusive, multi-generational participation across all modalities. Examples include elegant flyer art incorporating branding from diverse agency interests.

3.3 OPEN MEMBERSHIP

3.3.1 MEMBERS HAVE A MORE IN-DEPTH EXPERIENCE

For those who wish to explore ideas more deeply, OPEN offers various benefit-rich categories of annual membership. Individuals may participate as an OPEN *Associate, Fellow, Scholar* or *Luminary* member. In addition, local businesses and those seeking VIP experiences may choose *Academy* and *Emeritus* memberships, respectively. Each OPEN member is issued an electronic member-identification badge which can be displayed privately or shared publicly. This system is currently in development, but is expected to include an electronically-recognizable identity that will enable members to receive incentives for engaging in the OPEN. The OPEN Member journey is focused on the one finite resource we can all choose to share---our time. Therefore, the OPEN membership model allows participants to engage through a variety of means, with Benefits, Attributes, and Costs as follows:

OPEN Member Learner Journeys

	ASSOCIATE	FELLOW	SCHOLAR	LUMINARY	EMERITUS	BUSINESS
PROFILE WHO IS THIS?	Casual learner, curious	Casual learner, curious, professional	Working professional, emerging leader, entrepreneur	Mature professional, civic/ academic/ business leader, policy driver	Mature professional, retired,socially active, influencer	Organizational leader, entrepreneur
EXPLORE WHAT IS MEMBER SEEKING FROM ENGAGING IN OPEN?	Entertainment, networking	Cultural-Intellectual stimulation, casual networking	Professional knowledge, networking, Credentials, Badging	Social Impact, Projects, Co-Creation	Social Impact, Enlightenment, VIP experiences	Enlightened, socially active /engaged/ aware teams, Credentials
EXPERIENCE HOW IS MEMBER ENGAGING IN OPEN EVENTS?	Attends 1-2 OPEN events per year	Attends 2-3 OPEN events per year	Attends 3-5 OPEN events per year	Attends 3-5 OPEN events per year; Theme leader events	Attends 3-5 OPEN events per year; VIP events; Field Trips	Attends 3-5 OPEN events per year; Private Engagements
MEDIA HOW IS MEMBER ENGAGING WITH OPEN MEDIA?	Follows OPEN social media; Scans Newsletter	Engages in OPEN social media; Reads Newsletter, Views Videos	Engages in OPEN nanocourses; Tries Emergent Media & Gamification	OPEN Newsletter closely; Co-create OPEN Videos	Augmented Learning, Gamification	Featured in OPEN Newsletter and Media
CREATION HOW DOES MEMBER ENGAGE IN THE OPEN ECOSYSTEM?	Follows a few projects loosely	Casual project tracking, voting	Micro-credentials, Projects, Blockchain DAOs	Curates OPEN Wiki, Projects, DAOs, OPEN Governance	Contribute to community funds, projects	Employees contribute to OPEN projects
EXCHANGE HOW DOES MEMBER ECHNAGE IN THE OPEN ECOSYSTEM?	Casual User	Yearly Membership	Yearly Membership + Credentials	Yearly Membership & Social Capital	Yearly Membership + Limited Engagements	Per employee + Credentials

OPEN

SMARTER, BETTER CONNECTED CITIES, LEARNING TOGETHER.

3.4 INTER-EXPERIENCES

3.4.1 IMMERSIVE LEARNING

OPEN brings a panoramic vision to learning that harnesses all sides of a story and experience. In doing so, OPEN seeks to leverage partnerships that will inspire Augmented Reality (AR) opportunities, and we seek to capture most OPEN original events through 360 degree vistas. Creatives and editors nurture a story via technology that allows participants to 'be there' live ---before, during, and after the event.

3.4.2 METAVERSE LEARNING

OPEN Members will have access to additional angles and experiences that transport them into virtual holding environments, link them to themes in deeper ways, and connect them to relevant content through technology-enhanced augmentation.

These inter-experiental opportunities may be implemented at inception, such as offering immersive 360 camera angles at a speaker event; or, they may be layered into courses at a later time, such as producing a virtual rendering of a community garden or an artists' workshop. Each experience offers a flexible "entry" and infinite points of interest to continue one's learning journey.

3.4.3 GAMIFICATION

Member benefits at events may include discounts, priority seating, drinks, food or other hospitality. With the envisioned electronic and engagement technology, OPEN members will likely be able to engage in fun contests, educational games, friendly team competitions that connect members with topics and ideas. These fun diversions help members develop relationships around ideas, opportunities, and incentives.

EXCHANGE

A ROUNDABOUT OF IDEAS, ACTION, AND IMPACT

Utilizing the OPEN framework, workgroups mature into trustworthy and practical learning networks. OPEN's ideas network frees individuals and groups to imagine learning possibilities without limits.

