

Alternative Communities Guide

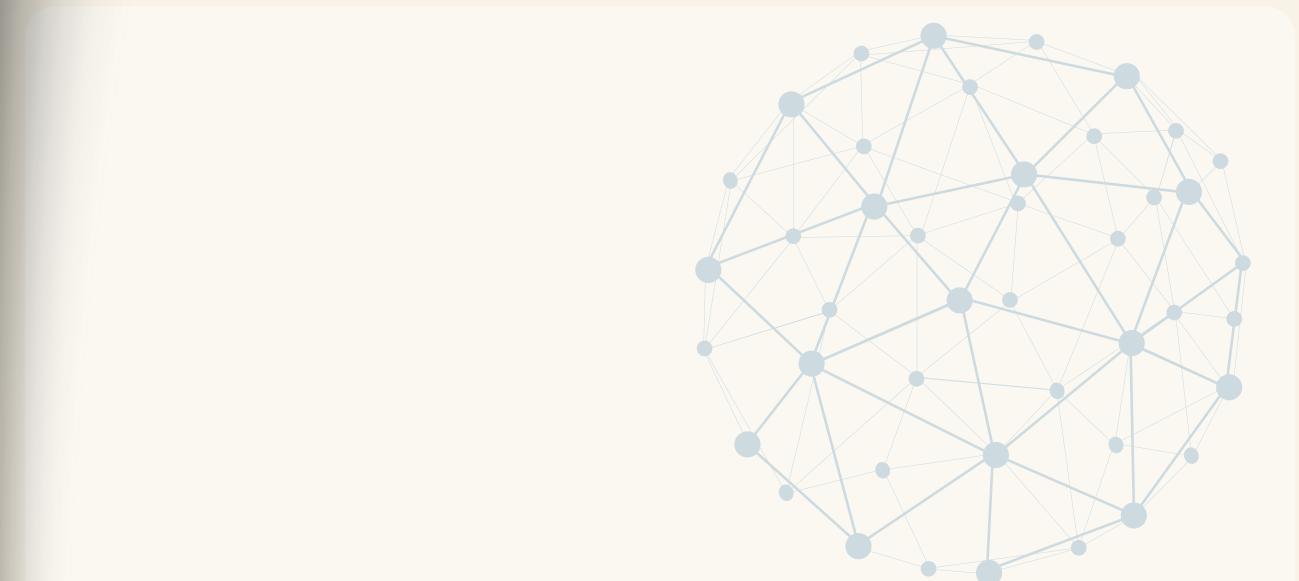
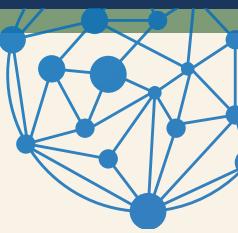


An Evidence-Based
Taxonomy of Emerging
Physical and Virtual
Societies

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“The future is already here – it's just not evenly distributed.”

-William Gibson



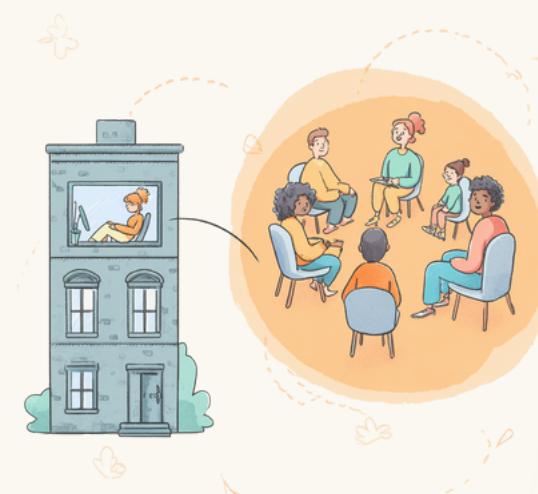
Introduction

This guide is an attempt to provide clarity about existing innovative societies without covering them all or explaining all the technologies behind their development. We hope it will broaden your horizons when it comes to upcoming possibilities in where you can live, work, and thrive. These are alternative models of communities that sometimes challenge the conventional perspective of modern society, and they would have been inconceivable just a few centuries ago. The terminology for them is confusing and debated everywhere. They used to be called intentional communities or new countries, but with recent technologies, they may be named virtual nations or network states.

The point isn't to decide what is the best category for them, but to understand what they offer and how they could benefit the world.

Technology has been the leading source of change in society; it has improved our comfort and communication, but it hasn't increased our coordination or meaningful connections with others. That relationship disconnect is pushing most people to live in isolated cubes, barely talking to their neighbors, showing a fake life online, and contributing to a loneliness epidemic.

The depressing trend happened over centuries, and a lot of writers and entrepreneurs have tried to warn us, guide us, and even build better options. Fortunately, the last 15 years have seen the emergence of transformative innovations that enable anyone to learn, join, and participate in alternative systems, creating a real opt-in set of alternative societies: technologies of decentralization.



How should you use this guide?

Most importantly, please keep an open mindset about each project. What appears online is always distorted, and

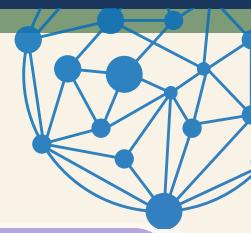
it's impossible to know what the experience would be like until you go there and try it. Whether you want to move, to invest, or just explore, you will find something valuable here. You can join and try remotely first, and in person eventually. Discovering new models will help you challenge your current social framework and rethink the communities around you. These opportunities exist. It's time to explore them.



Note that this information is subjective and has been collected over the years by our team. These projects are all at various development stages.



This report captures a moment in an ongoing and rapid movement, and it will need updates as the movement evolves. We hope these insights prove valuable, and we welcome any feedback you might have for future iterations.



Vocabulary & Taxonomy



Governance & Legal Terms

- Token-weighted vote system** Voting power depends on how many tokens (digital assets) you own
- DAO** Online group with shared rules, run on blockchain
- SEZ** Area with special economic rules to attract businesses
- ZEDE** Honduran version of an SEZ with its own legal framework
- Jurisdiction** Area where legal authority applies
- Supranational** Above the level of individual countries
- Decentralized public good** Shared resource managed without a central authority
- Declaration of Ascent** Symbolic document to show commitment or membership
- Embassy (non-traditional)** A meeting point or office representing a digital/alternative community
- Sovereignty** The power to govern independently
- Stateless** Not tied to a nation-state or traditional government



Miscellaneous / Specialized Terms

- Pop-up cities** Temporary or fast-built communities, often experimental
- Techno-optimist** Someone who believes technology will improve society
- Regen project / ReFi** Using finance or community to heal ecosystems and society
- Lunarpunk** A privacy-focused movement that values freedom and nature
- Cross-pollinating** Sharing ideas across different groups or systems
- Startup accelerator** A program that helps early-stage businesses raise money
- Infrastructure (non-physical)** – Foundational systems like software, not buildings
- Spin-off** A new project that grew from another one, usually a subsidiary
- Stablecoin** A digital currency tied to a stable asset (like USD)
- Digital citizenship** Online identity linked to rights or access in a digital community



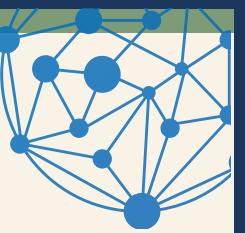
Technology & Crypto

- 3.0** **Web3** A vision of the internet run by users, not big companies
- NFT** Unique digital item that proves ownership, like a certificate
- Native token** Main digital currency used in a project
- Blockchain** Digital ledger that records transactions securely
- Trustless infrastructure** Systems that don't require trust in people or institutions
- Interoperable** Can work or connect with other systems easily
- Cryptographic** Using math to secure digital information
- Private blockchain** A blockchain controlled by a select group of people
- On-chain** Actions recorded directly on a blockchain
- DePIN** Network using real-world devices run by users, not companies
- Proof-of-presence protocol** Digital way to confirm you were physically present
- Proof-of-sweat system** Digital reward for physical work
- Digital ID** Identity stored and verified online
- Tokenomics** Economic system based on digital tokens
- Marketplace (token)** A digital shop for trading blockchain-based goods



Sociological & Philosophical Concepts

- Utopia** An imagined perfect society
- Identity-forming narratives** Stories or beliefs that shape who people think they are
- Dunbar's number** The idea that people can only maintain ~150 stable relationships
- Planetary health** A focus on the health of people and the planet together

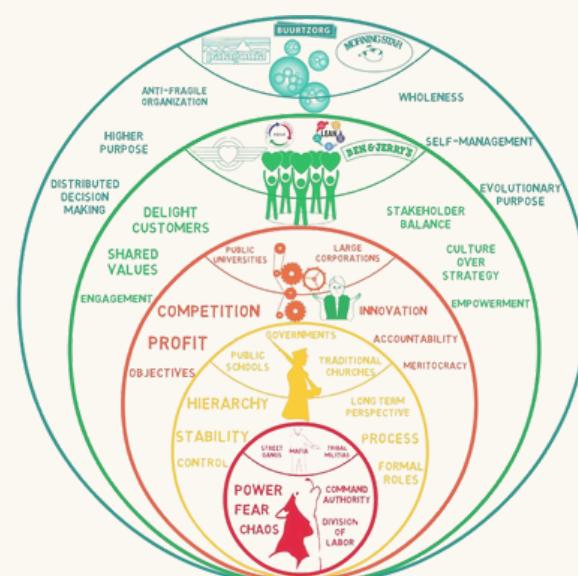


The Evolution of Communities

A community can be defined as a group of humans gathering around shared identity-forming narratives, creating a sense of cohesion, purpose, and boundary, distinguishing insiders from outsiders. Human imagination and storytelling are the drivers of the collective, allowing the community to create meaning. Communities used to be limited to kinship and geographic proximity, but eventually started to organize around economic production, the working class, and national identities. In recent decades, communities have become more fluid, multi-layered, and based on values.



For an interesting perspective on the evolution of human civilization based on prosperity, look up Frederic Laloux's developmental model. It is worth noting that not all of humanity is at the same stage, considering there are still isolated authoritarian groups in the world, while others have achieved participatory structures. Technology has had a huge impact on this progress, particularly information technologies.



Laloux Culture Model

"...look up the Method Laloux... technology has had a huge impact on this progress..."

