



Uri Carmel

Words From Our CEO

It's hard to believe that a year has already passed and that we are on the cusp of a new school year. The past year, which has felt more like a decade, has underscored the significance of community more than ever before. It has been marked by tremendous hardship, yet also by resilience, bravery, and growth for all of us, both as individuals and as a society.

This week, communities in the Western Negev received six of their loved ones back from Hamas captivity for burial in Israel (may their memories be a blessing), and some found a small measure of comfort in the returning to their homes after ten long months displaced. Similarly, communities in northern Israel continue to grapple with an unrelenting and dire reality, with no end in sight. In response, we are diligently working on an extensive plan to establish Community Emergency Teams (CETs) to provide urgent support to 40 communities to help them prepare for what will be.

In a somewhat more routine context, we invite you to register for our course designed to equip you with the tools to make your physical community space more connected and integral to your community. In these times, what could be more crucial than fostering a deep connection between the community and its surroundings?

**In continued doing and faith,
Uri**

Transforming Public Spaces

Local Placemaking

Want to create engaging and dynamic spaces in your neighborhood?

Public spaces serve as the 'stage' for our community life, which in turn influences the character and image of these spaces. Good public spaces offer a wide range of uses; they are safe, inviting, and accessible to diverse populations, and they encourage social interaction and engagement. They can strengthen local identity, foster a connection to the place, and promote shared responsibility.

In the third course of our Bustan Program, starting right after the holidays, we will focus on exactly this—how to create a community space. This hands-on course, consisting of 4 physical and digital sessions, will guide participants step-by-step in establishing and supporting placemaking projects in their neighborhoods. The course will be conducted in Hebrew.



Want to reserve your spot?

[Register Now!](#)

EretzIr in Israel's North

Community Resilience and Preparedness

Over the past six weeks, we've visited our communities located throughout the North of Israel and are pleased to report that, even in the face of the threat of war, they're still working to make the places that they live better for themselves and for those around them.

In the Transition Community of Kiryat Tivon, we met with community leader Tamar Ofer and explored a wide range of sustainable projects that are 100% community run - a lending library for tools and equipment, an environmental sustainability hub, and workshops meant to teach the Transition Community and the wider community of Kiryat Tivon all about good environmental practices.

In Harish, we visited our older adult community, Krovim Krovot, and learned about their new "Beyond Assisted Living" model that they are building to help them and others age in the community while receiving all the support and assistance that they need. This could be a game changer for the older adult population all over Israel.

For the communities that are far north, hugging the border with Lebanon and who are facing exceptionally challenging conditions, we have launched a Community Resilience Program that will provide training and equipment for Community Emergency Teams (CETs) across 40 communities so that they can be ready to act in the time of need. We appreciate the support from our partners—the Community Work Service at the Ministry of Welfare, the Schusterman Foundation, and the Jewish Federations of North America—for making this program possible. We hope this program will serve only as a precaution and that peace will soon return to our borders.



**Learn more about these developments
and how you can get involved.**

[Click Here](#)

Eretz-Ir is a professional, organizational, and economic platform that enables and encourages the influence of residents on the space around them. We help active residents who want to create positive change in their environments to organize by helping them develop professional tools and meet like-minded partners, while increasing their sense of ability to create cities that are simply good to live in, specifically in Israel's periphery regions.

**Help us continue to serve these champions
of civil society and social action.**

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