

**Auroville Project Coordination Group
GRANT PROPOSAL FORM**

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Project title: Cross-Cultural Restorative Dialogue

2. Project duration: The actual event will take place on September 16th, 18th & 19th, 2016, and we will be doing preparatory work in August and early September, and follow-up work in the coming 1-5 years or so.

3. Project Summary:

As part of our larger “Applied Research Project on Restorative Circles and Restorative Justice” in Auroville, we are hosting a 3-day Restorative Dialogue in which we will explore some of the cross-cultural challenges we have between local Tamil Aurovilians and non-local Aurovilians. We hope to offer a space for dialogue and creative forward movement, based on the principles and practice of Restorative Circles.

4. Total Cost of the project:

Rs.85,803

5. Funding amount requested:

Rs.63,003

6. Name and other (contact) details:

1. Principal Project Holder:

L’aura Joy, Centre Field

2. Secondary Project Holders:

Janet Fearn, Arati

Anand Shanti, Creativity

Kati Hoetger, Angiras Garden

Helene Gagnon, Samasti

3. Unit: Joy Living Learning, Centre Field

(support with basic running expenses, office and training supplies, website, etc)

4. Service: In collaboration with Koodam (Auroville’s Conflict Resolution Service), Kailash

7. Date of application:

August 1, 2016

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

8. Background:

“Restorative Auroville” is a project under the Unit, Joy Living Learning, and works in collaboration with Koodam, Auroville’s conflict transformation service. Our project aims at educating the community about how Restorative Circles work (a holistic, community-based process that holds space for deeper dialogue and moving through

conflict or misunderstanding), hosting and facilitating live Circles, and starting to develop a Justice System that reflects our Auroville values. Our approach incorporates different strategies and a hope to connect with different aspects of our communal life, so that we can better understand how to build systems that respond to our unique and complex reality.

We have been exploring the practice of Restorative Circles in Auroville, on and off, since late 2010. In September 2015, we decided to offer this work on a larger scale within the community, and we submitted an “Applied Research Project on Restorative Circles and Restorative Justice” to PCG, and for which we received financial support and community support.

Our full-time team members include the 5 names listed above: L’aura, Janet, Shanti, Kati and Helene. In addition, several other Aurovilians are actively involved in our project: Christiane (Samasti), Thera (Invocation), Yuval (Utility), Elisa (Working Committee), Ambre (Nilatangam), Rita (Centre Field), Vikram (Gaia), Aurore (Transformation), Hamsini (Newcomer), and Stefan Gebert (Newcomer), among others.

9. Problem statement:

We want to explore and understand this question: Are we divided in Auroville, as local Tamil Aurovilians and non-local Aurovilians?

We have been given a unique opportunity in Auroville to live “unity in diversity,” and in many ways our internal community affairs are quite harmonious and functional, especially so given our rich mix of cultural and socio-economic backgrounds.

And it is also true that we still come across misunderstandings and different ideas of what it means to live in Auroville, and although there are probably many reasons why we lose connection and trust in each other, one of the recurring inquiries is whether our cultural differences and history keep us apart, and if so, how do we bridge the gap and walk towards a truer embodiment of Auroville’s ideal to live in harmony with one another.

There is so much richness and complexity in our 48 years of shared history, and beyond, so we are by no means trying to simplify our story. And yet, it is our interest to explore further this particular angle – our relationship as local to non-local Aurovilians and non-local to local Aurovilians. Over the years, we have had many situations where local Tamil Aurovilians express that they do not feel like they are treated as equals, and that they do not have the same access to resources and opportunities as non-local Aurovilians do. And in response to this, there are just as many explanations about why this is so, indicating that in fact our present cross-cultural reality is much more complex than an exclusive cultural targeting, in one direction or the other.

One of our big challenges at present in Auroville is that we do not have a functioning justice system. We do not have clearly defined ways of responding to conflict or disagreement, nor do we know how to decide what is acceptable or non-acceptable behaviour, nor do we know how to restore trust and safety once a painful act or offence has taken place. And even when a Working Group or other executive body proposes a

certain consequence, as a community, we do not have much authority to enforce these consequences.

10. Project Team:

The “Restorative Auroville” team will be carrying out this project and supporting at all stages.

