Regenerative Evaluation Festival 27

Evidence in Service of *Life*

Local Hub Guide

April 19 - April 23 & 28, 2027

hosted by Unity Effect

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1. Welcome to the Festival

Evaluation is one of our most powerful navigational instruments—a way to listen to the world, sense emerging patterns, create shared visions, and adapt in real time. Stewarded by the Regenerative Evaluation Community of Practice and Unity Effect, the Festival (April 19–23 & 28, 2027) is an open invitation to evaluators, change agents, funder leads, practitioners, and researchers worldwide to come together.

At its heart, the Festival holds a central inquiry: **What does evaluation look like when it serves life and gives back more energy than it takes?**

The Momentum and Aspirations of the Festival

The Festival builds on four years of community-centred inquiry and expanding momentum across the global evaluation landscape. A major catalyst was the co-authored *Regenerative Evaluation Living Paper* (launched in March 2026), which outlined 9 Guiding Principles for practice, and reached over 25,000 unique professionals globally. As institutional interest in living-systems evaluation continues to grow across philanthropy, research bodies, and impact networks, the Festival provides the shared learning space to translate these principles into practice. Together, our goal is to:

- **Welcome 1000+ participants** to the virtual Festival
- **Host more than 100 local gatherings** throughout the Festival week
- **Mobilize €50,000+** for direct equity and emerging projects

The Festival combines a global online convening with place-based, self-organized local gatherings. The festival arc unfolds across six days—moving from a global virtual kickoff through three days of parallel virtual workshops, keynotes, and sector gatherings, into dedicated local in-person hubs, and culminating in a collective global harvest.

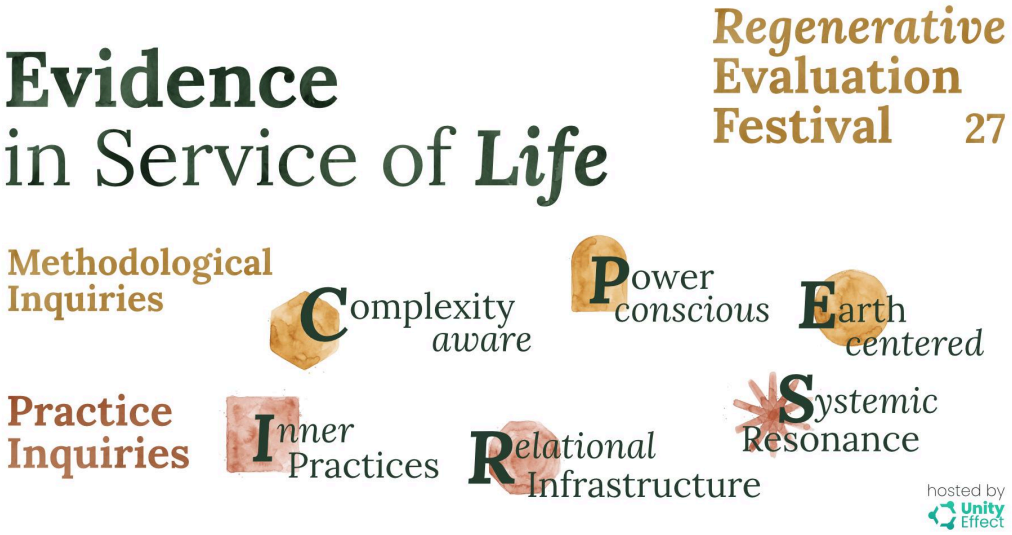


2. Relevant Festival Elements

To ensure your local gathering feels deeply connected to the broader movement, the Festival provides shared digital infrastructure and ongoing support. The elements below outline how we weave your local insights into the global narrative, the core themes anchoring our discussions, and how we will collaborate as a partner network throughout the spring. The overarching invitation for your gathering is simple: connect to a global audience while remaining deeply rooted in your own place.

