

## **Building Bridges for Beavers - A Continental Coexistence Collaboration**

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We're no longer facing an urgent climate crisis, we are living it. In the midst of environmental emergencies, communities are urgently adapting out of necessity, with uncertainty often as the only known. Corporate and political institutions often seem incapable of addressing the crisis. In this quagmire, hope can slip past despair and into apathy. Where do we go from here? How can one single person's action matter within such complex systems?

From these questions Beaver Institute (BI) was founded to nurture climate-resilient communities by equipping individuals with the education, tools, and resources to repair and restore nature by partnering with the North American beaver (*Castor canadensis*). Through a multiplex of exchanges and partnerships, BI has created a large, inclusive tent of individuals and communities with the shared goal of beaver-human coexistence for the benefit of all living things. Through intentional bridge-building, BI facilitates disparate ideas, unexpected partnerships, and collaborations with a reach for plurality and innovation.

Drawing from a career in multi-generational, community-invested, maximally inclusive, internationally constellatory, experimental theatre-making, I will share strategies and actions in the national movement for beaver currently implemented through Beaver Institute's programs, activities, and channelized networks. Weaving the science and technicalities of beaver-related restoration with the wisdom of the humanities, I will breathlessly and joyfully expound upon the inherent contradictions nestled in the loci of humans existing with one another, as much as coexisting with the natural world.

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