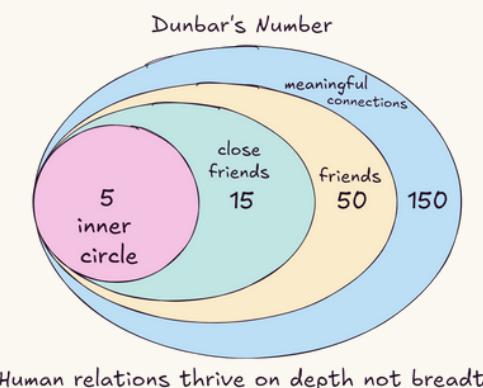
It democratized access to knowledge and networks, even though there is still a lot of work to be done towards decentralization.

No matter where you are, whether you are one of billions of inhabitants in a country, or you are a nomad with no specific attachment, it seems like Dunbar's number (150-person cognitive limit for social relationships) holds true, and anything above that is about interaction with external systems: governance, coordination, and consensus. All these systems like nation-states, governments, global coordination have emerged after millennia of human history, and as technology improves, we are witnessing a better distribution, or decentralization, of these systems. This huge set of technology is regularly referred to as web3, the evolution of the internet, aiming to become an infrastructure owned by everyone.

Many of these innovative communities reflect the values of web3, autonomy, resource-based economics, shared ownership, permissionless access, interoperability, relying on trustless infrastructure to manage the collective. It may be an unreachable utopia, but it is a direction full of hope, a direction with diverse opportunities, based on tolerance and inclusion, and a respect for nature - admittedly utopian. The outcome of such technologies isn't one monolithic social system, it is millions of self-sustaining and cross-pollinating models, continuously iterating and improving.

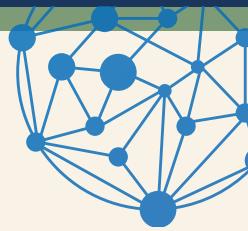
Many of the founders of the following communities aspire to consciously create better communities, better incentives and better outcomes aligning with human flourishing and planetary health.

"...Dunbar's number holds true... interaction with the system, governance, coordination, and consensus..."



Human relations thrive on depth not breadth

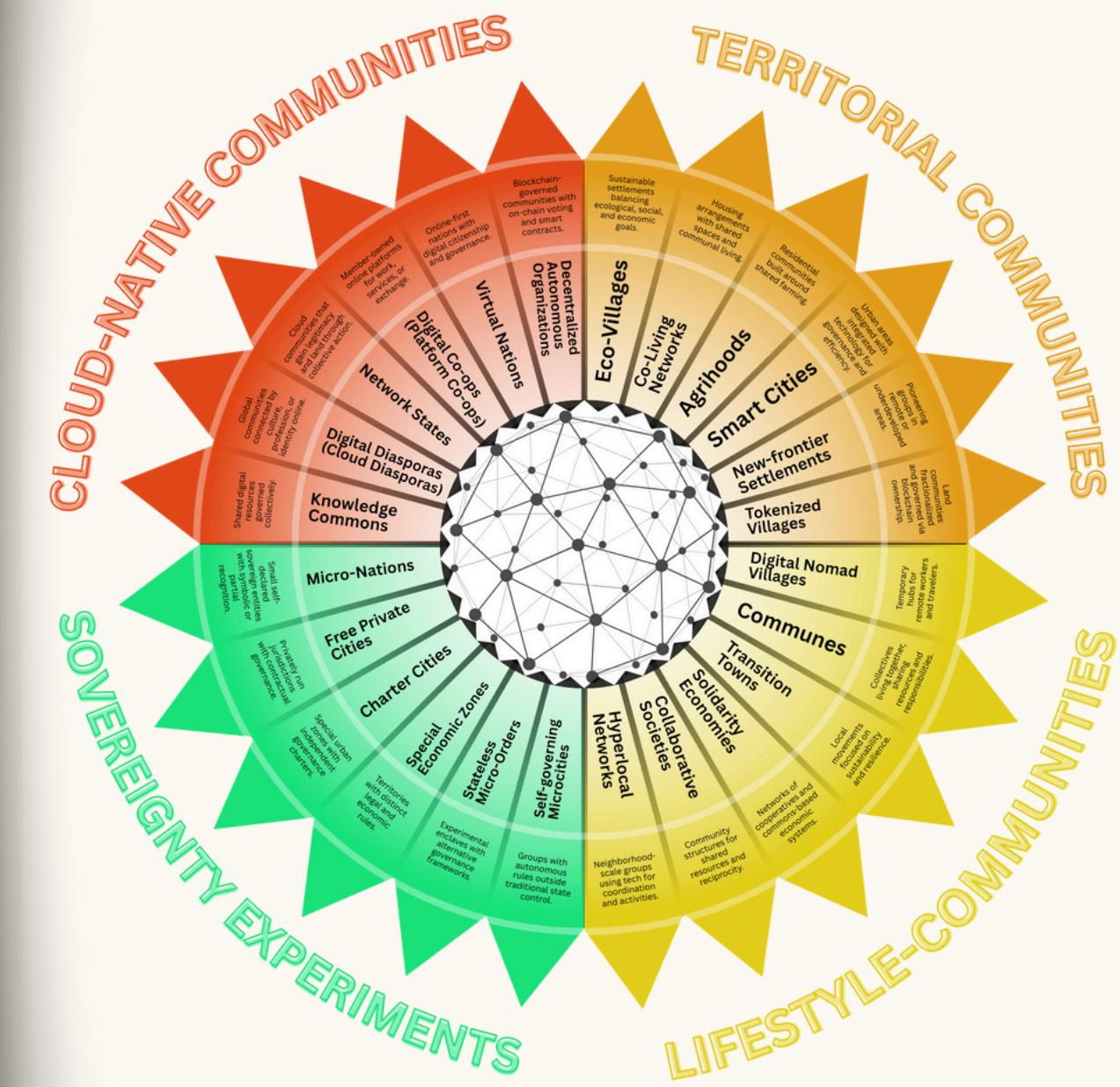




Understanding the Spectrum of Community Models

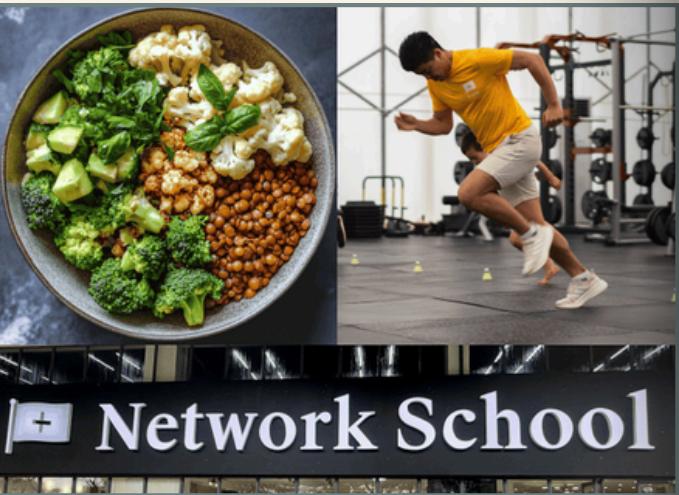
This diagram organizes alternative societies by how they prioritize physical space, governance structures, lifestyle design, or digital infrastructure. The goal is not strict categorization but rather to highlight patterns across emerging community models. Many real-world examples fall between segments, evolving over time or blending elements of several types.

- Cloud-Native Communities
- Lifestyle-Communities
- Sovereignty Experiments
- Territorial Communities



The Network School

A startup society.



Network School

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

The Network School, founded by Balaji Srinivasan, is an experimental educational community focused on self-improvement, technology, and decentralized societies. Located on an island near Singapore, it offers a year-long residential program where participants learn through tutorials, earn cryptocurrency, focus on physical fitness, and engage in social interactions. Admission is open to remote workers or those with sufficient savings, with membership starting at \$1,500/month. The school attracts individuals interested in technological progress, capitalism, and alternative governance, with a focus on blockchain and AI. It aims to foster the development of "network states" with decentralized economic and governance models.

Category: Network State

Location: Forest City, Johor, Malaysia

Founding Year: 2024

Governance Model: Techno-democracy

Population: ~1000 (cohorts of 100-200)



Network School integrates decentralized governance with digital education, empowering global learners in a flexible, virtual environment.



“The purpose of the Network School is to articulate a vision of peace, trade, internationalism, and technology...even as the rest of the world talks about war, trade war, nationalism, and statism.

Balaji Srinivasan, Founder



ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

The Network School is an ambitious new project created by the author of The Network State book, and as such, it holds huge potential. The location is interesting since it offers plenty of accommodation to grow a massive community, high-tech infrastructure, starting in a 5-star hotel for the current cohorts, with free healthy food approved by longevity expert Bryan Johnson. The members go through a "Learn Burn Earn" program, where activities are gamified and rewarded on-chain. Even though the structure is run like a startup with a core team, people are incentivized to start their own events. Every cohort is different, creating a diverse global community of builders - and this is just the beginning.



LINKS/RESOURCES:

- <https://ns.com>
- <https://thenetworkstate.com>
- <http://balajis.com>



"The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating. The paths to it are not found, but made; and the activity of making them changes both the maker and the destination."

—Peter Ellyard





Próspera

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

Próspera is a charter city in a special economic zone located in Roatán, Honduras. Legally established in 2017 and launched operationally in 2020, it offers regulatory autonomy, low taxes, and digital infrastructure to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. Governed through a mix of private management and public participation, it promotes economic freedom and legal experimentation. The community targets global investors, founders, and professionals seeking dynamic, business-friendly governance.

Category: Charter City

Location: Island of Roatán, Honduras

Founding Year: 2017

Governance Model: Autonomous ZEDE

Population: 1700+ as of 2025 (from 40 different countries)

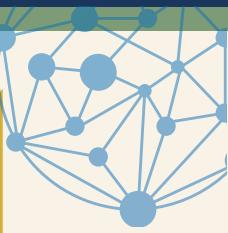


Próspera exemplifies how private governance and regulatory autonomy can attract global innovation within a host nation's legal framework.



“There is no other endeavor that has as much potential to eradicate poverty by ushering unprecedented levels of generalized human prosperity than Governance as a Service (GaaS)! Worthy of a life mission!

