

The Life Design Academy

A learning ecology that incubates ideas and designs a life worth living.

Why: Our intention is to help people design the best life possible.

What: The Life Design Academy is a learning community that invites fellows to turn city problems into personal projects by cross-pollinating paths with like-minded people who have projects.

Who: We have designed a spiral curriculum, complete with practicums and laboratories for participants at every level of life design. Fellows in the Life Design Academy include a wide range of folks who are:

- 1) Unclear on what their purpose in life is;
- 2) Clear about their purpose and want to transition to honor it on a full-time basis; and
- 3) Fulfilling their purpose full-time and want to take their endeavors to a deeper level of intentionality, make a broader impact and heighten their thought leadership.

The Life Design Academy is curated by Awakenings, Inc. and in partnership with Leadership Education at Duke Divinity, and Impact Hub Houston.

The Faculty: The Life Design Academy is developing different departments of vocational discipline and acumen. Each department will be led by a faculty of community members and partners we love and have led with in the city of Houston. Although they may not consider themselves academics, they are practitioners of thought leadership and experience that certify their capacity to host learning communities.

How Much Does It Cost?

Life Design Academy Fellows will be given the option to invest in their studies through different tuition options.

When:

YEARLY: Fellows are invited to explore a problem in the city and consider a project from their area of interest or professional ability that serves that problem.

QUARTERLY: Each quarter, The LDA will produce two exciting experiences.

The LDA Renaissance Conference: The entire academy will meet for a day-long LDA Renaissance Conference each quarter that features two 2-hour practicums and laboratories from each department.

MONTHLY: Each department will take turns hosting a lecture and practicum from a local thought leader and vocational practitioner who leads the world from our city.

WEEKLY: We will observe the Sabbath as a day of rest away from the normal rigor of life. After a one-hour Solace and Serenity Gathering and a community meal, the LDA will offer courses that are themed from Sunday to Sunday from 11:30am-1 pm.

Where: Awakenings, Inc. has been invited to join the Impact Hub Houston community as an anchor tenant. While the Impact Hub space is being built out, we are partnering with Rec Room Arts, a non-profit arts incubator, theater and bar as the launch pad for the Life Design Academy.

Outcomes

Cross-Pollination

Each participant can develop their project within an area of interest or focus, i.e. art, science, business, etc. In addition, they gain the benefit of cross-pollinating with other departments and fields of study

A Gift to the City

Each year, we will submit to the city a Reliquary of Problems and Solutions that each project will explore.

Proof of Concept for Thought Leaders

Thought Leaders are given an opportunity to fully own their thought leadership and become rooted as a thought leader in our culture. The 12-month cycle will result in providing "Proof of Concept" that these thought leaders can then use to demonstrate the effectiveness of this academic model for future opportunities.

Benefit to Partnering Institutions

The Life Design Academy can serve as proof of concept that is evidence to educational institutions. These institutions now have evidence of a new way to educate citizens through indigenously-designed local academies and an academic model that draws upon an ancient village of learning models.