A Think Cooperative
OPEN Platform
OPEN Micro-Credentials
Ecosystem & Use Cases

4.0 A THINK COOPERATIVE

4.0.1 MOVING KNOWLEDGE SOCIETIES INTO TRUSTWORTHY LEARNING NETWORKS

Recent research into "open" or "openness" has focused on the changing knowledge landscape of long-established and conventional methods, processes, and techniques across different industries and organizational structures (Balser, Diasio, & Kendall 2021). Specifically, "there is an emerging trend in viewing organizational culture, in general, and innovation and creativity, in particular from a network perspective" (Zou & Yilmaz, 2011 p.55). The transition from the industrial age to the information age has forced institutions to transform into knowledge societies (Castells & Cardoso, 2005). The urgency to leverage this energy for the common good at the community level has never been greater, thus OPEN seeks to do this infusing an ethos of "openness" into how communities learn and build solutions together, specifically utilizing the principles of Open Innovation (OI) and Open Source (OS) thinking, and we seek to couple this with tools to reinforce this ethos. Collectively, we envision this as a Community Learning Exchange (CLE) powered by the learnOPEN Platform.

4.0.2 COMMUNITY LEARNING EXCHANGE

OPEN services enable a decentralized consortium of agencies and individuals to engage in the co-creation of policies and practices through community conversations, public speaker engagements, panel discussions, workshops, conferences, and other learning and educational opportunities. OPEN-powered experiences are offered at little or no cost to the general public.

As envisioned, CLE is designed to enhance the sharing and reporting capabilities of small and large programs that take place within complex community initiatives. This may be accomplished via API-linked, open source technology services, such as a mobile app, learning management system (LMS), wiki, distributed (blockchains), decentralized applications (dApps), as well as distributed governance mechanisms such as Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs).
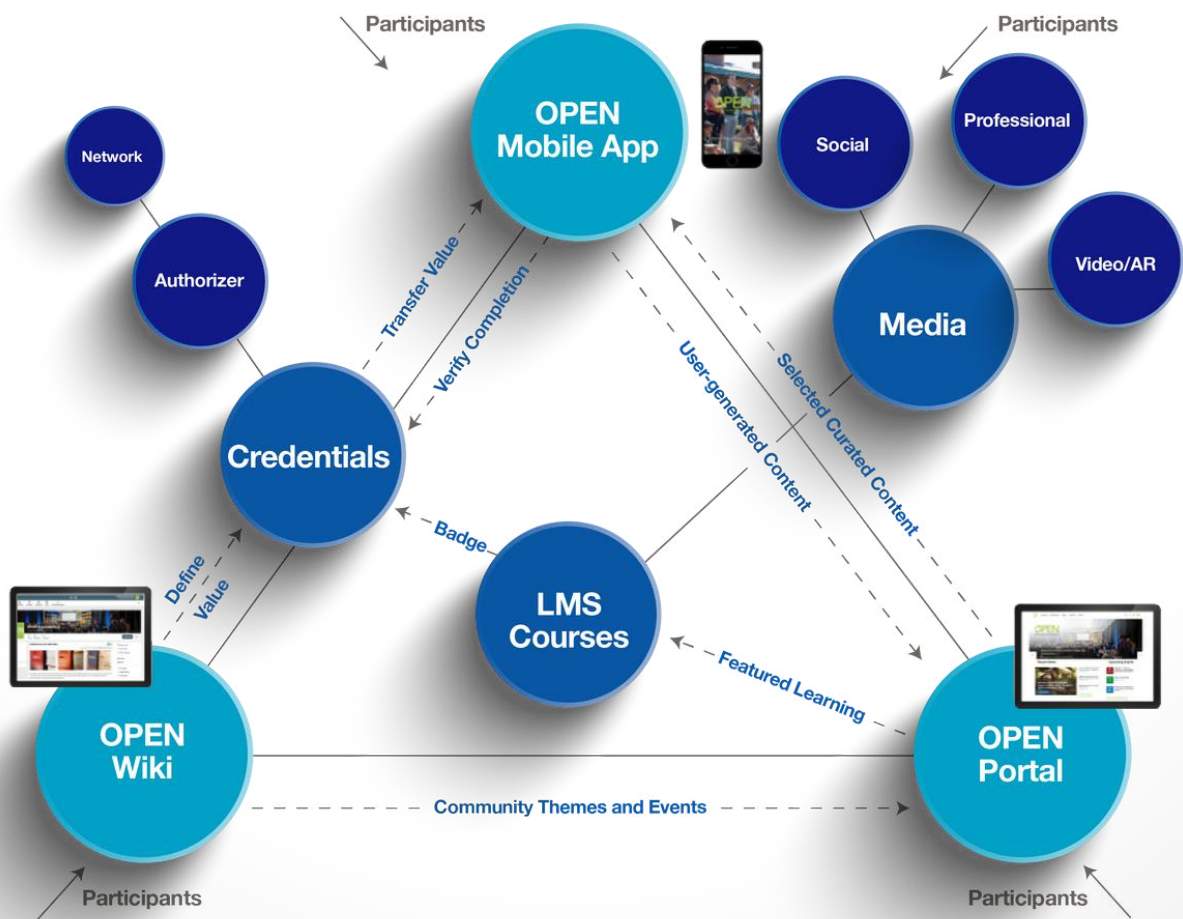
4.1 LEARNOPEN PLATFORM

4.1.1 OPEN PLATFORM FUNCTIONS

OPEN is envisioned as an open source, eventually block-chain enabled, human-centered, and technology-enhanced platform that enables OPEN users and projects to develop and self-curate iteratively, over time. In a networked world - in the OPEN world - hierarchical structures morph into peer-based designs and self-governed work. OPEN acts as a distributed "community institute" platform that helps municipalities, agencies, local foundations, schools, and business groups build sustainable and continuous community-facing dialogue and solutions. The learnOPEN platform acts as a technology aggregator of open-source content and capabilities. It is responsible for delivering user Experiences, and for design and management of a smoothly integrated community.