Erick Brimen, CEO



ACCESS VIDEOS

ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

Prospera isn't the only SEZ or ZEDE in the world, but its unique governance autonomy is perfect for ambitious startups. Infinita, its "popup city" partner, is channeling this framework into medical innovation, an ideal niche application. While their online messaging can be confusing, particularly about crypto, the project has remained resilient despite friction with the Honduran government. The actual number of residents is smaller than claimed (~50+), but the broader community is strong and growing, with multiple adjacent projects (~layer 2s) plugging in. Great location to start with if you want a glimpse of what the future holds for us.



LINKS/RESOURCES:

- <https://prospera.co>
- <https://eprospera.com>
- <https://infinita.city>



"Technology is bringing the world closer to having to make a fundamental choice about governance. This is about what the rules are in human society: what tools can do, what they ought to do, and who decides."

— Yochai Benkler





Liberland

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

Liberland is a self-declared micronation located on disputed land between Croatia and Serbia, founded in 2015. Operated under a libertarian constitution with voluntary governance and minimal taxation, it promotes personal freedom and decentralized law. It issues digital citizenship and supports crypto-based transactions. Liberland appeals to anarcho-capitalists, sovereignty seekers, and digital pioneers.

Category: Microstate

Location: Gornja Siga, between Croatia and Serbia

Founding Year: 2015

Governance Model: Microstate

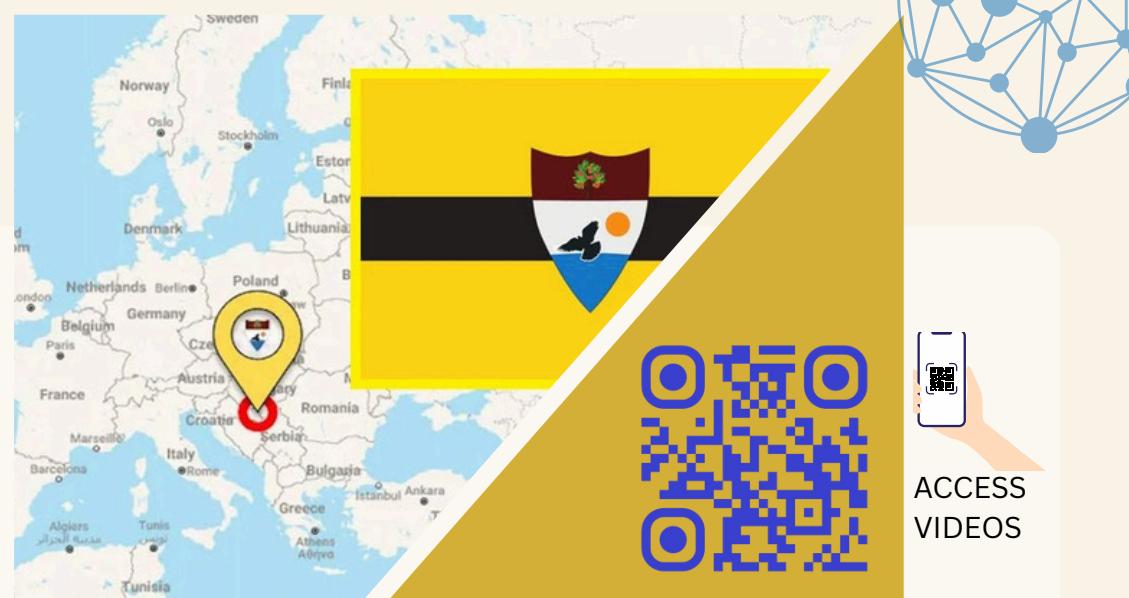
Population: 1300 registered citizens as of 2025



Liberland challenges traditional statehood by asserting libertarian sovereignty and voluntary digital governance on disputed land.



“
Liberland is an embodiment of libertarian liberalism, which is a political ideology that supports limited government and more individual freedom along with the rights to private property.
Vit Jedlička, Founder and President of Liberland
“



ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, Liberland is a rare case of terra nullius, a claim to unclaimed land. Established on a (tiny) Danube island in Europe, it quickly drew crypto enthusiasts and has since grown into a well-organized project. With NFT-based citizenship, two native tokens (for governance and currency), company incorporation, a marketplace, and blockchain-run elections, it's one of the most advanced digital nations. Critics point to the founders' token dominance, but their persistent political effort toward international recognition is impressive. Now transitioning from digital to physical, it's a great project to support if you believe in using technology to reimagine nationhood.



LINKS/RESOURCES:

- <https://liberland.org>
- <https://visit.ll.land>
- <https://liberlandpress.com>



"Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it."

- George Bernard Shaw





Draper Nation

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

Draper Nation is a virtual nation founded in 2023 by investor Tim Draper. It offers digital citizenship through NFT passports and promotes decentralized governance, economic opportunity, and entrepreneurship. The community is organized around blockchain-enabled participation and merit-based systems. It targets innovators and crypto-native individuals building a borderless digital society.

Category: Digital Nation

Location: Decentralized

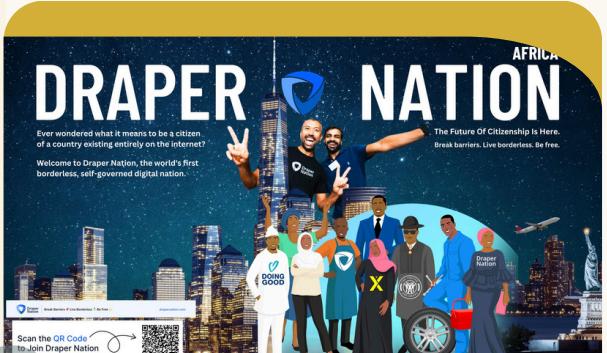
Founding Year: 2023

Governance Model: Decentralized decision-making via NFTs

Population: 16 HQs in 12 countries



Draper Nation demonstrates how virtual citizenship and NFT governance can redefine participation in borderless digital societies.



In essence, we want to co-create this nation with the help of its citizens. We will co-write the Manifesto and then the Constitution of Draper Nation through community-driven activities.

Vikram Bharati, Draper Startup House founder



ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

Draper House, the global startup accelerator backed by investor Tim Draper (and Adam Draper via BoostVC), has embraced the network state movement with Draper Nation, a decentralized public good initiative. Initially, Jur was set to power the back end but quietly vanished without delivering, leaving Draper Nation to continue with a lean team. The project features digital passports, embassies, and hackathons, though there's no clear path to territorial presence yet, despite mentions of future SEZs. A few hundred people have signed up (it's free), but activity remains limited outside of sponsored events like those in Tibet. One to watch for ambitious entrepreneurs, though still taking shape.



LINKS/RESOURCES:

- <https://drapernation.com>
- <https://etibet.co>
- <https://zerrahq.com>
- <https://gitbook.jur.io>



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead





Praxis

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

Praxis is a decentralized community and startup society planning a charter city at a location to be announced in 2025. Founded in 2019, it promotes experimental governance, cultural renewal, and high-agency living. The project combines digital coordination with plans for physical development, governed by a venture-backed community. It targets entrepreneurs and builders aligned with autonomy and civilizational progress.

Category: Proposed City

Location: Undetermined

Founding Year: 2019

Governance Model: Minimal governance with libertarian principles

Population: 87,371 as of 2025



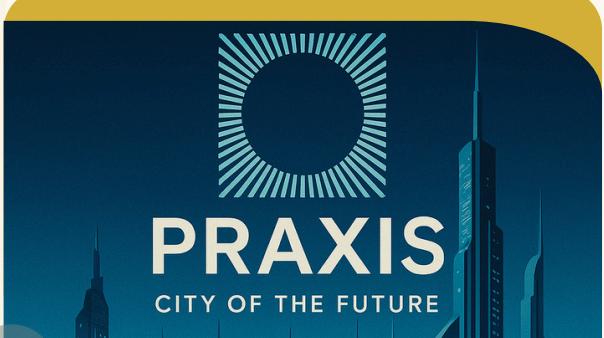
Praxis envisions a new civilization model by combining digital coordination and cultural revival in a future charter city.

“

We're a group of people who find the frontier to be exciting, who want to take on heroic challenges, who think there's spiritual worth to doing hard things. Building a city on a sheet of barren ice is a big test of the will.

— Dryden Brown, Founder of Praxis

”



ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

Praxis is arguably the biggest and well-known network state project, operating under high secrecy. Self-described as a “network empire,” it leans into Roman aesthetics to attract an elite, high-conviction community. Allegedly backed by \$525M and major crypto figures, it hosted its first official ceremony with over 200 attendees signing a “Declaration of Ascent.” The recent launch of an exclusive (and expensive) magazine, as well as a real estate play, adds to the mystery. Despite their traction, skepticism persists due to their opacity and lack of a defined location. Still, with cult-like momentum and crazy ambitions, Praxis could somehow pull off something extraordinary.

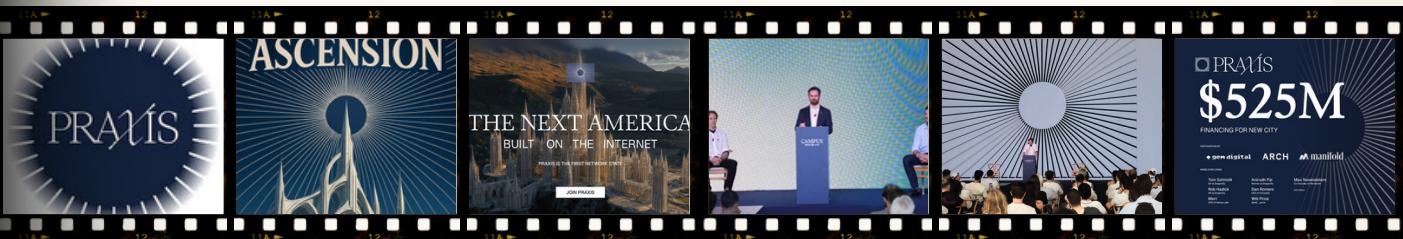


LINKS/RESOURCES:

- <https://www.praxisnation.com> (QR)
- <https://www.praxisnation.com/writing/master-plan>
- <https://www.praxis-magazine.com>



"The empires of the future are the empires of the mind."
- Winston Churchill





Montelibero

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

Montelibero is a libertarian intentional community in Montenegro, established in 2021. It operates under Montenegrin law while experimenting with voluntary governance, local self-management, and cryptocurrency use. The community values personal autonomy, free markets, and economic freedom. It attracts libertarian migrants, crypto users, and decentralization advocates.

