



Whispertree  
Where transformation takes root

## Our Values For the Anthropocene

**/anTHrəpəˌsēn/** Denoting the current geological age during which human activity has become the dominant influence on climate and the environment.

### Simplicity - Less is More

*Our prevailing culture promotes unrestrained consumption, extracting resources from our earth at twice the rate of natural regeneration.*

We recognize the need to simplify our appetites for “more-better-best,” reconnecting with what has been given to us, by nature, for FREE. In our design and maintenance of the human footprint at Whispertree, we are inspired by nature's efficient beauty, simple elegance, and intelligent regeneration. We ask: “What do we really need?” and invite guests to consider that fewer frills allow for a deeper connection with what is essential.

### "Slowth" - Slowing Down to Reconnect and Grow

*Our prevailing culture moves at an unnatural speed for the health and well-being of humanity and the earth.*

We value “slowth” - The gift of growth that comes to those who practice slowing down. In cultivating a refined attention to self, body, other (human and non-human), and the Earth, we discover we are more than we think we are and become able to attend to relationships and communities with greater attunement and wisdom.

### Deeper Listening

*Our prevailing, capitalist culture incentivizes the rushed pursuit of ‘getting what we want’, over listening to others and the Earth community to discern what is needed.*

We recognize that belonging to the Earth community requires deeper listening, self-reflection and the ability to include the “voice” of others, both human and non-human, when discerning the Common Good. We value balancing the confidence of our convictions with attention to what is beyond us, and an embrace of “not-knowing,” including living with paradox and respecting conflicting perspectives until clarity arises.

### Facing Hard Truths with Support

*We live in a prevailing culture that ritualizes escape and the denial of difficult truths, (death and dying, grief, individual and collective trauma, addiction, the degradation of the earth, racism, patriarchy, rising wealth inequities, etc.) rather than providing rituals to encourage and support those facing these difficult truths.*

We live in times that require facing hard realities that have long been avoided and times with more tools available than ever before in history for cultivating healing, understanding, repair and resilience. We value creating time and space where humans can courageously and compassionately face difficulty together, finding support and resilience with personal and collective, often traumatic, realities.



## Honoring a Greater Guidance

*Our prevailing culture incentivizes self-reliance over inter-dependence, rationality over intuition, and addiction and immediate gratification over honoring a greater guidance in life.*

When making decisions or encountering obstacles to our plans or ideas, we value pausing to reflect on what life may be asking us to see and learn. With humility, we open ourselves to a broader matrix, or Will, that lives beyond our habituated patterns. Riding the current of this 'great river', our actions can be optimized, harmonizing our relationships with fellow humans and the beyond-human world.

## Cultivating Embodiment of Love

*In prioritizing linear, measurable and 'head-centered' thinking over the wisdom of the body, emotions, intuition and other unseen realms, our prevailing culture is out of balance, partial in its understanding of life, and therefore ill-equipped to respond to the needs of humanity and the more than human world.*

Alongside reason, we value curiosity, kindness, and patience as we return to our bodies, emotions and intuitions, recognizing that repairing our separation from nature and the body often requires healing individual and collective trauma.

We value love and reverence for the Earth and its human and non-human creatures as the ethical wellspring that inspires us to act on behalf of our planet's well-being.

## Pursuing the Common Good

*Our prevailing culture values certain groups over others, prioritizing human needs and individual freedom and self-reliance over commitments to communal well-being and care for the Earth's ecosystems.*

We value balancing independent self-reliance with responsibility to community and the Earth, honoring human vulnerability and the all-pervasive interdependence between us as humans and with the non-human world.

We value facing and repairing injustices based on race, class, sex and gender, embracing an ethic of care and curiosity around difference.

We value supporting local communities and local economies to mitigate the disconnection from land and one another created by global capitalism.

## Learning the Power of Partnership

*Our prevailing patriarchal culture rewards competitive, independent actors seeking gratification of their desires through the exercise of control, status, power/wealth.*

We value leadership that listens and learns, that leverages others' voices and talents and that cultivates healthy hierarchies, knowing that better outcomes arise when people feel shared ownership and responsibility for decision-making.

## Risk, Creativity, and Joy

*Much of the "best thinking" of our current worldview has led to cataclysmic climate change, world-wide racial, class and gender inequity, war, and increasing disease among humans and animals.*

We recognize the importance of risk in choosing to live according to an evolutionary set of values that don't "make sense" to most living in the current worldview. Towards this end we value the courage, play, and vulnerability inherent to counter-cultural, creative expressions seeking to offer more embodied, authentic, sensitive, joyful relationships with self, others and the Earth.

## Humility and Resilience

*Most of all, we value humility in our commitment to these values.*

Cultural transformation is the work of many lifetimes. We eschew rules, rigidities and judgments, (of ourselves and others), aiming to smile at our inevitable imperfections, learning from our failures, and returning with great resolve and kindness, to the work of creating the better world our hearts know is possible.