DIAGRAM F : LEARNOPEN PLATFORM SNAPSHOT
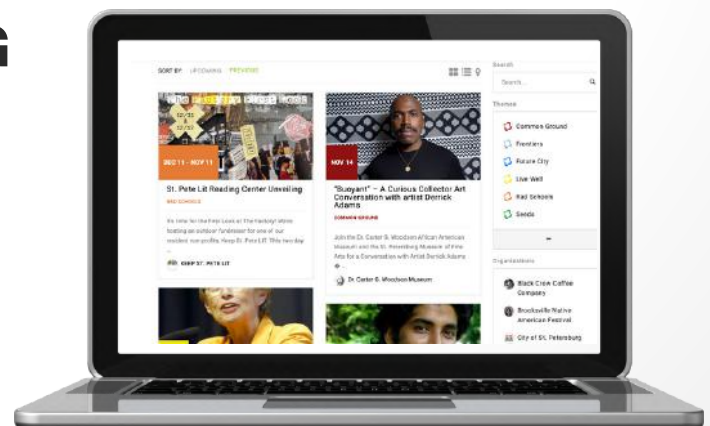
4.1 LEARNOPEN PLATFORM

4.1.2 A COMMUNITY LEARNING PORTAL

Most OPEN users will enter the OPEN ecosystem via the learnOPEN.org portal. This is a public hub, an online gateway that features people, actions and programs that are shaping communities in a city, now. LearnOPEN.org offers the public an intuitive web-based destination to connect to intellectual experiences offered in person and virtually in the community.
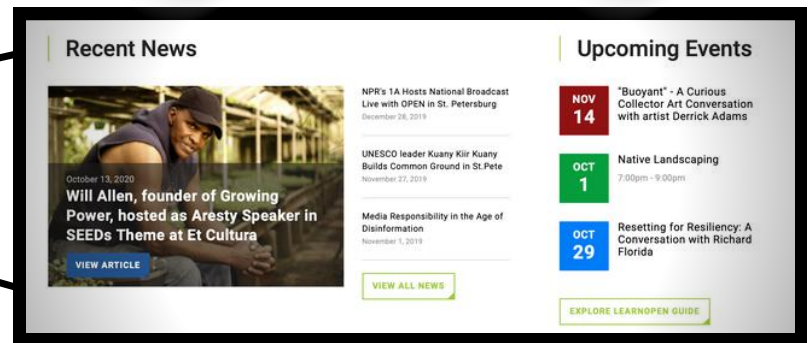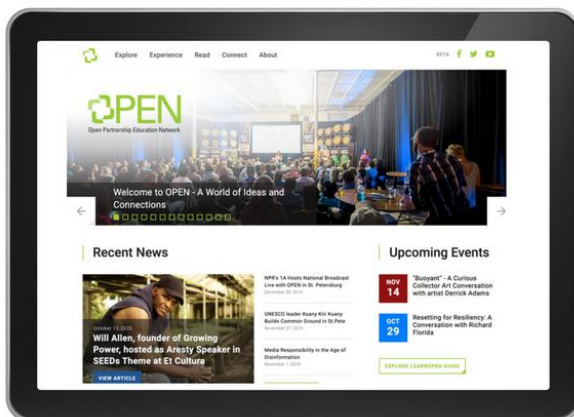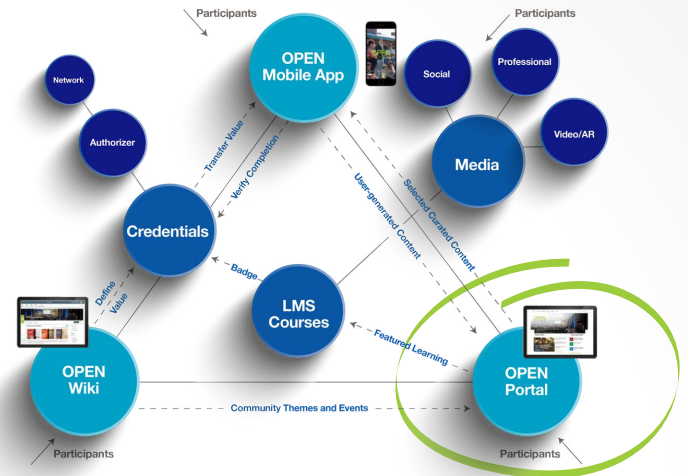
4.1.3 SEARCH FOR LEARNING