Category: Libertarian Community

Location: Montenegro

Founding Year: 2023

Governance Model: Community-driven libertarian principles

Population: 250 full-time residents as of 2024



Montelibero shows how localized intentional communities can embody libertarian values within existing legal systems.



“Our most modest goal is to create a pleasant environment for people with common values, and to use the advantages of networking cooperation in the interests of our movers.

Jose Birkin, Community Member of Montelibero



ACCESS VIDEOS

ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

Montelibero began as a refuge for libertarians in Montenegro and quickly attracted a broader community of freedom-minded individuals. It has since evolved into a stable, well-connected network with a strong online presence, many businesses, a marketplace, a crypto fund, native tokens, and even a stablecoin. The project maintains a positive relationship with the Montenegrin government and collaborates with similar initiatives like Liberland and Liberstad. With its main city under construction and land secured for agricultural projects, Montelibero offers a compelling option for those seeking a motivated, freedom-oriented community, all within the comfort of Europe.



LINKS/RESOURCES:

- <https://montelibero.net>
- <https://montelibero.org>
- <https://monte.wiki/en>



“If each human being is to have liberty, he cannot also have the liberty to deprive others of their liberty.”

-John Hospers





Afropolitan

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

Afropolitan is a virtual nation founded in 2022 to unite the global African diaspora through digital citizenship, decentralized governance, and economic empowerment. Built on Web3 principles, it promotes cultural autonomy, entrepreneurship, and self-determination, targeting high-agency individuals aligned with pan-African and innovation-driven values.

Category: Digital Nation

Location: Global

Founding Year: 2022

Governance Model: Community-driven

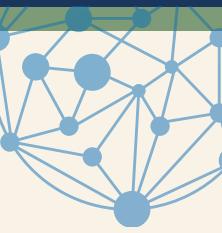
Population: 525 founding members



Afropolitan merges pan-African identity with Web3 tools to create a global network state for diaspora empowerment.



“
Afropolitan isn't a place—it's a movement. We're leveraging tech to unite the African diaspora and build a future without borders.
Eche Emole, Co-founder
”



ACCESS VIDEOS

ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

Afropolitan appeals to the African diaspora with a dream: creating embassies around the world that function like mini Chinatowns, cultural hubs rooted in community and identity. Structured like a startup, they've raised funding and launched several products, including a dating app, mentorship platform, support network, and a suite of podcasts. With elements of a decentralized startup accelerator and cultural movement, Afropolitan offers a unique proposition. However, its broad scope and fast-paced experimentation make it challenging to assess its current traction. It's still a very compelling project for those drawn to global community building based on shared culture.



LINKS/RESOURCES:

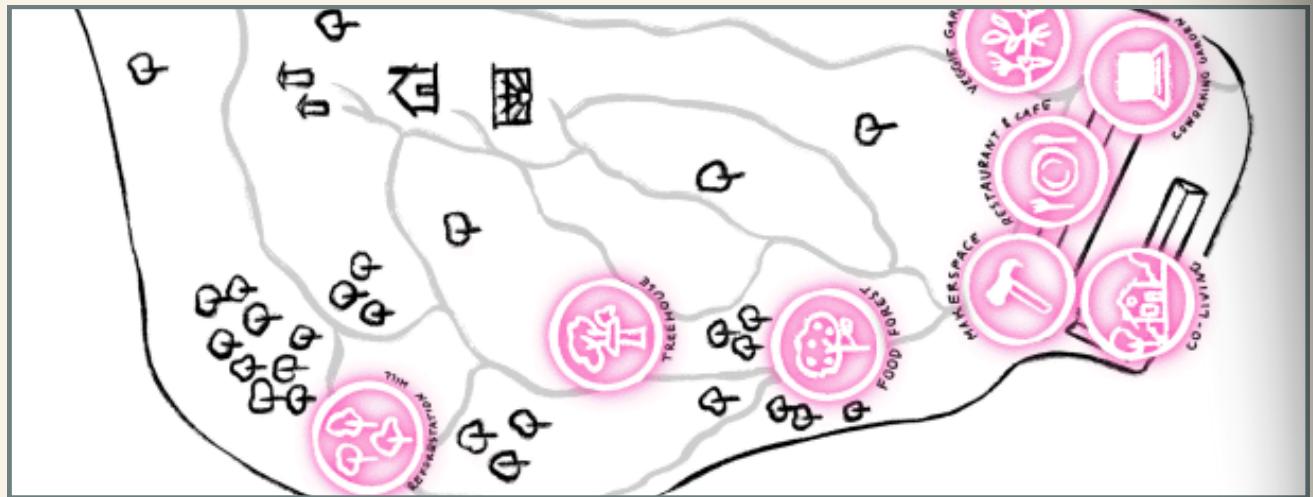
- <https://www.afropolitan.io>
- <https://legacy.rsvp>
- <https://mentors.so>
- <https://convo.vip>



"The diaspora is the greatest asset that Africa never knew it had."

- Kingsley Moghalu





The Traditional Dream Factory

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

The Traditional Dream Factory is an intentional co-living community founded in 2021 in Portugal. It combines regenerative agriculture, cooperative governance, and blockchain-based coordination. The community values sustainability, tradition, and innovation in rural development. It attracts artists, social entrepreneurs, and creatives building new models of communal living.

Category: Regenerative Community

Location: Abela, Portugal

Founding Year: 2021

Governance Model: Community-driven

Population: ~50 (on-site)

 The Traditional Dream Factory reimagines rural living by fusing regenerative practices with blockchain-enabled cooperative governance.



“
It's this whole idea of moving from ownership to stewardship. We're not meant to own land and extract value from it, but rather we're meant to help make the land more beautiful and bring diversity.
Samuel Delesque, Founder of TDF
“

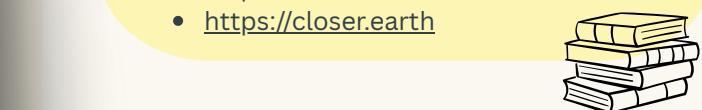


ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

The Traditional Dream Factory is a regenerative project but with a twist: it's the prototype of Oasa, a DAO set to welcome many new members. Using the Closer blockchain, it developed its own token, a proof-of-presence protocol, and soon a proof-of-sweat system. It is a pioneer of the ReFi movement, protecting 95% of the land for nature while gathering enthusiasts and volunteers to build the infrastructure the community needs. With a food garden, farm animals, and permaculture courses, it is an example of how intentional communities can adopt new technologies for growth. They maintain good relationships with the local town, supporting nearby sustainable projects, and they keep participating in the ReFi ecosystem, genuinely sharing their experience. Best project to visit for anyone feeling the Regen spirit

LINKS/RESOURCES:

- <https://www.traditionaldreamfactory.com>
- <https://oasa.earth>
- <https://closer.earth>



"The world of the future will not be one of 'not enough' but of 'too much' – too much material, too much information, too many people, too much of everything for our small planet to bear."

— Margaret Mead





SOVS.XYZ

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

SOVS is a decentralized virtual state launched in 2024, focused on digital sovereignty and community autonomy. It will offer blockchain-based digital residency, governance tools, and peer-to-peer coordination. The project values privacy, opt-in citizenship, and self-sovereign identity. It is designed for crypto-native individuals and communities seeking to build network states from the ground up.



SOVS advances the concept of self-sovereign identity through decentralized digital coordination and grassroots state-building.

Category: Network State

Location: Not specified

Founding Year: 2021 (launched 2024)

Governance Model: Blockchain-based governance

Population: 160000 Attestations signed



“
SOVS.XYZ, a project inviting everyone to declare their personal sovereignty, as another small step toward the decentralized future.
Joe Lubin, Founder/CEO of ConsenSys
”



ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

SOVS is fairly new to the game, but because it comes from ConsenSys the company behind Metamask (most popular crypto wallet) and the Linea blockchain. All of these tools recently had many upgrades, and even a new company called CNS Lab (for ConsenSys Network State). It is guaranteed to have an impact. Though still in stealth mode, they have a team focusing on building a network state and collaborations with a few popup cities. It's fair to say they have been working on decentralization for a long time, so their progress will impact a lot of other projects. For now, we can only wait and see if a big corporation can attempt to provide the infrastructure for a virtual community



LINKS/RESOURCES:

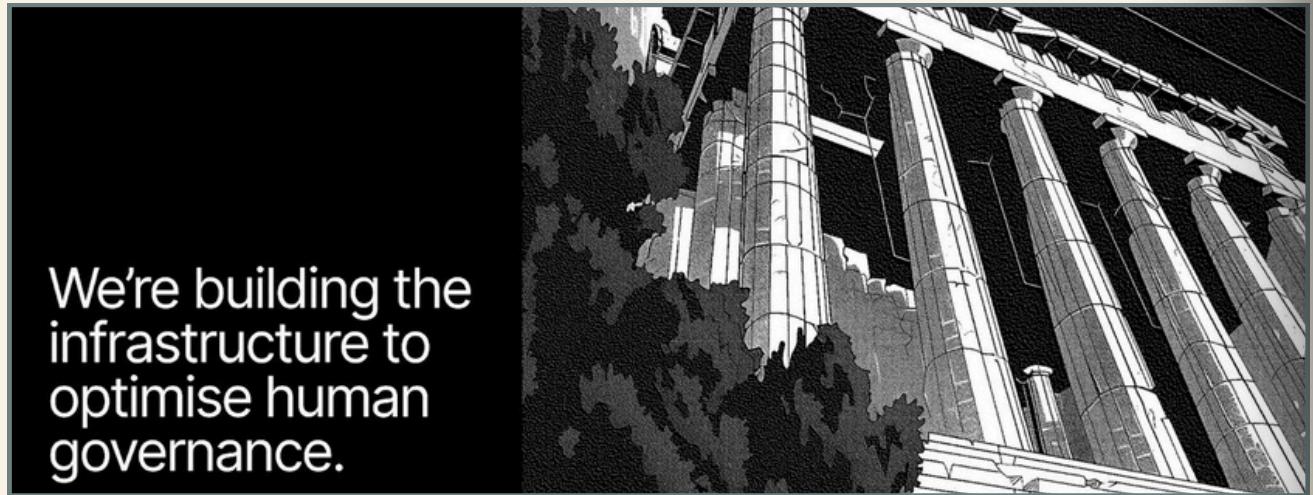
- <https://www.sovs.xyz>
- <https://poh.linea.build>
- <https://consensys.io>



"The future cannot be predicted, but futures can be invented."