2.1 The Six Core Inquiries

All sessions and local gatherings are woven across two interconnected sets of inquiries, balancing methodological depth with the relational infrastructure to sustain them:



These themes act as a shared compass. We invite you to use them for orientation, anchoring your local gathering in the global movement while retaining the full freedom to explore the specific questions that resonate most deeply with your community's unique context.

2.2 The Signal Tracker & Global Digital Integration

While your gathering happens in place, it is a vital part of the global ecosystem. To ensure local insights and stories nourish the shared Festival, your hub is deeply integrated into the digital conference space:

- **The Signal Tracker:** Local participants can use a simple 3-minute QR-code reflection prompt to submit real-time micro-narratives, emerging themes, and shifts in practice directly into our global qualitative signal map.
- **The Virtual Gallery:** A dedicated digital space for you and your attendees to upload photos, graphic recordings, flipchart notes, and short video reflections, showcasing the energy of your local gathering to the global community.
- **Interactive Festival Map:** By mid-January 2027, your hub will be officially placed on the interactive world map within our digital platform, giving you global visibility and helping regional peers find and register for your event.

2.3 Partner Co-Creation & Peer Gatherings

Hosting a local hub means you are not doing this alone. To foster community and co-create the Festival experience, we host a series of online partner gatherings alongside virtual session hosts and other key Festival partners (with additional dedicated co-creation sessions just for local hubs scheduled as needed):

- **February & March (Preparation):** Join pre-event alignment sessions to connect with the wider partner ecosystem, swap hosting formats, coordinate shared materials, and co-design elements of the Festival's flow.
- **May (Integration & Harvest):** Following the Festival, we will gather once more as a global partner network to collectively harvest local and virtual insights, evaluate our shared impact, and discuss the future of the movement.

2.4 The Pooled Partner Fund & Co-Governance

The Festival is designed as a resourced global commons, anchoring financial equity at its very core. A progressive share of ticket sales revenue (scaling from 10% up to 50% as registration grows) flows directly into a Pooled Partner Fund. We also work alongside strategic financial partners to further resource both the global virtual Festival and place-based local gatherings.

As an official Local Hub Host, you are invited to become a steward of this wider ecosystem. You hold full co-governance voting rights, joining our Virtual Co-Creators to decide exactly how these pooled funds are deployed and distributed globally. For a detailed breakdown of the Festival's financial architecture and progressive revenue distribution, please refer to the comprehensive Festival Partner Guide.

3. Hosting Details

Hosting a local hub is a powerful way to ground global dialogues in local reality. This chapter provides the practical scaffolding to help you design, organize, and execute your gathering, covering format options, technical requirements, and the collaborative onboarding process.

3.1 Two Primary Local Hub Formats

Local organizers retain full ownership over how they structure their local gatherings based on local community needs, resources, and capacity:

1. Local Watch Parties (Tuesday – Thursday)

Community hosts can gather locally to stream key virtual keynotes or participatory sessions together (April 20-22), using the input as a springboard for localized, guided reflection conversations.

Example in practice: You might gather your local network to stream one of the three core Keynote Dialogues (focusing on Indigenous & wider knowing, systems transformation & policy influencing, or integrating the wider web of life into our evaluation paradigms) and immediately transition into a facilitated workshop to digest how these themes apply to your specific regional context.

2. Dedicated local gathering day (Friday, April 23)

Friday is set aside as a dedicated space for in-person activities—such as regional meetups, local case clinics, place-based field visits, or community reflection circles.

Example in practice: In Cologne, we are partnering with the organization Walkaboutyou to host a guided nature walk. Centered around the Festival's theme of "evaluation in service of life," this format allows participants to step outside, reflect, and connect deeply with both each other and their local ecology.

Whichever format you choose, we encourage you to make the gathering entirely your own, and to approach the Festival as an opportunity to deepen regional relationships. For example, you might partner with a local university to bridge academic research with community practice, or co-host with a local network you want to build closer ties with. Ultimately, this is a chance to convene the people you want to engage with long after the Festival concludes, using this global moment to spark lasting local collaborations.

