

The Cairo Moon Charter

About this charter

In the spring of 2026, a class of three- and four-year-olds in Cairo spent five weeks imagining a journey to the moon, and then imagining living there together. They built a moon house, lost it, repaired it, made agreements about it, shared what they found, and, at the year's end, handed it on to the children who would come next. No one taught them how to govern a shared place. They worked it out by doing.

This charter is what the adults in the room drew from it: sixteen principles for holding a shared place well, each one rooted in something the children actually enacted. It is written in their collective voice by the adults who observed them. The experiences are theirs; the composition is ours.

The partners

LunARC is building the Lunar University, where young people co-create the systems humanity will need to thrive on Earth and beyond. Its Lunar University Labs invite people ordinarily far from these questions to reimagine how a shared world could be governed. This charter is an output of the Cairo Lab.

Good Future Ancestor Studio co-designed and facilitated the lab as design lead, shaping the moon as a neutral canvas on which children could explore fairness, belonging, leadership, and repair through play, storytelling, and making.

Cairo American College hosted the lab in its PreK3 classroom. The children's teacher held the trusted, year-long relationship with them on which everything here depended, working from the Reggio Emilia approach, which treats young children as capable, follows where they lead, and takes their words seriously.

For more information, contact info@lunarc.org



Preamble

In 2026, we were three and four years old, in Cairo.
In 2100, we will be the elders.

We were asked to imagine going to the moon. So we built a place there. We made it big enough for us. We lost it. We built it again. We made rules. We shared what we found. When it was time to leave, we left something for the next children.

While we were doing all that, we found ourselves answering big questions: who gets to come in, who decides, what is fair, what to do when something is broken, and what we leave behind.

We answered them the only way we know how: by doing.

What follows is what the adults saw us teach.

I. Building

1. A shared place begins with everyone. If someone shouldn’t be included, you have to explain why.

2. Don't leave people out because they're different. Only leave someone out if they are hurting the shared place, and only for as long as they are hurting it.

3. If the place is too small for everyone, make the place bigger. Don't make the group smaller.

4. Anyone can ask to lead, for as long as the group agrees.

II. Repairing

5. When something shared breaks, fix it before you look for someone to blame.

6. Maybe the people who broke it were trying to build something too. Start there.

7. If someone hurts the shared place, leave a way back for people who are ready to help again.



III. Sharing

8. Put the rules where everyone can see them.

9. Every rule should have a reason you can say out loud. A rule without a reason is not a rule.

10. Fairness means everyone has the same.

11. If sharing stops being fair, say so. Then make it even again, even for the people who aren't here, or aren't here yet.

12. When there is extra, give it back to the shared place.

13. Before you decide, ask everyone how it will affect them.

IV. Leaving

14. The shared place isn't just ours. We're looking after it until it's someone else's turn.

15. Leave what we found, learned, and made better for the children who come next.

16. When it's time to leave, leave what you built ready for the children who come next to keep building.





What will you build?