- Dennis Gabor





We're building the infrastructure to optimise human governance.

Logos

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

Logos is a decentralized protocol network founded around 2022, supporting the creation of self-sovereign virtual territories. It provides privacy-focused infrastructure for governance, messaging, and coordination, promoting cyber states and politically neutral communities. The project emphasizes decentralization, autonomy, and open-source innovation. It appeals to builders of digital societies and governance technologists.

Category: Network State

Location: Not specified

Founding Year: 2023

Governance Model: Consent-based governance

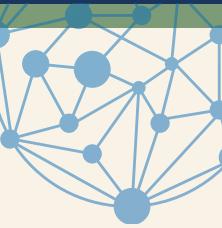
Population: Population data not specified



Logos offers the foundational infrastructure for cyber-states, emphasizing privacy, neutrality, and open-source governance.



“
To prove it, we are declaring independence from this dying order, reopening the frontier and establishing Logos, a self-sovereign network state founded on the solid ground of liberty, security, privacy, openness, and decentralisation.
Jarrad Hope, co-Founder of Logos Network
“



ACCESS VIDEOS

ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

Logos stands out as a purely technical project laying out the foundation for the open-source private and decentralized society. With a team coming from the cryptographic world, they deliver on the original idea of a free and stateless internet. Often described as anarchist or lunarpunk, an ideology that values privacy, decentralization, and harmony with nature, they're developing the full tech stack: messaging, storage, blockchain, hardware wallets, and more, including community growth. Probably realizing the infrastructure must be rock-solid, they are developing slowly but thoroughly, surely for the best. If you're all about the ideology, this is the project for you as well as for a lot of freedom projects that can't afford such tough but necessary developments



LINKS/RESOURCES:

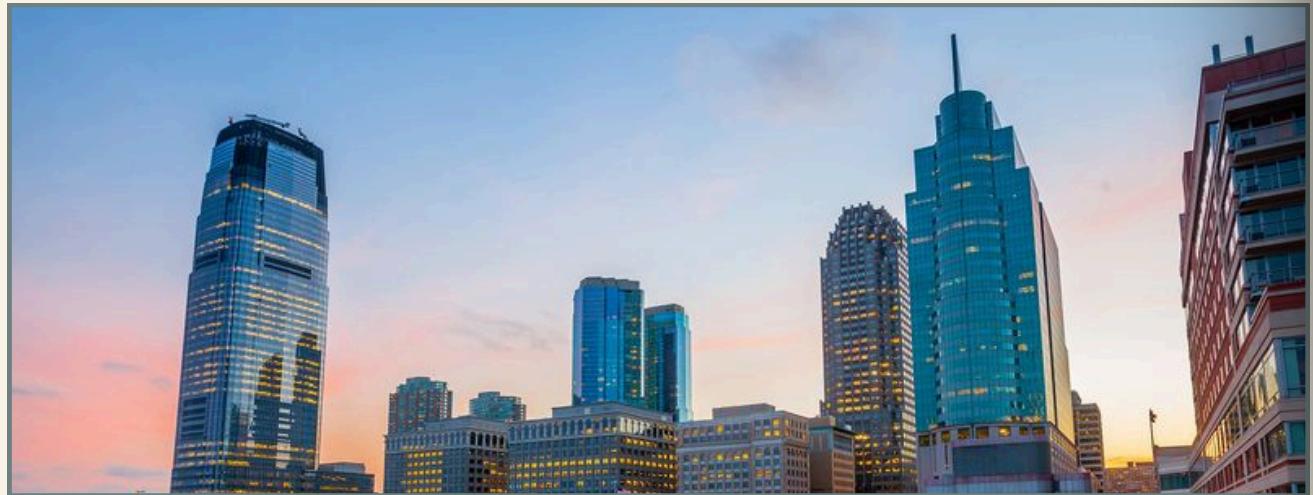
- <https://logos.co>
- <http://logos.network>
- <http://free.technology>



"The nation state has become too small for the big problems of life, and too big for the small problems of life."

— Daniel Bell





Build_ Republic

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

Build_ Republic is a global cooperative and startup city initiative founded in 2022. It supports communities in developing digital-first cities by providing governance tools, coordination infrastructure, and real-world implementation pathways. The platform emphasizes entrepreneurship, community-building, and decentralized governance, targeting founders and innovators looking to launch network states and experimental cities.

Category: DAO of DAOs

Location: 63 cities globally

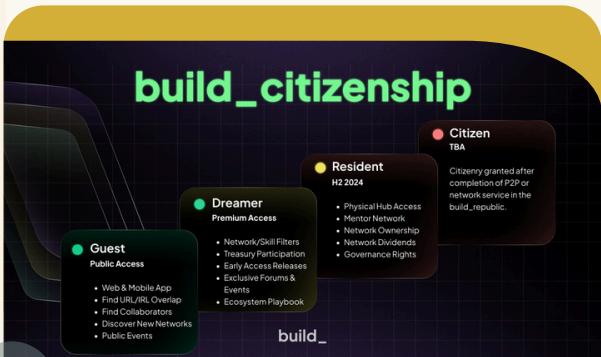
Founding Year: 2022

Governance Model: DAO-like

Population: ~600 community members



Build_ Republic acts as a launchpad for digital-first city development, bridging online communities with physical territories.



“
We take a very local-first mentality... it's the people that make up an ecosystem, not the pretty buildings or the novel companies.

Angelo Alessio, Co-founder
of Build_ Republic



ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

Build_Republic, or Build_Cities, takes an interesting approach to building a global network of startups starting from specific cities, by building a DAO for each city and connecting them worldwide. Mixing global governance with local coordination, they empower entrepreneurs around the world by connecting them, educating them, and supporting the right initiatives in a decentralized manner. With an original type of NFT membership, they are also among the first to leverage AI to help the community, keeping track of the latest technologies that can benefit us all. No hype, just events and hard work. A project worth joining if you live in a big city and want to be part of an ever-evolving journey towards decentralization



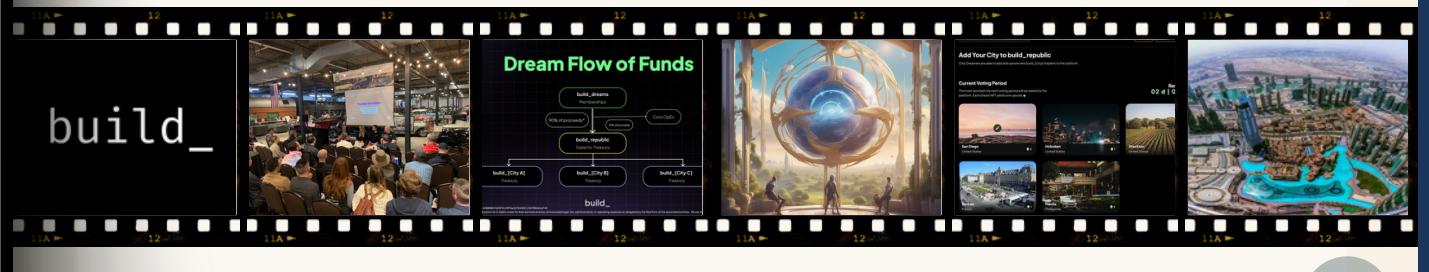
LINKS/RESOURCES:

- www.buildcities.network



“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”

- Henry Ford





Cryptocity

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

Crypto City is a private, gated enclave on Margarita Island in Venezuela, founded in 2022 as a special economic zone. Its core purpose is to create an autonomous, innovation-driven community focused on sustainability and entrepreneurship. Residents enjoy streamlined governance as a DAO, co-living spaces, and shared resources, aiming to pioneer new city-building models.

Category: Intentional Entrepreneurial Community

Location: Venezuela

Founding Year: 2023

Governance Model: Decentralized Governance

Population: 50 families as of December 2024, (300 expected)

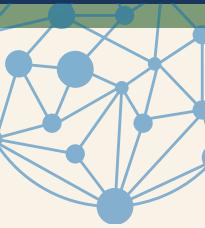


Cryptocity showcases the potential of crypto-native urban design by embedding blockchain governance into a luxury enclave.



“
CryptoCity is designed to function as a brain pool—a hub of creativity and innovation where residents collaborate to bring business ideas and visions to life.

Tim Stern, Founder and Chief Marketing Officer of CryptoCity



ACCESS VIDEOS

ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

Cryptocity doesn't necessarily focus on crypto, but they are building a new city for ~300 people on an island of Venezuela using a DAO for coordination. With German founders, they tend to attract German libertarians, but they carefully select residents based on skills that will support the entrepreneurial ecosystem they are building. It may sound elitist, but it is a serious project with good management, livestream of the construction, and decent traction. Despite some local skepticism, they recently got the status of SEZ with zero tax, confirming their status of free city. If you're open to a multicultural life in Venezuela and can pass the selective entry, it's definitely worth exploring.



LINKS/RESOURCES:

- <https://cryptocity.land>
- www.auswandern-margarita.com



"A city is not gauged by its length and width, but by the broadness of its vision and the height of its dreams."

— Herb Caen





Republic of Palau

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

Palau launched its Digital Residency program in 2022 as a government initiative offering blockchain-based IDs. This online-first program supports digital citizenship, financial inclusion, and access to regulatory infrastructure. Palau values innovation, sovereignty, and global digital governance. It targets entrepreneurs, remote workers, and those seeking digital legal presence.

Category: Innovative nation-state

Location: Palau

Founding Year: 2022

Governance Model: Government-issued digital IDs

Population: 17700 (Physical population) and 4700 (Digital residents)



Palau leads sovereign-state innovation by offering global digital residency through blockchain-based identification.

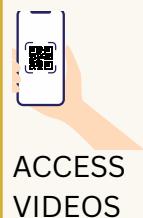
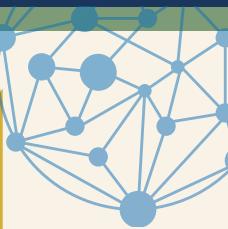


“

Palau's digital residency merges tradition with the future. We're small, but we're leading the way in blockchain-powered identity.

President Surangel Whipps Jr.

