

# LEON SANTEN<sup>they/he</sup>

## Co-creating life-affirmative and regenerative community solutions

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### EDUCATION

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#### UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO | San Diego, CA | May 2024

Master of Science in Engineering, Sustainability and Health (MESH)

- A social & environmental justice focused program, training ecological organizers across disciplines ranging from waste systems to energy, food, water, health, and social systems.
- Applied all course work to real-life projects including energy democracy portfolio, ethical supply chain design, and visual encapsulations of concepts such as energy sovereignty

#### OLIN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING | Needham, MA | May 2021

Bachelors of Science in Engineering: Robotics & Sustainability - Minor in Sociology

- Studied complex (living) systems intervention thinking and emancipatory action-oriented community work
- Hands-on engineering college with a focus on human-centered design and project management skills

### EXPERIENCE

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#### Secretary, Engineering, Social Justice, and Peace (May 2023 - Present)

- Organizes retreats and community gatherings to interweave the wisdom of social-justice organizers within a largely extractive discipline
- Sends out emails and updates websites
- Is currently building a resource sharing platform for movement-building toward regenerative, creative systems

#### Environmental Scientist and Engineer, Natel Energy (July 2021 - May 2022, July 2024 - August 2024)

- Conducted, designed, and managed environmental science studies to assess the impact of hydro turbines on fish and ecosystems, adhering to environmental protection guidelines and pushing current best practices
- Dove into organizational optimization by identifying communication and research process gaps

#### Life Project: Trans-disciplinary Community Organizer (August 2023 - May 2024)

- Conducted a human-centered design study and engaged a diverse network of engineers, environmental scientists, and social scientists to enhance digital interfaces and strategies for international cooperation among sustainability change-makers.
- Facilitated trans-disciplinary collaboration spaces that integrated vision-building and emotional sensing, focusing on the human aspect of relationship-building while developing visual communication interfaces and strategies to support progress within and beyond the "Engineering, Sustainability, and Health" program.

#### Designer for Energy Democracy (September 2022 - November 2023)

- Consulted the Just Energy Hub and served on the advisory board, building community-focused relationships to co-develop an empowering energy sovereignty portfolio surrounding a 40 kW vertical axis wind turbine
- Collaborated with Olin College and Cal Poly students, guiding ethical supply chain design with a transparent externality framework
- Developed visual graphics to communicate ethical engineering approaches to public audiences

#### Project Manager, Co-creation of Renewable Energy System for Off-the-Grid Farm (COVID-19: August 2020 - May 2021)

- Organized fundraisers, logistics, advertising, and engineering projects to launch first of its kind community- and nature-rooted self-governed educational experiment
- Co-developed and designed sun-tracker for five solar panel array, maintained micro-hydro system, ran siting study for a wind turbine, and programmed a wiki to keep maintenance accessible to a broad audience
- Collectively built and designed three dwellings from natural materials

## COMMUNITY-ROOTED PROJECTS

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MyMarbleSharings or Mostly.Mutual.Studio (September 2023 - Now)

- Develops communication strategies and shares interesting ideas, concepts, or questions via text and graphics, attempting to create movement-oriented media among private change-makers and friends from co-ops such as Cleveland Owns or a newly forming radical local manufacturing co-op (R.E.D.)
- Collaborates with event managers to bring mutual aid to dance events and other public spaces

Pop-up spaces for community engagement - “Coffee Block” (October 2018)

- Developed a fast, inexpensive and portable kit to facilitate community building and relaxation in downtown Boston, using prompts to engage pedestrians, building new connections with others
- Built third-spaces from upcycled materials on college campuses as a response to conducted community research stating a lack of communal gathering spaces

## SKILLS

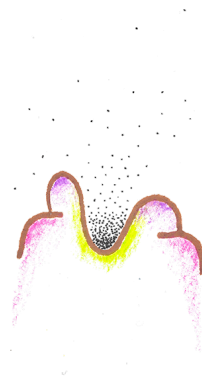
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**Technical Skills:** Communication & Facilitation, User Experience Design, Designing with Country, Human-centered Design, Emancipatory Action Research, Living Systems Thinking, Environmental regulations, Illustrator/Photoshop, Google Suite, Project Management (Asana etc.), Note-taking nerd, Environmental Justice (Principles) Literacy

**Soft Skills:** Often described as empathetic, joyful, value-driven, self-driven, and good communicator

**Languages:** Fluent in German, English, (I'd love to make my Spanish proficient)

**Certifications & Training:** Facilitation & Communication Training, Offers & Needs Market Training, Wind Energy Development



[leonsanten.info](http://leonsanten.info)