



This Spaceship Earth is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation headquartered in Sarasota, Florida – the state at the highest risk for sea level rise. This Spaceship Earth is a global organization whose mission is to overcome the challenges of climate change and re-establish a balanced relationship between humanity, the planet and the systems that sustain them. The key component of this effort is changing consciousness. The issues that confront us transcend personal, political, temporal and geographical boundaries. We must think differently about our actions and activities, so that we can act differently, which enables us to undo the harm we have done. Marshall McLuhan wrote, “*There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew.*” It will take crew consciousness to surmount the problems our siloed thinking of the past has created.

The catalyst for the organization was the writing of *This Spaceship Earth* by David Houle and Tim Ramage. During the course of that project, it became clear that the rate of climate change, and its related events of extreme weather and sea level rise, were accelerating. A sense of urgency developed which required something more than the book to address. We searched for a clear metaphor to provide an immediate context for individuals to understand the magnitude of challenges involved, rapidly gain insight into what to do, and create a sense of personal responsibility.

R. Buckminster Fuller had already created both the metaphor and the call to arms in *Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth*, which reminds us that earth is a spaceship with a finite amount of resources that cannot be resupplied. His later book *Utopia or Oblivion: prospects for humanity* illuminated the fork in the road that we have sped by. We see climate change as the path to oblivion for humanity and civilization as we know it. Never in human history has our species experienced the climate conditions that we currently face. The planet has, but we have not. This Spaceship Earth is not about saving the planet; it is about saving ourselves from ourselves. We use “This” because that is where we start the change – This Spaceship Earth, as it is now... so forgive the past and move toward a desired future.

Moving to this desired future requires comprehensive redesign. We must think holistically, from a planetary perspective and in a planetary context. Systems grow to a certain size and then have to redesign and reconfigure themselves to continue to maximize their efficiency and effectiveness. We are at that stage. And where better than Sarasota, FL where Ringling College of Art + Design is located? The city and the county are moving forward on sustainability programs, and where the realities of sea level rise are becoming manifest. This Spaceship Earth is an on-the-front-line organization.

At This Spaceship Earth, we create crew consciousness through presentations, creative visualizations, and events; and by empowering individuals, groups, organizations and communities. Then we amplify those successes to a meaningful and significant scale.

<http://thisspaceshipearth.org/>