”



ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

Palau is a Pacific island nation in Micronesia that started adopting crypto tools to attract nomads and companies. Starting with an on-chain identity program, they are developing a stablecoin and blockchain-based saving bonds. Since their main industry is tourism, this shift helps diversify the economy and reduce reliance on the U.S. While some critique the companies behind these developments, it's still a notable example of a nation-state embracing emerging tech. Though currently built on private blockchains, Palau offers a unique opportunity for the techno-optimists who don't want to fully opt out of traditional governance.



LINKS/RESOURCES:

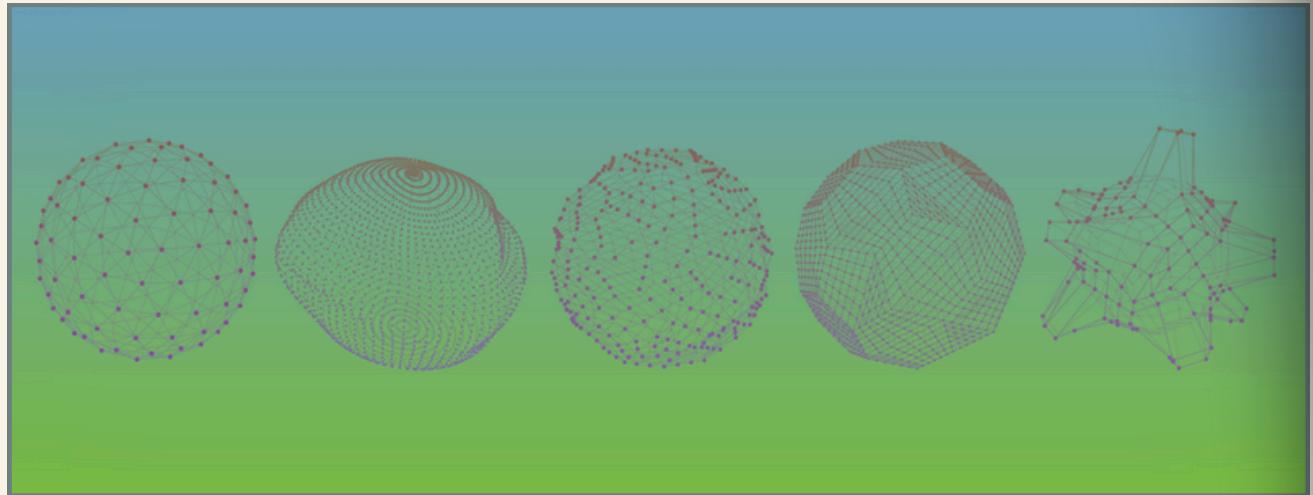
- <https://www.palaugov.pw>
- <https://rns.id>



"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."

- George Bernard Shaw





Plumia

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

Plumia is a virtual nation and policy think tank for digital nomads, launched in 2020. It advocates for mobility rights, portable benefits, and decentralized governance. The initiative supports global citizens through digital infrastructure and public policy innovation. Plumia targets remote workers and location-independent professionals seeking freedom of movement.

Category: Nomad network

Location: Global

Founding Year: 2020

Governance Model: Nonprofit organization

Population: 10 000 claimed



Plumia pioneers digital nationhood for nomads by advocating for policy change and designing mobility-first governance systems.

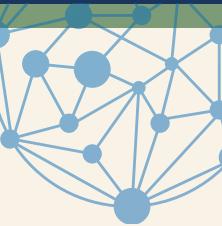


“

Five years ago, Plumia was an idea on a landing page. Today, we're influencing policy, shaping the global conversation, and laying the groundwork for a **borderless future**.

Lauren Razavi, Executive Director at Plumia

”



ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

Plumia is a spin-off of SafetyWing, a company providing insurance for nomads. As such, they started by proposing services for nomad visas while lobbying for a global nomad visa. However, their vision is much grander: a network state of nomads: a country on the internet. Through newsletters, podcasts, international summits, and policy advocacy, Plumia promotes a vision of borderless travel and citizenship. However, it's not clear how such a community would take form or how the members would benefit. This is a project for nomads, whether you buy their products or just keep an eye on their progress.



LINKS/RESOURCES:

- <https://plumia.org/story-of-plumia>
- <https://borderless.substack.com>



"The great task in front of us is not to reform global institutions that have failed us; it is to empower the innovation of new global institutions by new global citizens in this new global society."

– Joi Ito





Arkpad

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

Arkpad is a seasteading project founded in 2023, hosting maritime hubs for founders and creatives. It tests decentralized governance in real-world gatherings, combining agility with participatory coordination. The project values experimentation, autonomy, and community-building. Arkpad targets early-stage builders exploring alternative urban models on the ocean, anywhere in the world.

Category: Floating Community
Location: Samal Island, Philippines
Founding Year: 2023
Governance Model: Not specified
Population: Not specified yet



Arkpad experiments with agile urbanism by testing decentralized governance in temporary, real-world pop-up city hubs.

“
Seasteads eliminate the need for land, making negotiations easier.
Mitchell Suchner, Founder of Arkpad
”



ACCESS VIDEOS

ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

Arkpad is a startup part of the Seasteading Institute, providing autonomous floating homes on the open ocean. The goal is to connect these residences with integrated sea food farms into floating cities, allowing residents to live anywhere on their own terms. While it's not as expensive as people might think, it's unclear if anyone has already bought into the project. They created their own token and marketplace where anyone can participate, but it lacks a defined governance or coordination framework. Seasteading has a great potential for freedom-seekers, but it is still unproven at scale. Such a project is for the ocean-lovers who are not afraid of challenges.



LINKS/RESOURCES:

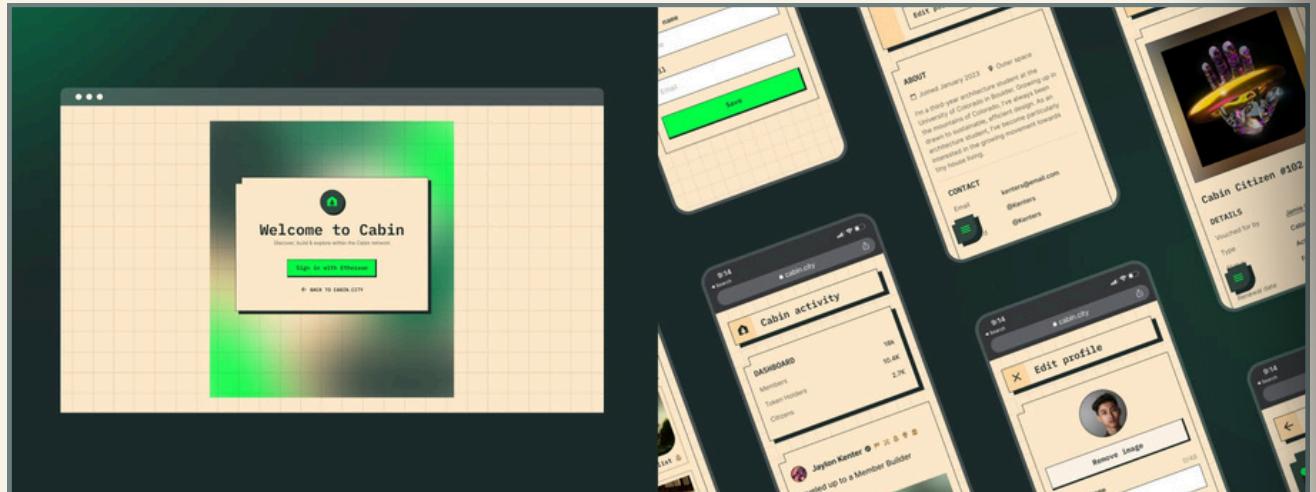
- <https://arkpad.co> (QR)
- <https://stead.builders>
- <https://www.seasteading.org>



"How inappropriate to call this planet Earth when it is clearly Ocean."

- Arthur C. Clarke





Cabin City

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

Cabin is a global network city composed of independently operated neighborhoods designed for community-centric living. Each neighborhood emphasizes strong community bonds, high-speed internet, and proximity to nature, catering to individuals seeking a balanced lifestyle. Governance is managed through a decentralized autonomous organization (DAO), where citizens participate using the #ABIN token.

UPDATE: as of May 2025, Cabin is winding down.

Category: Network of Neighborhoods

Location: Globally distributed neighborhoods

Founding Year: 2021

Governance Model: Decentralized Autonomous Organization (DAO)

Population: 1791 as of July 2024 (across 33 neighborhoods)



Cabin pioneers a hybrid model of decentralized urbanism, blending digital governance with nature-based co-living for remote workers.



“
If you think about cities being built around the dominant technology of the era, for the past century that was cars, we want to build cities around the dominant technology of this century, which is the internet and blockchains.

Jonathan Hillis, Founder of Cabin

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ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

Cabin is a veteran in decentralized communities, known for its NFT citizenships, native token, and DAO that drew significant early interest. Its founder has twice spoken at the Network State Conference, sharing an ambitious vision for the future. Recently, Cabin launched a Neighborhood Accelerator Program and is developing multiple permanent locations. While it connects with other projects in the space, it's still uncertain how these neighborhoods will evolve beyond community dinners. Still, it's a great project to join if you're near a node and looking to connect with like-minded local builders.

UPDATE: the DAO couldn't find a sustainable business model, but the community might keep going for some time.



LINKS/RESOURCES:

- <https://cabin.city>
- <https://creators.mirror.xyz>



“Community is a sign that love is possible in a materialistic world where people so often either ignore or fight each other.”

- Jean Vanier



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Satoshi Island

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

Satoshi Island is a crypto-powered intentional community located in Vanuatu, founded in 2021. Designed as a blockchain-based economic zone, it uses NFTs for digital citizenship, property ownership, and decentralized governance. The project emphasizes innovation, financial sovereignty, and digital infrastructure. It attracts crypto entrepreneurs, investors, and digital nomads seeking an immersive Web3 society.

Category: Private crypto-centric island community

Location: Sanma Province, Vanuatu

Founding Year: Concept initiated in 2017; officially started in December 2021

Governance Model: Decentralized Autonomous Organization (DAO)

Population: Infrastructure supports 50–100 residents; actual population remains limited as of 2025



Satoshi Island pushes the frontier of crypto urbanism by transforming physical territory into a blockchain-governed economic zone.