L’aura is the main project holder and will oversee most aspects of this event, including the finances, communication and reports. She is also responsible for inviting and hosting Duke, the guest facilitator we have invited to support us with this event. L’aura was born and raised in Auroville, and she brings a unique perspective of growing up here to non-local parents but feeling very much identified with and committed to Auroville.

Janet too brings an interesting perspective. She has been living in Auroville since 1968, and so she has witnessed and been a part of Auroville’s evolution, and the inevitable impact of this development on the surrounding villages, both positive and negative.

Shanti, Helene and Kati are also supporting this event, at all stages.

We have invited a special Guest Facilitator, Duke Duchscherer from Canada/USA, to come and support us in hosting this 3-day Dialogue. Duke is a colleague of L’aura’s in the fields of Nonviolent Communication and Restorative Circles.

Duke’s vision includes creating resilient communities that care for themselves and each other, through collectively finding ways to transform conflict and make decisions that acknowledge the shared humanity of all.

Duke has been working in the field of peace and conflict transformation for the past 16 years. He has worked with people from varying backgrounds, and supported them in creating understanding and seeing each other in ways that generate connection, peace, and constructive action. He has worked with youth in Sri Lanka whose lives were torn apart by war; communal harmony workers and UNHCR staff in Pakistan; social welfare staff of the Islamic government of Iran; and community peace workers in Nigeria. He has also supported deep dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians; between the Ukrainian army and the pro-Russian community where they reside; and between ex-combatants, victims, and government officials trying to reconcile after 10 years of war in Nepal.

To see a very interesting documentary on Duke’s work in Nepal, visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqA2OydkXgg

11. Group approval of project:

Not applicable.

As this event falls under the larger “Restorative Auroville” project, for which we already have community support and approval, we have not requested further permission for this event.

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Please note that Duke Duchscherer is a Canadian national, and he has already acquired a Business Visa in connection with his work with L'aura and Joy Living Learning.

12. Other Sources of Funding (names and amounts already received, or promised):

We submitted a proposal to SAIIER and have been promised Rs.22,800, for the following details.

Description of expenditure	Cost per unit	Qty	Subtotal
Airport taxis for Duke	2,400	2 trips	4,800
Meals (and snacks, tea, fruit) for Duke	500	6 days	3,000
Duke honorarium	15,000	1	15,000
		Total:	22,800

In addition, Doris, Francis and Vinay are offering, in kind, to:

1. Film the 3-day event
2. Edit the footage and create a documentary for our archives and further work in this field.

12a. Where else have you applied for funding?

Only SAIIER, see above.

PROJECT INFORMATION

13. Aims & objectives of project:

During this 3-day Dialogue process, we hope to explore some of the cross-cultural challenges we have between local Tamil Aurovilians and non-local Aurovilians, such as loss of trust, not understanding each other's values, and a possible felt sense of inequitable access to resources. Our hope is to offer yet one more approach and medium through which to engage with the community and to look at our present challenges.

Restorative Circles is a form of conflict resolution, but it is also a consciousness – and a large part of integrating this work into our community involves a cultural shift around how we perceive each other and conflict and how we can find co-creative, empowered ways of restoring harmony and trust amongst us. In order for this work to develop fully in Auroville, we need the input of a broad base of Aurovilians to create a justice system that can truly work and be accepted here.

We trust that our dialogue will bring clarity and inspiration as we engage with some of the following questions:

- What is justice?
- Why does Auroville not have a functioning justice system?
- What kind of a justice system do we want in Auroville?
- Do we want an “authority” to have the power to enforce outcomes? If not, what alternative do we want to create?
- How can we do so while staying true to Auroville's ideals?

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- How do we encourage our fellow community members to take responsibility for their actions, and how do we hold each other accountable without creating more separation (punishment, public shunning, etc)?
- How do we restore trust and safety in our community, especially when trust has been severely broken (violence, theft, etc)?

