

## **Dr. Regina Rowland**



Dr. Regina Rowland, founder of Global Syntony™, aligns leadership and organizations with people, planet, and prosperity — improving organizational effectiveness and transcultural understanding via creative engagement. As a visual thought partner she develops visual models, visual thinking and facilitation methods and tools for interactive sustainovation processes. Regina teaches and develops curriculum at the Fielding Graduate University and at the California College of the Arts where she also develops leadership and faculty trainings. She was recently invited by the National Science Foundation to serve as one of 30 chosen researchers in building models of intercultural service systems.

### **Co-creating Visual Maps for Transcultural Understanding – Workshop**

Abstract:

Sustainability needs to integrate environmental, social, economic, and personal aspects. Solving complex problems collaboratively requires effective (non-verbal) communication across cultures.

This workshop explores creative (visual) methods and tools for collecting, presenting, and interpreting data co-created by culturally diverse groups in support of authentic collective decision-making.

#### **Day 1: Finding the Story (research results) – closing the gap between quantitative and qualitative data**

We begin this three-day early morning workshop with an introduction to communication patterns and co-creation of meaning.

Previous research indicates that the group dynamics emerging from such a process directly projected into the “visual maps” the groups co-create. Visual maps reveal and confirm cultural dimensions which can be interpreted from the artefacts directly.

#### **Day 2: Telling the Story (process) – exchanging cultural styles and making data relevant on a personal level**

On the second morning we dive deeply into a highly interactive, visual creative process that allows us to observe cultural dimensions in action and generates data for us to investigate.

#### **Day 3: Living the Story (interpretation & application) – understanding complex data and making decisions based on visual evidence**

We round off the experience with an analysis of the artifacts created and the evidence they suggest, reflecting upon the usefulness of this method in supporting social sustainability and the role of cultural indexing when striving for social equity. Time permitting we will weave all four aspects of sustainability into the discussions.