The learnOPEN portal offers a filterable index so citizens can find learning experiences by theme, date and time, or by organization. In addition to sharing upcoming events, the database serves as as a virtual repository of a city's intellectual offerings over a lifetime. In time, these data can be organized, distilled, and shared to capture valuable snapshots of a city's learning "DNA".
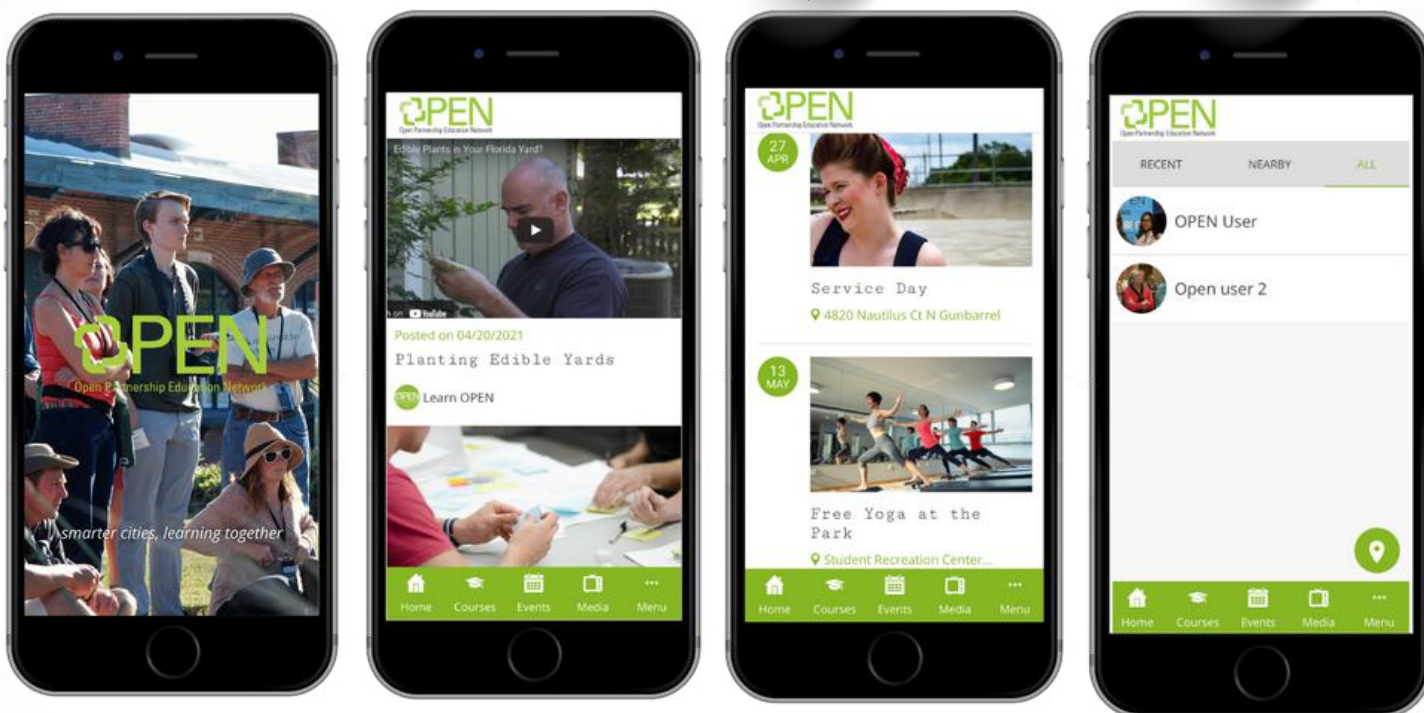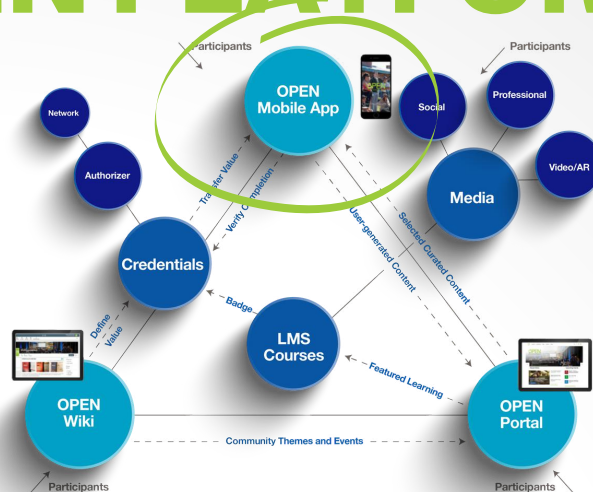
4.1 LEARNOPEN PLATFORM

4.1.4 OPEN MOBILE APP

The "OPEN App" is the gateway for cross-directional content and engagement. OPEN users can download mobile-ready apps in either iOS or Android to engage in community learning as a both a consumer and creator.

4.1.5 LOCALIZED LEARNING JOURNEYS

SHARE

The OPEN App allows users to share ideas, perspectives, comments, and real-time media related to community themes and conversations.