3.2 Harvesting & Linking Back to the Global Movement

To ensure local insights, stories, and wisdom nourish our shared global festival, local hub hosts are supported with harvesting channels:

- **The Virtual Gallery:** Upload photos, graphic recordings, flipchart notes, and short video reflections to showcase your local gathering to the global community.
- **Integrated Festival Tracker:** Utilize a simple 3-minute QR-code reflection prompt allowing local participants to submit real-time micro-narratives and shifts in practice directly into our global qualitative signal map.

To support this process, we are designing resources and templates. These materials, including printable QR codes, reflection prompts, and gallery upload guides, will be provided as part of the broader Local Host Toolkit, which will be available by mid-January 2027. This toolkit will give you everything you need to easily capture and connect your community's insights back to the global ecosystem.

3.3 What Constitutes an Official Local Hub?

We are deeply grateful for the energy, care, and time it takes to host a local gathering. The official Local Hub Host pathway is designed for partners—whether organizations or dedicated individuals—who are ready to anchor the movement in their region. To help us coordinate this shared global infrastructure, we ask that official hubs bring the following:

- **Stewardship & Capacity:** Whether you are a local NGO, a university center, or a passionate independent practitioner, hosting a hub means having the operational and facilitative capacity to hold the space for your group independently.
- **A Clear Container:** The event has a defined format and a clear location—whether that is a community hall, an office space, or an organized outdoor walk. It should have a structured flow and the capacity to host a meaningful regional group (e.g., 15+ participants).
- **A Two-Way Bridge:** Official hubs act as a vital bridge between the local and the global. This means actively inviting practitioners from your region into the space, and gathering your group's insights and reflections to share them back with the global audience.

Centering Place-Sourced Wisdom

A Local Hub does not need to look like a traditional conference room. We actively encourage you to design a gathering that honors your specific local context. Whether you are hosting an outdoor walk, a community meal, an interactive case clinic, or a collaborative mapping session, the goal is to translate global living-systems principles into formats that feel culturally relevant and grounding for your community.

Informal Community Meetups

We also warmly encourage practitioners to organize casual breakfasts, coffee chats, or informal watch groups with peers during the festival week. While these organic connections are a beautiful part of the movement's fabric, the formal Local Hub Host pathway—which includes Partner Wall visibility, micro-grant eligibility, and Co-Governance voting rights—is reserved for hosts holding structured, public-facing spaces with the capacity outlined above.

3.4 What Local Hub Hosts Receive

To support you in anchoring your regional gathering, we provide official hosts with a comprehensive set of resources, governance rights, and institutional backing:

- **Full Co-Governance Authority:** You are stepping into a stewardship role. Local Hub Hosts join our Virtual Co-Creators with full voting rights, meaning you will have a direct say in exactly how the Pooled Partner Fund is deployed to support equity and emerging projects globally.
- **The Local Host Toolkit:** (Available mid-January 2027). We have designed this digital package to save you time and provide a solid hosting foundation. It comes fully equipped with adaptable invitation templates, facilitation prompts, community agreements, sample run-of-shows, and all necessary harvesting tools.
- **Official Letter of Endorsement:** A formal, customizable letter from Unity Effect endorsing your role as an official regional convener. You can use this institutional backing to help secure local venue partnerships, catering sponsorships, or **employer support.**
- **Global Visibility:** Feature placement on the interactive Festival map (helping regional peers easily find and register for your hub), visibility on the virtual platform's Partner Wall, and inclusion of your community's insights in the post-Festival synthesis reports.
- **3 Free Global Festival Tickets:** We want to ensure your core team has seamless access to the global digital platform and Zoom streams. Upon officially welcoming you as a Local Hub Host and confirming your gathering, we will share dedicated promo codes so you and two co-hosts or facilitators can register for the virtual Festival free of charge.
- **Peer Host Support & Direct Sparring:** You are joining a global network of practice. You will have access to our series of pre-event partner gatherings in February and March to connect with fellow organizers, swap hosting formats, and coordinate materials, alongside a direct line to the Unity Effect team for collaborative sparring as you design your local flow.