“
The bigger picture was always about creating an environment for our industry where everyone can come and really not be ridiculed by the mainstream... perhaps the sub-product of that is gonna be great innovation and great projects.
Denys Troyak, Founder of Satoshi Island



ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE

Satoshi Island is one of the earliest projects to offer NFTs for land ownership, citizenships, and a native token. As a physical development, progress started slowly, but it's now accelerating, with construction underway for future residents. Despite being a private island in Vanuatu, it received an official endorsement from the prime minister in 2022 and never faced no political pushback. Often overlooked, Satoshi Island is quietly advancing bold plans, from DePIN infrastructure to regenerative practices, positioning itself as a unique location for techno-optimists and one of the most underrated experiments in decentralized living.



LINKS/RESOURCES:

- <https://satoshi-island.com>
- <https://satoshiisland.medium.com>
- <https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/109009950056693543>

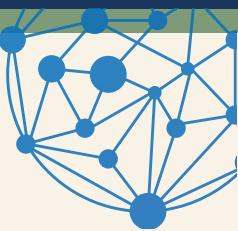


"The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion."

- Paulo Coelho



The Many Roads to Sovereignty



We saw 15 different types of projects that could potentially lead to a network state, which in this vision is a community growing big enough to negotiate with existing nation states.

We covered complex topics that we encourage you to research more, from SEZs, DAOs, DIDs, to fully private networks that could build alternative jurisdictions ... while nation-states can also join the movement and decentralize themselves.



Can there be more categories? Of course. Complexity is going to keep increasing and make this exercise of categorizing what is a candidate to build a network society almost impossible as time passes.



For example, we mentioned a lot of technical projects but who's to say a farming community cannot adopt the latest governance tools on top of their current food and water resilience, and quickly become independent from their host country? Some of them are already very autonomous, like the Amish are in the US.

At the other end of the spectrum, some DAOs and online groups are using the same tools to aim for sovereignty, while others are already thinking about the coordination of lunar settlements and beyond.



Multiple new city projects are building DAOs from day one to manage infrastructure and coordination among residents. Some projects plan SEZs focused on longevity to invent life-extension products that would generate such high demand they could create enough wealth to achieve sovereignty. Others simply prioritize quality of life.

Designing digital infrastructure for SEZs is another approach, effectively connecting multiple jurisdictions around the world.



New words and new concepts will be invented as the innovators create new systems to coordinate communities, and it already started with the popup cities.



The Pop-Up Path to Network Societies

This trend began with Zuzalu, a 2-month experiment in Montenegro that attracted experts from the field of AI, web3, network states, and even synthetic biology (engineering applied to organisms).

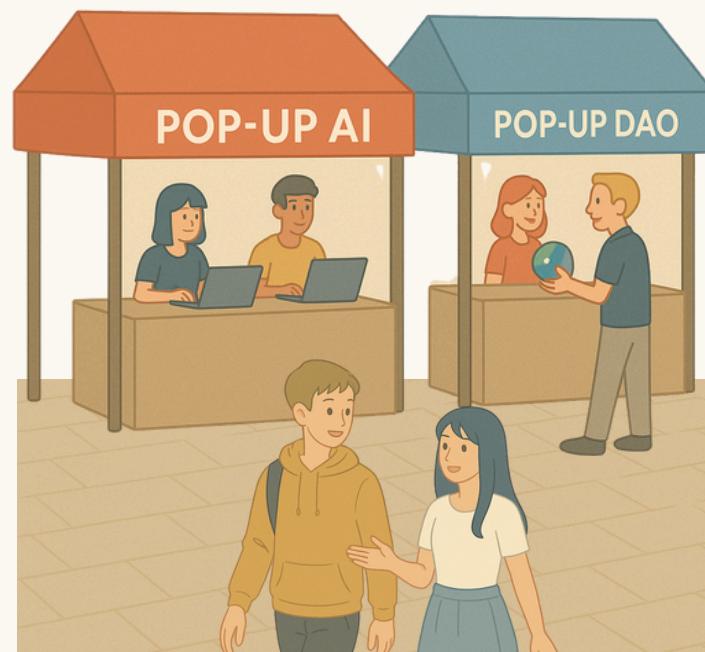
The key idea is simple: create a gathering that is between a conference and a campus, both in time and population. The format quickly became popular and got replicated: Zuzalu-inspired events, TheMu, Edge City, Ipe City, etc.

They attract a specific crowd of nomads and remote workers, particularly the ones interested in new technologies and continuous learning. The rate of technology change makes it hard to keep up with the latest disruptions, so these events help participants stay current with industry evolution.



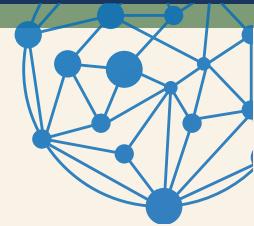
These pop-up events are getting more numerous and more diverse by the day, creating new highly aligned communities with dedicated locations to meet up.

These locations are usually not purpose-built for pop-up cities, but they benefit from their activities and can provide services to enhance their experience.

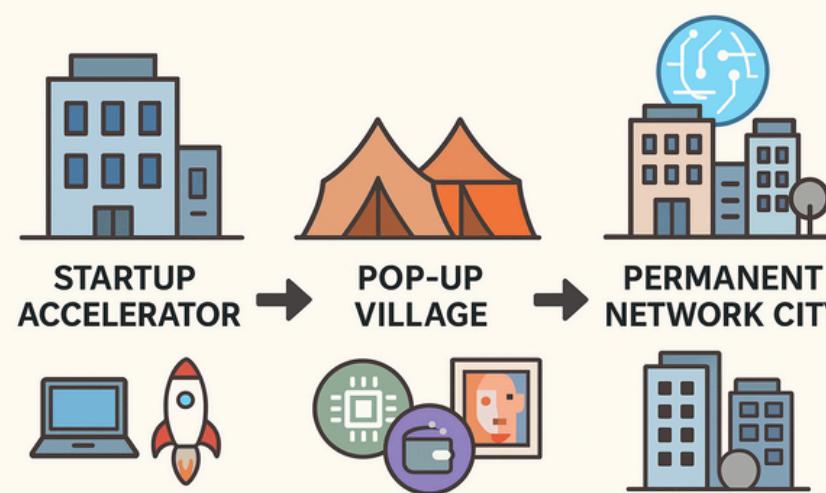


For example, they can provide activities related to longevity and enhance builders' health and mental clarity.





Over a few years, a network of locations providing a better lifestyle and gathering talent started to emerge. Some pop-up cities are already claiming to be permanent, and they look a lot like traditional startup accelerators and incubators, but supercharged by AI and web3.

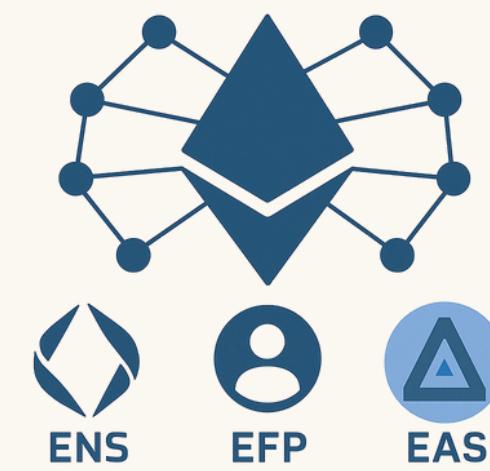


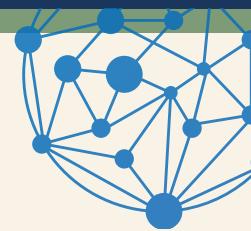
In a world where you could choose a new theme to work on every month, a new sport to focus on, or a new location to explore, while still being part of the same network of decentralized services... Network Societies seem inevitable, even though their exact form remains uncertain.



Adding to the complexity, a lot of these projects are using blockchains, which are themselves composed of multiple communities of builders. Each blockchain hosts a web of protocols and applications that create a whole ecosystem where developers can build a fulfilling career. Some blockchains are even developing SEZs for their members to gather globally and are effectively creating an interconnected network of web3 builders.

But a lot of the popup cities are on Ethereum, using protocol-level tools like ENS (Ethereum Name Service), EFP (Ethereum Follow Protocol) and EAS (Ethereum Attestation Service) - we encourage you to research these great tools, but the insight is, these protocols are providing decentralized tools for any community to leverage.