CONNECT

Learning experiences are enhanced by connecting with people and places via geolocation technology, such as taking walks through historical neighborhoods or mural galleries.
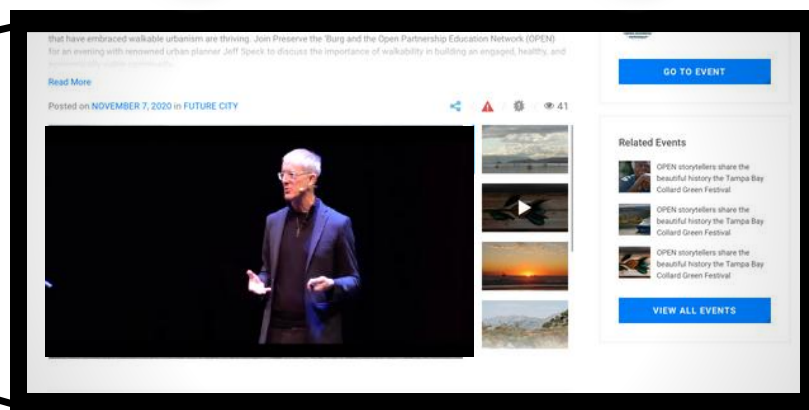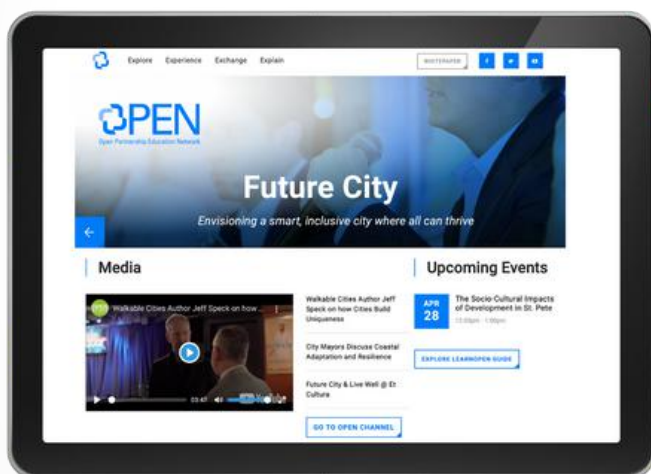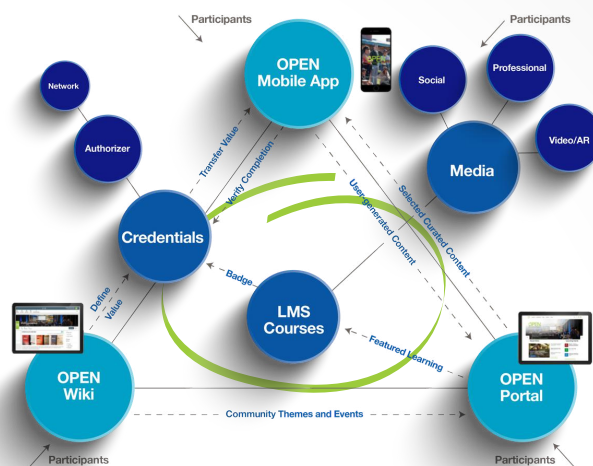
EARN

OPEN members can receive discounts, currency, earned verifiable credentials, and other incentives applied to their avatar and digital wallet via the OPEN App.

4.1.6 LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS)

The learnOPEN portal offers a community-focused Learning Management System (LMS) that facilitates both short-term and "evergreen" learning opportunities in a localized context. For example, a municipality may offer workshops on effective watering techniques, rain barrels, or landscaping with climate-tolerant plants. Or, one-time speaker events can be expanded upon through community-sourced media and learning modules.

4.1.7 A PLACE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

MICROLEARNING

OPEN original and partner Experiences may evolve into courses with learning modules and assessments, professional instructional design, badges and micro credentials --all developed via open source.

MEDIA

OPEN produces and shares short form "sizzlers" and mini documentaries to augment initial experiences to orient community learners to conversations they may have missed in person.

RESOURCES

Additional links to resources, such as books and articles are embedded into experience repositories to provide additional context, depth, and perspectives.

4.1 LEARNOPEN PLATFORM

4.1.8 LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS)

Within the OPEN platform, learners and "teachers" may engage in more formalized educational experiences by participating in and offering featured courses, respectively. Featured Learning Experiences include modules, lessons, demonstrations, and assessments offered for credit such as badges and micro-credentials which can be transferred to a casual learner identity or a formal Learner Employment Record (LER).
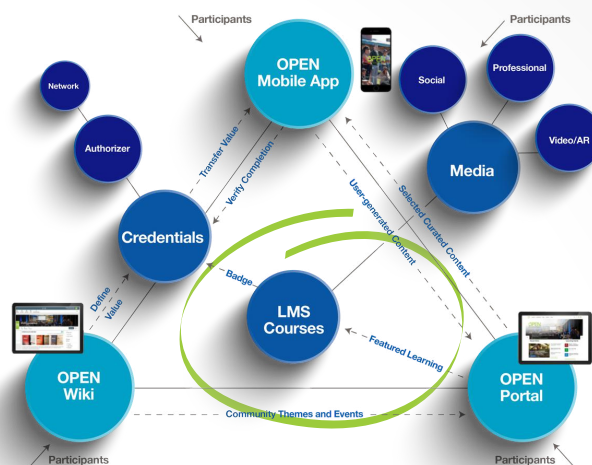
CATALOGS

The OPEN LMS allows creators to host a course on the OPEN LMS and manage the course autonomously using best practices in instructional design (ID), and by blending real-world and virtual learning experiences.

