

# Building our capacity to dance with uncertainty...

*...and make it curriculum.*

## WHO I AM

I design futures literacy experiences that work less like classrooms and more like portals -- places where play becomes possibility and constraints are composted. With 20 years in classrooms and professional development across Palo Alto, the Bronx, and Berlin, an MA in Education from Stanford GSE, and an MA in Futures Research at FU Berlin's Institut Futur, I bring UNESCO-grounded methodology, healing-centered praxis, and embodied play into spaces where leaders are ready to think beyond the horizon.

*"The value and personal energy she brings to the table is life changing... She has a deep understanding of people and their needs -- a skill that cannot be taught, it is instinctual."*

-- LinkedIn Recommendation

## QUEST LABS: WHAT I OFFER

### Futures Literacy Leadership Cohort

Cohort-based futures literacy program designed for school and district leaders. Builds shared language, embodied practice, and strategic foresight capacity.

*Leadership teams leave knowing how to breathe through the not-yet-knowing -- and bring their staff along.*

### FLIP the Script Cohort

12-week futures literacy intensive for individual educators. Structured as the Hero's Journey. Currently running near capacity with Founding Questors.

*Educators gain a shared language for uncertainty that makes strategic planning feel alive -- supporting creativity and productivity across the school.*

### Sarkar Sandbox

Builds empathy and perspective-taking across the educational ecosystem to address power dynamics and improve school climate. UNESCO methodology meets embodied role play and scenario building.

*Schools build the internal capacity to dance with what's coming -- before it arrives.*

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 213 participants across three Sarkar Sandbox sessions, AI in Ed Leadership Catalyst (2025)
- 545 contributions from 170 educators across two healing-centered futures gatherings
- 450+ individual clients coached across 32 states and 37 countries (Coach.me, 15 years)
- 20 years in education: classroom teacher, staff developer, curriculum specialist
- Co-author, The Power of Metaphor, Journal of Futures Studies (2026)
- Research co-author: 3 publications on Digital Positionality (HU Berlin, Berlin University Alliance)

## SELECTED FACILITATIONS

- Peer Facilitator, Futures Literacy Lab with Riel Miller, Institute for Ecological Economy Research, 2026
- Facilitator, Black Menagerie, International Healing-Centered Education Conference, 2025
- Facilitator, Portal of Possibilities (CLA), Healing-Centered Futures Summit, New York, July 2025
- Facilitator, Sarkar Sandbox, AI in Ed Leadership Catalyst, May 2025, October 2025, April 2026
- Co-Facilitator, Futures Literacy Labs + Workshop on Education, Una Europa (international), 2024
- Facilitator, Futures Thinking and Healing-Centered Education, Stanford GSE, 2022



# Makēda Gershenson

Futurist. Educator. Researcher.  
Facilitator. Artist.

## CREENTIALS

MA Futures Research  
FU Berlin Institut Futur  
MA Education, Stanford  
BA Psychology + German  
Studies, Stanford  
EMBA, Quantic

## TRAINED BY

Riel Miller (UNESCO)  
Sohail Inayatullah  
Ivana Milojević  
Jake Dunagan (ITF)

## CERTIFICATIONS

Hanze/UNESCO:  
Futures Literacy  
ITF: Experiential Futures  
Six Seconds: EQ Educator,  
Practitioner, Assessor  
NUSHU: Certified Facilitator  
IBME: Mindfulness Teacher  
Brave Leaders: Recognized

## RECOGNITION

2024 Kellogg Foundation  
Research Apprenticeship  
2019 Her Futures Fellow  
Google HQ 1st Place  
2016 Changemakers Award  
Yale Center for EI  
2002 Alaskan of the Year

## BRING THIS TO YOUR SCHOOL



questlabs.world/educators

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