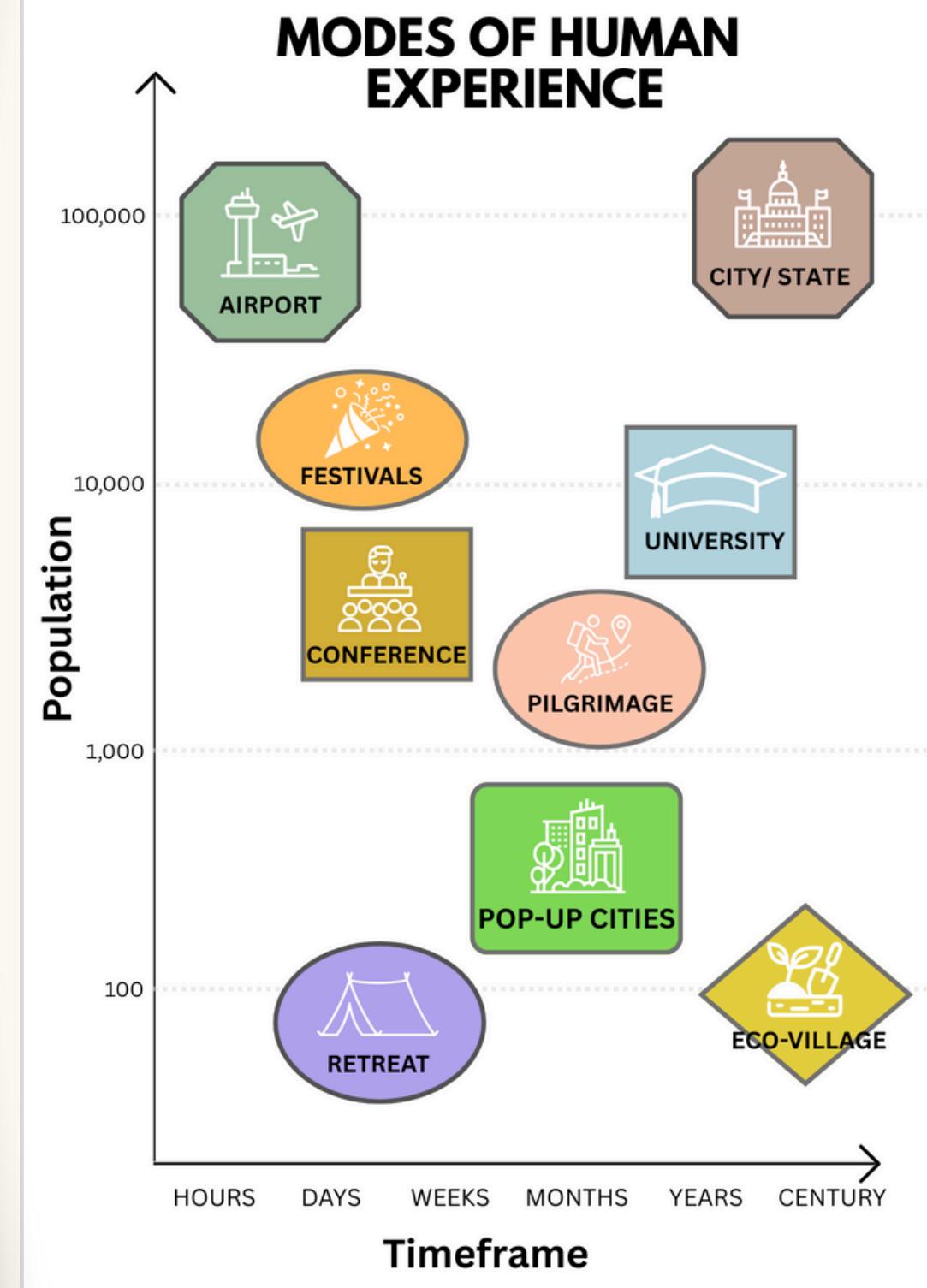


Many blockchain communities are developing with the mindset of creating a new society, using words like citizen or council. Some of the lesser-known ecosystems may even be slower to develop because they are focusing on the big picture which requires highly secure and robust infrastructure. It is too early to tell, after all, Ethereum, which is called the decentralized world computer, just celebrated its 10-year anniversary.

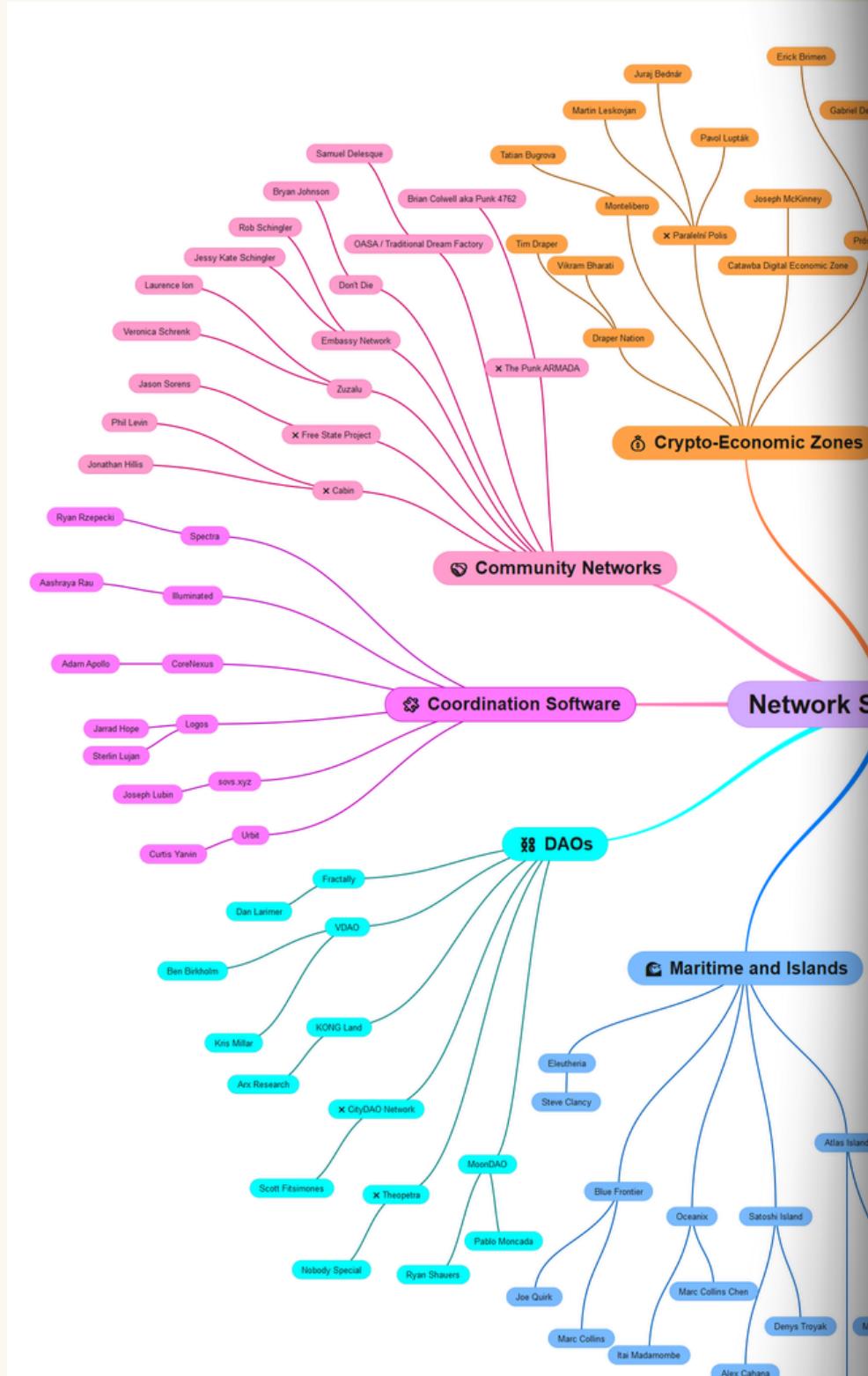


"What makes pop-up cities particularly fascinating is how they're redefining the very nature of innovation hubs."

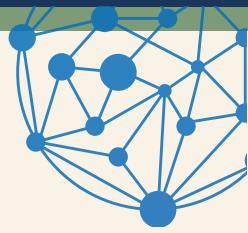
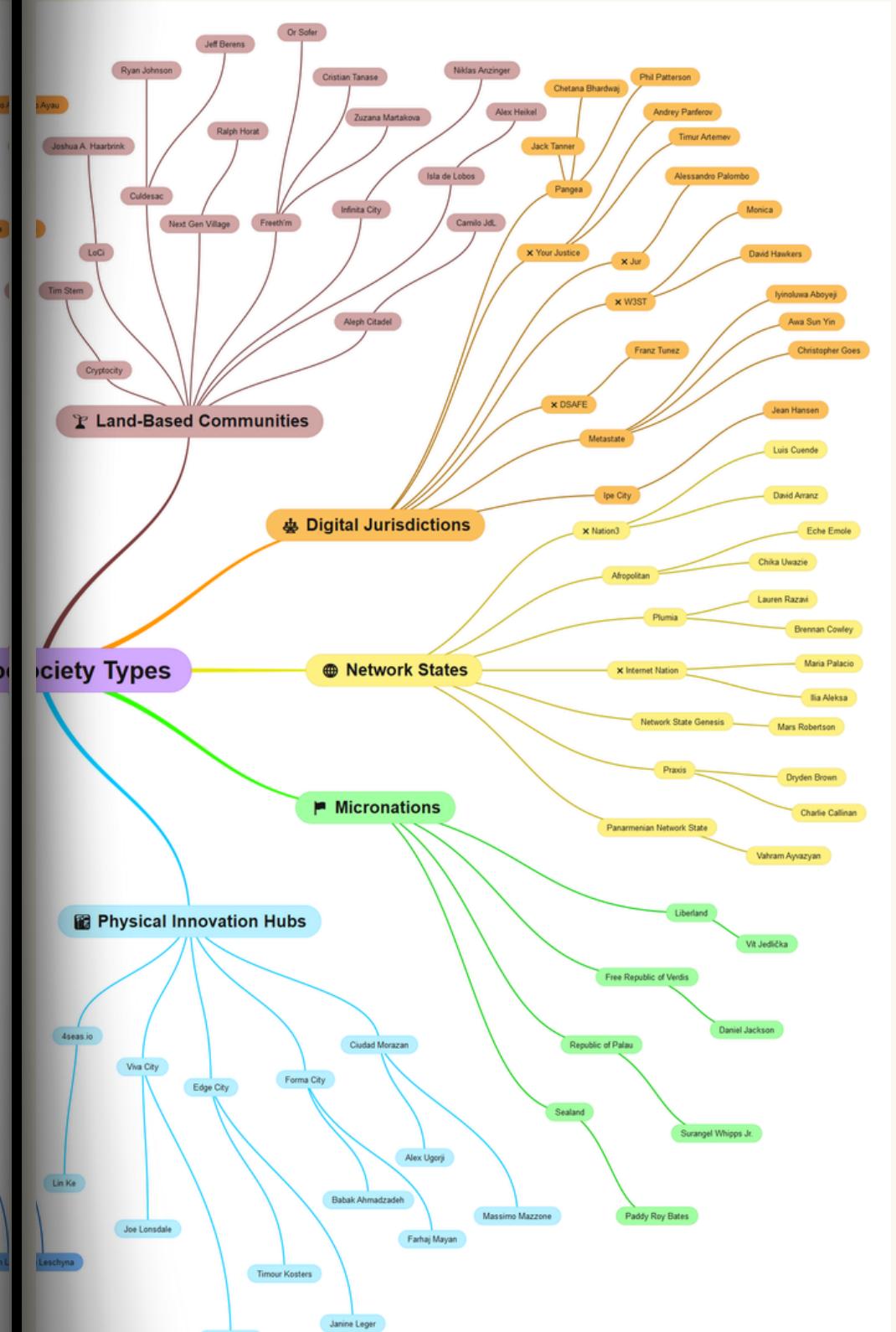
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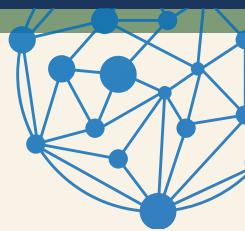


Ecosystem of



Emerging Network Societies





About The Curator

Eric Miki

Researcher, Strategist, & Explorer of Network States



meetwith.xyz/ericmiki



EricMiki.com

“This is not the end—just
the beginning of
discovering how we live,
govern, and belong.”

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