14. Details of project intervention / description of activities:

We intend to invite between 15-40 Aurovilians, and to include a mix of different cultural backgrounds, and different perspectives and experiences related to our cross-cultural challenges. We will use the Restorative Circles format (see attached RC flyer) and principles as our guiding dialogue process, and provide a space to explore our cross-cultural complexity on a deeper level, so that we can share and be heard for our experiences, our challenges, and our hopes and dreams for how it could be instead. We intend to look at questions such as these:

- (i) Why do some local Tamil Aurovilians feel victimized?
 - Why do other local Aurovilians not feel victimized?
- (ii) As an Auroville culture, do we treat local Tamil Aurovilians unfairly?
 - If so, why?
 - If not, why do some have this perception?
- (iii) What steps can we take to move forward towards reconciliation and an increased sense of trust and brotherhood?

We hope to end our event with a collectively designed Action Plan for how to contribute to continued reconnection and reconciliation (over the coming 1-5 years or so).

15. Beneficiaries:

We trust that the participants who attend this event will be touched by the process and will learn something new about themselves and each other, and they will have a renewed commitment to supporting Auroville to move towards increased cross-cultural harmony.

We trust that anyone interested in learning about Restorative Circles and understanding how this process works and whether it can make a contribution to Auroville will benefit.

We trust we will contribute to more and more Aurovilians beginning to develop the skills and consciousness to engage with conflict with more ease (either as Facilitators themselves, or just as good-willing participants in conflict resolution processes).

We trust that Auroville as a whole will benefit in the long-run, as our commitment is to work on harmonizing our cross-cultural relations, and co-creating responsive ways of engaging with our differences and challenges.

A documentary will be made of this 3-day event, and it will be shared if and when needed in Auroville, and possibly beyond, in connection with this body of work (conflict resolution, cross-cultural reconciliation, Auroville's history, etc).

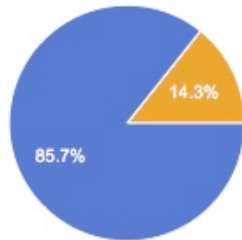
16. What is the link to other Auroville activities?

This event falls under the larger “Restorative Auroville” project, and for which we have already received community support and encouragement.

17. Is the Auroville community waiting for the results of this project? What are indications of this?

Yes, we believe the community is looking for forward movement in this field. Here are some survey results from our Restorative Circles workshops and live Restorative Circles.

Do you think we're struggling with justice in AV?



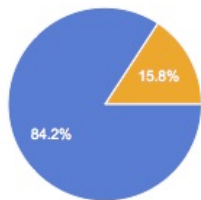
Yes	18	85.7%
No	0	0%
Not sure	3	14.3%

Do you think we need to explore and improve our justice system?



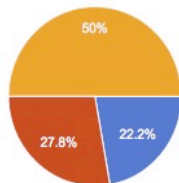
Yes	22	100%
No	0	0%
Not sure	0	0%

Would you like to see AV move towards having a Restorative Justice System in place?



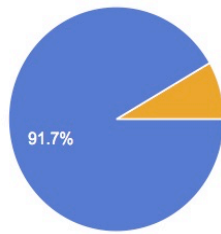
Yes	16	84.2%
No	0	0%
Not sure	3	15.8%

Would you like AV to have a “legal authority body” in place (a group of people that decide on an outcome and have the power to enforce it)?



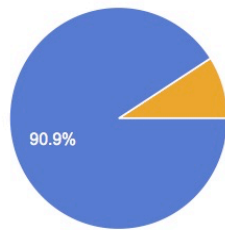
Yes	4	22.2%
No	5	27.8%
Not sure	9	50%

2a. Did you find the RC process (Pre-Circles, Circle, Post-Circle) meaningful?



Yes	11	91.7%
No	0	0%
I don't know	1	8.3%

7a. Would you like to see RC being used more frequently in Auroville?



Yes	10	90.9%
No	0	0%
I don't know	1	9.1%

18. How will the project be implemented?

A. September 2016: Cross-Cultural Dialogue

Fri, Sept 16	<p>9am - 5pm, with lunch and tea breaks Unity Pavilion, with Duke</p> <p>-Small group meetings -Sharing basics of Restorative Circles process -Pre-Circles</p>
<i>(NB: Saturday, September 17 – day off)</i>	
Sun, Sept 18	<p>9am - 5pm, with lunch and tea breaks Unity Pavilion, with Duke</p> <p>-Large group dialogue</p>

