STARTING A GAME CHANGER INTENSIVE LOCAL SMALL GROUP

A GUIDE
Table of Contents

The Game Changer Intensive ................................................................. 3
What are Small Groups? ................................................................. 3
Why do one locally? ........................................................................ 4
First steps for starting a local Small Group ........................................ 4
  Tell the Intensive team you are interested ......................................... 4
  Invite people to join your group ..................................................... 4
  Find a regular time and place to meet ............................................. 4
  Train as a Game Changer Intensive Moderator .............................. 4
Next steps ......................................................................................... 5
Starting a Game Changer Intensive Local Small Group

This document is a guide for anyone interested in forming a group that will meet locally to engage in the weekly Small Group discussions in the Game Changer Intensive. Small Group discussions are a key aspect of people’s experience with the Intensive and meeting in person offers a rich opportunity to explore the topics of the course with people in your community.

If you have your own ideas for how to go about forming a local group, by all means follow them! This guide is meant to help you start a local Small Group, not get in your way.

The Game Changer Intensive
The Game Changer Intensive is an interactive, online course with a deep commitment to both personal and societal transformation that brings together participants from around the world and inspires and engages them to be game changers in their communities.

The curriculum, broken into discrete modules, is designed to be thought-provoking and to empower you into action. Over eight weeks, participants experience a rigorous and inspiring curriculum of readings, videos, and activities augmented by online and in-person discussions and two course-wide online community gatherings.

Each week includes:

• Approximately 1.5 hours of videos and readings self-paced within the week
• 20 minutes of participation in online discussion forums self-paced within the week
• 75 minute Small Group discussions at a regularly scheduled time

What are Small Groups?
The weekly Small Group discussions are a key aspect of the Intensive experience, offering a space where people meet to share their journey in the course, dive deeply into the material, and build connections and community with others. The
meetings last 75 minutes and are crucial to connecting the weekly material with people’s lived experience.

**Why do one locally?**
Local Small Groups meet in person to explore the material with others in a community. Exploring the course content with people in your area can generate new insights about the ways social and political systems and structures impact your community.

Local connections support you *after* a course as well. Face to face conversation helps develop relationships with other game changers in your community, and building a local network grounded in the Game Changer Intensive makes both individuals and communities poised to take effective action.

**First steps for starting a local Small Group**

**Tell the Intensive team you are interested**
Email intensive@pachamama.org. The Intensive team can help support your outreach and planning and can provide you with a special registration page to invite people to join your local Small Group.

**Invite people to join your group**
A healthy group size is usually 5-10 people, although groups have formed successfully with fewer or more than that. The most important thing to emphasize, especially if the group is small, is that everyone must be committed to attending all seven weekly meetings.

**Find a regular time and place to meet**
Having a regular meeting schedule makes it easy for everyone to participate. Any space large enough to accommodate all the people and has enough privacy to allow for an intimate conversation will do, including living rooms, cafes, neighborhood centers, etc. Material is released on Tuesday evenings and it’s best to give people at least 4 days to review the content. Most Small Groups meet on Sundays, Mondays, or Tuesdays.

**Train as a Game Changer Intensive Moderator**
Training as a Game Changer Intensive Moderator is a great way of getting the support you need from the Intensive team to ensure your group is a success. We offer a 90-minute training session that provides suggested best practices for facilitating Small Group discussions and supporting your group members.
Throughout their experience in the course. This training also orients you to the resources and support available to you from the Intensive team in your role as Moderator.

**Next steps**

1. Email intensive@pachamama.org—please include the following:
   a. Your experience with Pachamama Alliance (if any)
   b. Where your group is located (this will become the name of your group)
   c. Which of the above *First steps for starting a local Small Group* you have accomplished so far

2. Visit the Pachamama Alliance website to see additional details about the course and when the next course begins: [www.pachamama.org/engage/intensive/apply](http://www.pachamama.org/engage/intensive/apply).

   Please let us know of your interest no later than the day enrollment closes.

We are excited to partner with you in creating a local Small Group so please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions about the course. Thank you for being a Game Changer!