3.5 Ticketing & Registration Mechanics

We have designed our ticketing structure to give you maximum flexibility and autonomy at the local level, while being embedded within the global Festival:

- **Local Registration Autonomy:** You have full control over your local attendee registration. We recommend using your preferred platform (such as Eventbrite, Luma, or Humanitix) to manage RSVPs. You are welcome to offer your gathering for free, or charge a local ticket fee to equitably cover your specific venue, catering, facilitation, or material costs. *To make this easy, your Local Host Toolkit will include sample event descriptions you can adapt for your registration page.*
- **Global Tickets for Local Attendees:** Local attendees do not need to purchase a global Festival ticket simply to attend your in-person hub. However, we highly encourage you to invite them into the wider movement. If they wish to personally access the Festival, they will need their own global ticket. *We recommend placing a link to the global Festival registration directly on your local RSVP page so attendees understand the two pathways.*
- **Your 3 Free Global Tickets:** As an official host, you receive 3 free global Festival tickets intended for your core local hosting and facilitation team. This ensures you have full access to the Zoom streams to broadcast during a watch party, and can navigate the digital platform to harvest insights. Upon officially welcoming you as a Local Hub Host and confirming your gathering, we will share the dedicated promo codes with you.

3.6 Technical Requirements for Watch Parties

If you are hosting a watch party for the virtual sessions (April 20–22), please ensure your venue is equipped with:

- **Stable, High-Speed Internet:** Ensure the connection is reliable. If your local attendees will also be using the venue's Wi-Fi, we highly recommend verifying that the bandwidth can handle the stream without lagging.
- **Visuals & Audio:** A projector or large TV screen clearly visible to your entire group, paired with adequate external speakers.
- **A Dedicated Device:** A specific laptop or computer designated solely for running the stream, separate from any devices you might use for your local presentation slides or background music.
- **A "Two-Way" Camera and Microphone (Encouraged):** While you will primarily be watching, we love seeing our local hubs! Having a webcam or wide-angle room camera and a basic microphone allows you to wave hello, show your local energy to the global audience, and participate in any open Q&A moments.

3.7 Onboarding & Collaboration Process

You can step into the role of a Local Hub Host at any time leading up to the Festival. Rather than a rigid timeline, our onboarding is designed as an ongoing, collaborative journey:

- **Step 1: Expression of Interest.** Reach out to the Unity Effect team at info@unityeffect.net with your location (city/country) and the general format you are envisioning.
- **Step 2: Connection & Confirmation.** We will follow up with you directly, potentially scheduling a brief online call to explore your ideas, answer any logistical questions, and officially welcome you as a Local Hub Host.
- **Step 3: Equipping & Mapping.** You will receive the Local Host Toolkit (available starting mid-January 2027) with templates and guides. We will also collect your event details to place your hub on our interactive global map, driving regional visibility.
- **Step 4: Co-Creation & Peer Support.** You will receive invitations to our virtual partner gatherings (held in February, March, and May) to connect with fellow hosts globally, swap facilitation ideas, and co-design the Festival's flow.
- **Step 5: Hosting & Harvesting.** During Festival week (April 19–23), you will host your gathering and feed your community's insights back into the global ecosystem using the Signal Tracker and Virtual Gallery.

Through every step of this journey, our goal is to ensure you feel deeply supported and connected. We want the process of organizing a local hub to be a life-giving, energizing extension of the meaningful work you are already doing in your community.

Let's Connect

We are deeply grateful for the energy, care, and time it takes to host a local gathering. While the Festival connects us across digital borders, it is in your local soil where these ideas take root, adapt, and grow. By hosting a hub, you are creating a vital space for your community to pause, connect, and reimagine what evaluation can be.

To register your local gathering or simply express interest in exploring the idea, email the Unity Effect team at info@unityeffect.net with your location (city/country) and the general format you are envisioning. We cannot wait to welcome you to the hosting team and co-create this experience together.