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Mon, Sept 19	<p>9am - 5pm, with lunch and tea breaks Unity Pavilion, with Duke</p> <p>-Large group dialogue -Closing and Action Plan / Next Steps -Feedback and Evaluation</p>
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B. August 2016: Preparatory Work

- (i) Contact support people to help with hosting the event, share Restorative Circles process, arrange for translators
- (ii) Share project with Koodam, AVC, WC, RAS and get feedback and support
- (iii) Invite and finalize list of attending participants

C. Follow-Up: Action Plan over coming 1-5 years

- (i) Carry out any agreed-upon Action Plan
- (ii) Collaborate with Duke for further visits to Auroville

19. Evaluation:

During this project, we will be in on-going dialogue and interaction with the community, so informal feedback and evaluation will unfold in an organic, live way, and this will be the foundation for our work and research.

We will also ask participants to fill out a formal feedback/evaluation form, so that we can assess what worked well, what did not work well, and what we could do differently.

Our documentary will also be a form of evaluation of our work.

20. Budget Table (NB EXCEL spreadsheet is a separate file)

21. Budget Table Explained

No.	Item Name	Intended use (by whom, for what purpose)
1	Unity Pavilion, 3 day rental	We need a large space to host 40 people, and Unity Pavilion seems the perfect fit.
2	Duke (guest facilitator) honarium	Duke is an expert in the field of cross-cultural reconciliation, and we trust that with his support we can make a step forward in Auroville. SAIER has offered to cover Rs.15,000 towards his honorarium, although we would like to offer him more for his contribution to Auroville.
3	Printing and copies	We will have handouts and flyers. This is an estimate.
4	Meals (and snacks, tea, fruit) for Duke	Breakfast will be served at Centre Guest House, but not lunch and dinner. This is an estimate for meals and snacks during the day. SAIER has offered to cover this expense.
5	Lunch for group	Visitors' Centre will cater our lunch, at Rs.150/person/day.

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	<i>(catered by Visitors' Centre, Rs.150/person/day)</i>	
6	<i>Tea (Rs.40/person/day)</i>	<i>Unity Pavilion offers cookies with green tea at Rs.35, milk tea at Rs.40, and syrup at Rs.40 per person per day.</i>
7	<i>Airport taxis for Duke</i>	<i>Duke will arrive and leave from Chennai, and as he is covering his international airfare, we want to cover his airport taxis. SAIER has offered to cover this expense.</i>
8	<i>Local taxis around Auroville</i>	<i>In case Duke needs to get around and L'aura is not available to drive him on her motorbike, we want to offer him a transportation option.</i>
9	<i>Single room with breakfast at Centre Guest House for Duke</i>	<i>We have booked a single room for Duke in Centre Guest House, for 6 nights (Thursday, September 15 – Wednesday, September 21).</i>

22. Name of project holder(s) responsible for information given in this application (including budget request) AND who will submit a final report (and progress reports or updates as specified by the donors) for any and all grant(s) received for this project.

L'aura Joy, Centre Field
 Janet Fearn, Arati
 Anand Shanti, Creativity
 Kati Hoetger, Angiras Garden
 Helene Gagnon, Samasti

Name of Funds applying for:

SDZ []

Micro-Projects []

M-P Women Development []

M-P Informal Education []

M-P Youth []

M-P Innovative Start-ups []

FWE []

MT&D Programme []

Other [] _____

VERY IMPORTANT Please note

If you have received funding for a project through the Project Coordination Group in previous years, please confirm with us that you submitted the report for that project to us before making a new application for a different project.

Reports are required for all projects that receive funding.

The type of report, due date or frequency of reporting depends on the specifications of the donor. **A final report is a minimum requirement.**

The Foundation for World Education has a specific final report format available from pcg@auroville.org.in on request. Stichting De Zaaier requires progress reports every six months AND a final report upon completion of the project or once project funds have been spent: SDZ report format available from pcg@auroville.org.in on request.

In general, reports describe what was done during the project period, what role a particular grant played in relation to other funds received and, what is being done to follow-up on the project. A financial statement explaining how funds were spent is part of every report.

Please also note that all funds from all donors are sent to the Auroville Unity Fund and all withdrawals and expenditures for any project or activity are to follow the Auroville Unity Fund accounting procedures.