CREDENTIALS

Within the OPEN platform, learners may gain credit for knowledge and skills gained in a single course, or they may receive status upgrades for participating in a series of OPEN experiences within a theme.

4.1.9 THE OPEN LEARNER AND TEACHER IDENTITY

The OPEN LMS begins the journey into peer-based learning by enabling Self-Sovereign Identities (SSIs) with self-curation. Individuals create a personalized identity that goes beyond institutional credentials and embraces individual skills, knowledge and insights that are often unreported in the current institutional-industrial paradigm. The public reporting of certification of public learning - even casual, informal ideas and experiences - adds another dimension to the concept of a 'learning community.' On the OPEN Platform, once a member creates its identity, it becomes available to be searched and matched within the learnOPEN environment. The person's (or group's) identity would capture experiences, such as engaging in community conversations, and apply them to a casual avatar or an LER.

4.1.10 PUBLICALLY-DEFINED MICROCREDENTIALS

OPEN's decentralized network of partners, agencies, institutions, and community creators, create a permissioned consortium of community-based organizations offering formalized credentials and value for learning experiences gained in a localized context. Building on OPEN's theme leader framework and platform, this consortium will decide the objectives, standards and prerequisites for what constitutes a badge or a credential in a distributed community learning paradigm.
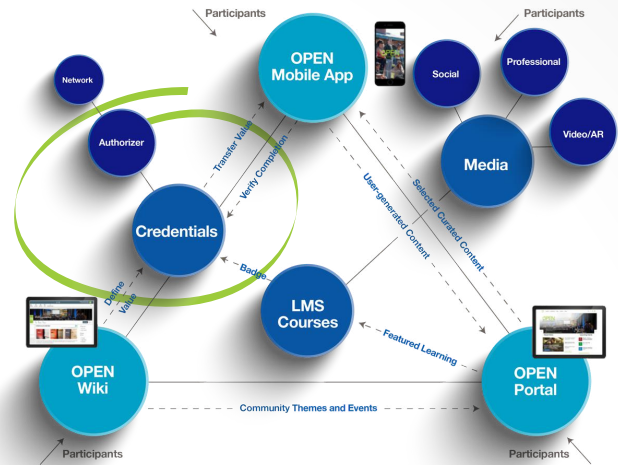
4.1.11 SMARTER CITIZENS, SMARTER CITIES

Initially and ongoing, the LMS and Credentials will be a growing feature of OPEN- and partner-produced community Experiences. In time, members will be able to display the breadth of their contributions to community learning, which in turn may be interpreted as valuable social capital and earned intellectual-cultural status in a city.

Curation of standards and credentials takes place within the OPEN WIKI. Here, the OPEN core team as well as community members conduct governance, curate and present events offered locally, and attach credentials to these experiences either individually or collectively through consesnsus protocols. The theme leader-driven consortium will decide prerequisites of what constitutes a badge or a credential, and will disseminate these opportunities via the OPEN ecosystem. We envision governance, consesnsus-building and distribution of resources to be managed utilizing Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs) described in the *Web3* section of this paper.

4.1.12 THE OPEN WIKI

The WIKI is the embodiment of OPEN's "think cooperative" philosophy that moves intellectual groups out of silos and into a collective open public space. OPEN's Wiki domain is a context for visible, public information collaboration – asking questions, seeking replies, understanding issues in deeper ways. The Wiki's content is a direct mirror of the intellectual culture and innovation occurring within a city.
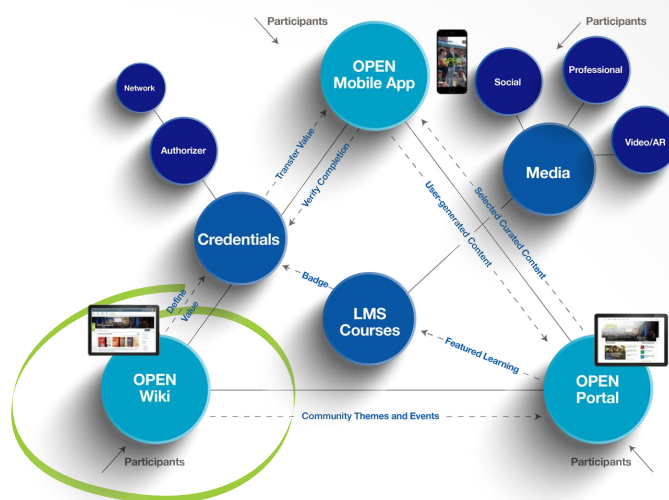
4.1.13 A ROUNDABOUT OF IDEAS & PROJECTS

