**Alberto Ruz’s Citation for the 2016 Kozeny Communitarian Award**

The Fellowship for Intentional Community (FIC) hereby recognizes Alberto Ruz as the 2016 recipient of the Kozeny Communitarian Award, honoring the indomitable spirit of Geoph Kozeny, who devoted his adult life to creating community in the world.

Alberto has lived in one form of intentional community or another for the past 50 years. Sometimes that has been focused in a single place, and sometimes that has been committed to a caravan or traveling group that has brought the spirit and inspiration of community to people where they are. Though born in Mexico, Alberto has not limited his community or social change activities to any single culture or a single continent. He speaks five languages and has employed them all in his extensive travels and writing.

Over the past four decades, Alberto’s community contributions sort into four major periods, all of which helped to establish him as the Rainbow Warrior with the Rainbow Beret.

**1. Illuminated Elephants • 1971-82**

Alberto was an integral member of an artistic troupe that barnstormed all over Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Central America, and the US West Coast. Through theater, music, dance, and art, this group (also known as Hathi Baba’s Transit Ashram Commune) brought the spirit of community and connection everywhere they went.

**2. Heuhuecóyotl • 1982-92**

After more than a decade on the road, Alberto joined with friends to create a more permanent community base in Mexico. They established Huhuecóyotl in the volcanic belt of central Mexico. Founded on ecological principles, it was “home,” a place to raise families and to serve as a foundation for myriad networking initiatives.

Among other things, during this stretch Alberto immersed himself in the activities of the North American Bioregional Congress (NABC), and the Earth Guardian Vision Councils. Later, he assisted locals to organize in opposition to constructing a luxury golf course on land designated as environmentally sensitive in Tepoztlán.

Toward the end of this stretch, Alberto got involved with the Global Ecovillage Network and ENA (Ecovillage Network of the Americas) when they launched in the mid-90s.

**3. Rainbow Peace Caravan • 1996-2009**

Combining all that had gone before, Alberto joined with others to create another traveling group, this time focused on Latin America and ecological consciousness. In particular, it was dedicated to reaching *all* the people—not just those who could pay for it. Over the course for 13 years the troupe visited 17 countries. They welcomed 450 volunteers along the way and touched countless lives with their vibrant message of connection and ecological sanity. Alberto was the only member of the troupe who served with the caravan the entire time.

**4. Mexico City & CASA • 2010-14**

Parking the bus back at Huhuecóyotl, Alberto turned his attention to bringing permaculture skills and inspiration to 10 marginalized neighborhoods in Mexico City. This brave experiment marked the first time that federal funds were used to create and support “eco-barrios” in Mexico. Over a two-year period, this program trained over 300 adults and 120 young people as eco-activists in their own communities.

In 2012 Alberto joined with others from ENA to create CASA (an acronym standing for The Council of Sustainable Settlements in the Americas), a subset of ENA that focused on the culture, challenges, and opportunities of Latin America, as distinct from those in English-speaking countries.

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In particular, we celebrate Alberto for five main qualities that are the basis for this lifetime achievement award:

—**Networker**: Many times over the years, Alberto has brought together different parties that hunger for community—not just at the personal level, but at the organizational level as well. He has both helped to create new networks (such as NABC and CASA) and to strengthen existing ones. He has never been afraid to try something new when he saw that a need was not being met.

—**Media Relations**: Alberto has often served as a public speaker in service to the various causes he has championed. In addition, he has been a prolific author, having produced 10 books of his own (mostly in Spanish), contributed to twice that many as a co-author, and inspired a handful of videos. As you might expect, his writing focuses principally on community and the environment. He has crafted everything from catalogs to children’s stories; from histories to memoirs.

—**Community Builder**: Alberto stands out for having helped create community in the traditional way—on the ground at Huehuecóyotl—and also with building successful touring communities, first with the Illuminated Elephants and then with the Rainbow Peace Caravan. Thus, Alberto has a long and rich pedigree when it comes to community building. He knows it from the inside as well as the outside.

—**Creating Community in Place**: By bringing his community building experience into places as diverse as the barrios of Mexico City and the rugged mountains of Tepoztlán, Alberto has demonstrated that he has both the motivation and insight needed to make available the sweet promise of community in settings that badly need it, yet don’t know how to realize it on their own.

—**Cooperative Leadership**: When it comes to community building, Alberto has worked both sides of the street. He has been a leader at times and a minion at times. He has been at the head of the group, leading the way, and at the back of the line, cleaning up. He understands the importance of having effective leaders and has learned how to be one, yet does not seek that role to glorify his contributions. After a lifetime of service to Mother Earth and community building, he knows when it’s time to step back and make room for the next generation.

For all of these reasons, the FIC’s is pleased to salute Alberto Ruz with this award.