The Wiki domain serves as a directory through which ideas and resources can be matched with those seeking to collaborate on similar projects. This is a public hub, an online gateway that features people, actions and programs that are shaping communities in a city, now. It enab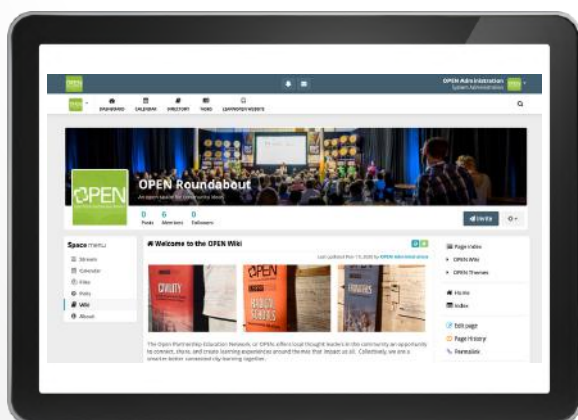les users to find and connect with like-minded people and projects such as the authors, thinkers, organizational leaders, and others offering knowledge or problem-solving expertise. This Whitepaper offers a vision for improving on the initial alpha version with a robust BETA version, and eventually a permanent V1.0 OPEN built on a Web3 (blockchain) architecture.

Workgroups, as communities of interest, can articulate their guidelines, processes, norms and procedures for contributing to—and collaborating in — the work at hand. OPEN directors and theme leaders create the general principles, policies, and norms to manage and curate the content submission posting process, and highlight selected initiatives for broader dissemination using OPEN's various platform tools. In its current prototype form, the Wiki enables users to post and access projects, with permissions, to define and display opportunities as well as related resources, ideas, needs and progress to their teams and to the public.

4.2 WEB3 OPEN LEARNING

4.2.1 OPEN SOURCE GOVERNANCE

The first iteration of OPEN has been an in-the-moment work-in-progress espousing the basic principles of transparency and inclusion via open source dissemination. Moving forward, we aspire to codify this framework and incorporate digital exchange tools to support community governance through formalized open source processes.

An open source philosophy coupled with the integration of emergent technologies expands the vision for how a true 'open source learning community' can work together in a municipal scale ecosystem. We believe that learnOPEN, building on its initial use cases, would be the first region to develop its own (multiple) recognitions for community service standards, engagement, badges, and continued and co-created learning opportunities. Once codified, these guidelines, principles and processes could then be broadly distributed to other community contexts, and vice versa.

4.2.2 DECENTRALIZED AUTONOMOUS ORGANIZATIONS (DAOS)

Like other professional open-source work, all contributions must conform to standards in order for postings to be accepted and ideas moved forward. Blockchain technology offers ways to earn trust by engaging multiple stakeholders in standards development, distributed governance, and system-wide autonomous enforcement of knowledge traffic that flows across a network. By integrating the most compelling and available governance tools, such as **Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs)**, theme leaders can act as a networked Permissioned Consortium whereby the public is informed transparently, and where consensus is managed by a set of participants (Intellictsoft, 2019).

The network's blockchain-enabled autonomous checks-and-balances capabilities may create a self-managed and self-monitored community of standards, users and projects. In implementing this capability, we believe learnOPEN can bring a level of trustworthy verification and transparent management capabilities to engagement that helps align incentives around community learning participation and projects. Blending learning with web3 technologies at its conceptual inception is a promising horizon we are excited to explore and innovate with blockchain partners.

ALIGNED OPEN SOURCE & WEB 3 PLATFORMS THAT MAY BE PART OF THE LEARNOPEN ECOSYSTEM

CARDANO

Polkadot.

POAP

4.2 WEB3 OPEN LEARNING

4.2.3 DIGITAL LEARNER WALLETS (DLTS)

The public reporting of certification and documentation of learning - even casual, informal ideas and experiences - adds another dimension to the concept of a 'learning community.' By working within the OPEN collaboration context, individuals and opportunities can reflect their growth through their learnOPEN identities. Verified learning (as defined by the DAOified theme leader consortium) is closely aligned with employment and volunteer team participation and role definitions.

Self-Curation of broader, even ad hoc, learning experiences reflect one's enhanced and holistic learner identity. In the learnOPEN space, once a user or a project creates its identity, it can be verified and captured on a blockchain and made available to be searched and matched within the learnOPEN environment. Utilizing Smart Contracts and ERC-20 Tokens, OPEN services can trigger actions and unlock latent value of informally-learned skills and capabilities through badges, tests, documentation of honors and by other means. Credentialing criteria, defined by the issuer of the certification, can be captured immutably on a distributed learning ledger and then presented via a user's digital wallet. These certifications (i.e. skill currencies) may be redeemed for immediate purposes, or they may remain "on-chain" for future transfer or use.

ALIGNED INTERNET OF EDUCATION (IOE) PROTOCOLS THAT MAY BE PART OF THE LEARNOPEN ECOSYSTEM

4.2.4 INTEROPERABILITY

The functions described here are intended to be derived from existing tools, or themselves become available, through open source and free software licensing agreements. Over time, learning from a single -focused pilot, we intend to create or contribute to a type of 'plug and play' API (application program interface) that makes OPEN Learning scalable and interoperable. We believe that the envisioned capabilities presented in this paper are bold, yet through collaboration with like-minded technologist groups, achieving this vision is possible within a reasonable period. We expect OPEN learning to grow in its functionality and reach over time as basic capabilities become richer and deeper.

A stretch goal for the learnOPEN ecosystem is a native token or digital currency incorporated into its own blockchain environment as a digital payment or value exchange system. learnOPEN digital wallets will hold one's digital assets or tokens to leverage as payment and rewards for exchange in a community learning context, with protocols and transfer operations leveraging the emergent power and flexibility of Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs).

4.3 OPEN USE CASES

4.3.1 NEW ORDINANCES TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE HEALTHY FOOD

The OPEN program hosted events such as festivals, panel discussions, and micro events to bring together thought leaders in the sustainable healthy food space, urban agriculture, and public policy. Through learning experiences and gatherings, leaders shared ideas to promote cross-cultural understanding and landed on local ordinances to promote sustainable healthy food for all.

LEARNOPEN USE CASE - SEEDS COMMUNITY

OPEN USE CASE

"SEEDS" THEME LEADERS CURATE COMMUNITY LEARNING TO DRIVE IMPACT IN URBAN AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHY FOOD

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

LOCAL & CONTEXT-SPECIFIC

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

FOCUSED ON IMPACT

OPEN SOURCE & ITERABLE

EXPLORE

OPEN **SEEDS THEME** PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL THOUGHT LEADERS TO CONNECT AND CO-CREATE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS AROUND **SUSTAINABLE HEALTHY FOOD.**

COMMUNITY GARDENING — ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD — URBAN FARMING

CONFERENCES & FESTIVALS — MICROEVENTS — GALVANIZING EVENTS

OPEN SUPPORTS GALVANIZING EXPERIENCES, SUCH AS **COMMUNITY FESTIVALS, POPUP MICROEVENTS, AND THOUGHT LEADER SOCIALS** FOCUSED ON LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION, URBAN FARMING, AND ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD.

EXPERIENCE

GALLERY: EXAMPLE 1 | EXAMPLE 2 | EXAMPLE 3 | EXAMPLE 4

EXCHANGE

FROM OPEN LEARNING EXPERIENCES, SEEDS LEADERS **RALLY AROUND ACTIONABLE INITIATIVES**, SUCH AS NEW CITY ORDINANCES, INNOVATIVE MARKETPLACES, AND CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT SUPPORT ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD.

LEARNOPEN PORTAL & WIKI — MEDIA & VIRTUAL REALITY — COURSES & CREDENTIALS — COMMUNITY FUNDS

[POWERED BY WEB3 TECH (BLOCKCHAIN, SELF-SOVEREIGN IDENTITIES, DIGITAL CURRENCY)]

INCLUSION

INSPIRATION

IMPACT

4.3 OPEN USE CASES

4.3.2 MULTI-AGENCY INITIATIVE TO RETHINK VETERANS TRANSITION

The OPEN program hosted thought leaders across nonprofit and government agencies to rethink veterans transition on a distributed level. Commencing with a Collaborative Labs session, leaders engaged in follow-up activities and posted their co-created project on the learnOPEN wiki, eventually landing on a multi-agency initiative for veterans transition.

THE WORLD IS OPEN

CLOSING

Rethinking learning through a network lens demands an emphasis on peer-empowered communities that will define a collective path forward. In this world, roles are shifting ever more fluidly. On the next dimension, learning experiences are not merely moments, nor are they transactions; they are trusted relationships that form and evolve over time.

The community learning model envisioned here will enable and capture the work of building authentic relationships that fuel dynamic growth and development that is managed, codified, recorded, verified, exchanged and administered in real life (IRL) interactions in a community, and enhanced beyond that context by virtual and blockchain technologies.

The learnOPEN Platform, both envisioned and real today, provides a framework in which multi-faceted and dynamic formal and informal learning processes can deliver experiences, actions and results that shape communities.   In OPEN EXPLORE, context (place and themes) drives involvement and sharing activities. In OPEN EXPERIENCES, drive creative, lasting solutions and interactions that inspire. And in OPEN EXCHANGE, concepts become more clearly defined via enhanced learning opportunities, stakeholder collaborations, and goals move into actions. We embrace and leverages the nature of the chaos generated by what is not working, and place this within a context of community/place purpose, values and intentions, inviting open-focused conversations and collaborations that fuel reciprocity of value. **Let us explore, together, a world of OPEN learning.**

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Ven Gist and the Odyssey.io team
Learningeconomy.io
Internet of Education (IoE)
Clay Shirky
The Venus Project

RESOURCES

CITATIONS AND LINKS

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