



Washtenaw Soccer Commons

A collaborative framework for access, development,
and lifelong participation in soccer

The Problem:

Youth soccer is thriving—
and still failing too many people



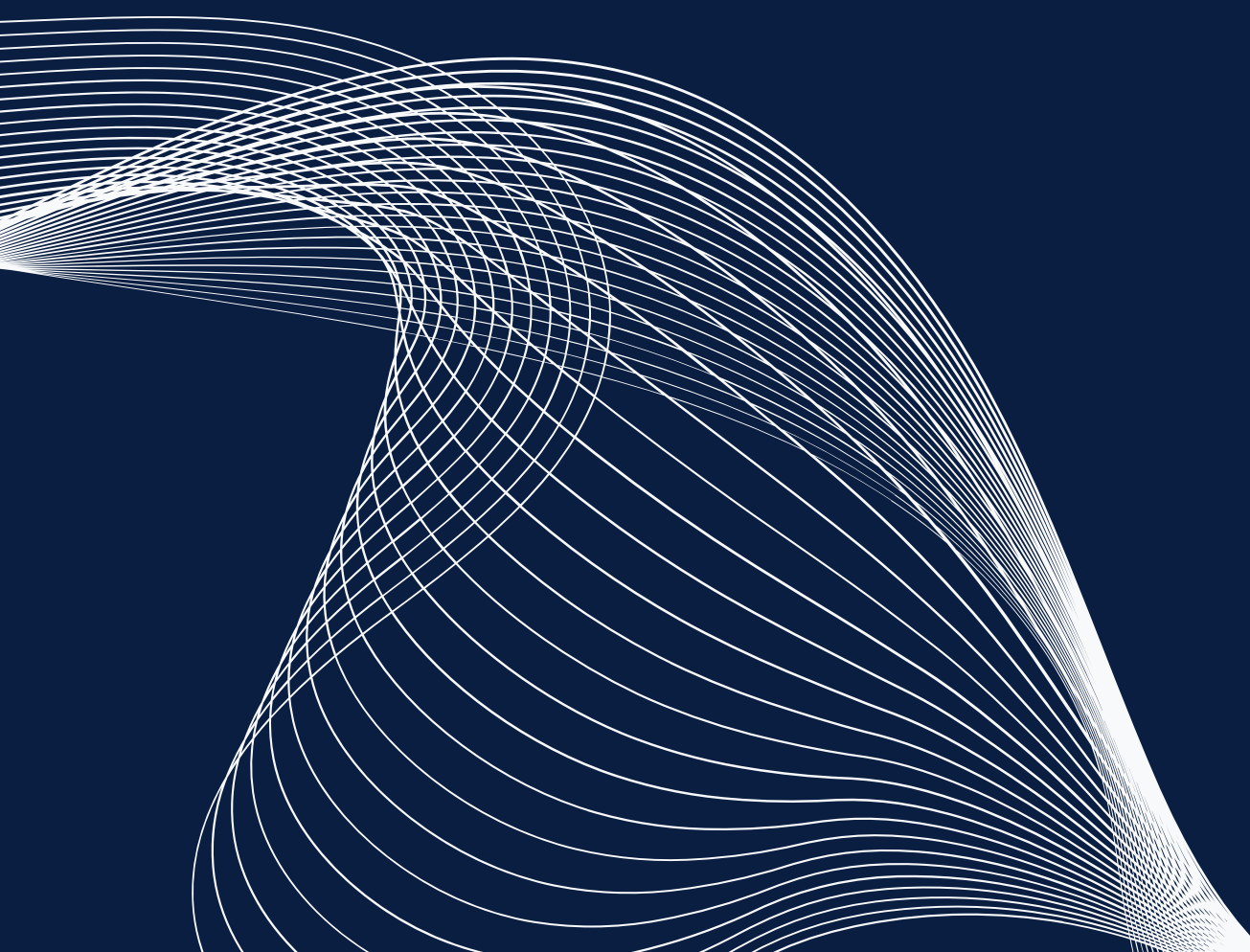
- Fragmented pathways → families forced to “re-shop” every few years
- Drop-off in middle school / early high school
- Pressure toward early specialization, higher cost, burnout

The Core Question:

What if soccer were organized for lifelong participation—not just early sorting?

What would it look like to design a local soccer ecosystem that supports flexibility, dignity, and inclusion—without forcing organizations to merge or give up autonomy?

The Commons: A coordination layer —not a club, league, or governing body



Is

- Shared framework
- Voluntary alignment
- Coordination, not consolidation

Is Not

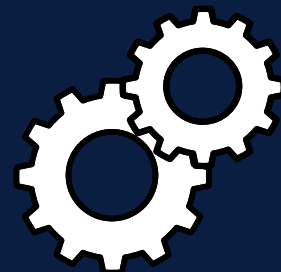
- A “super club”
- A governing authority
- A replacement for existing organizations

How the Commons Creates Value (Phase 1):

Three practical interventions



Shared sporting & coaching support



Reduced duplication through shared coordination



Deliberate player fit & mobility

Modest. Testable. Adaptive.



What Changes for Families: Clarity replaces anxiety

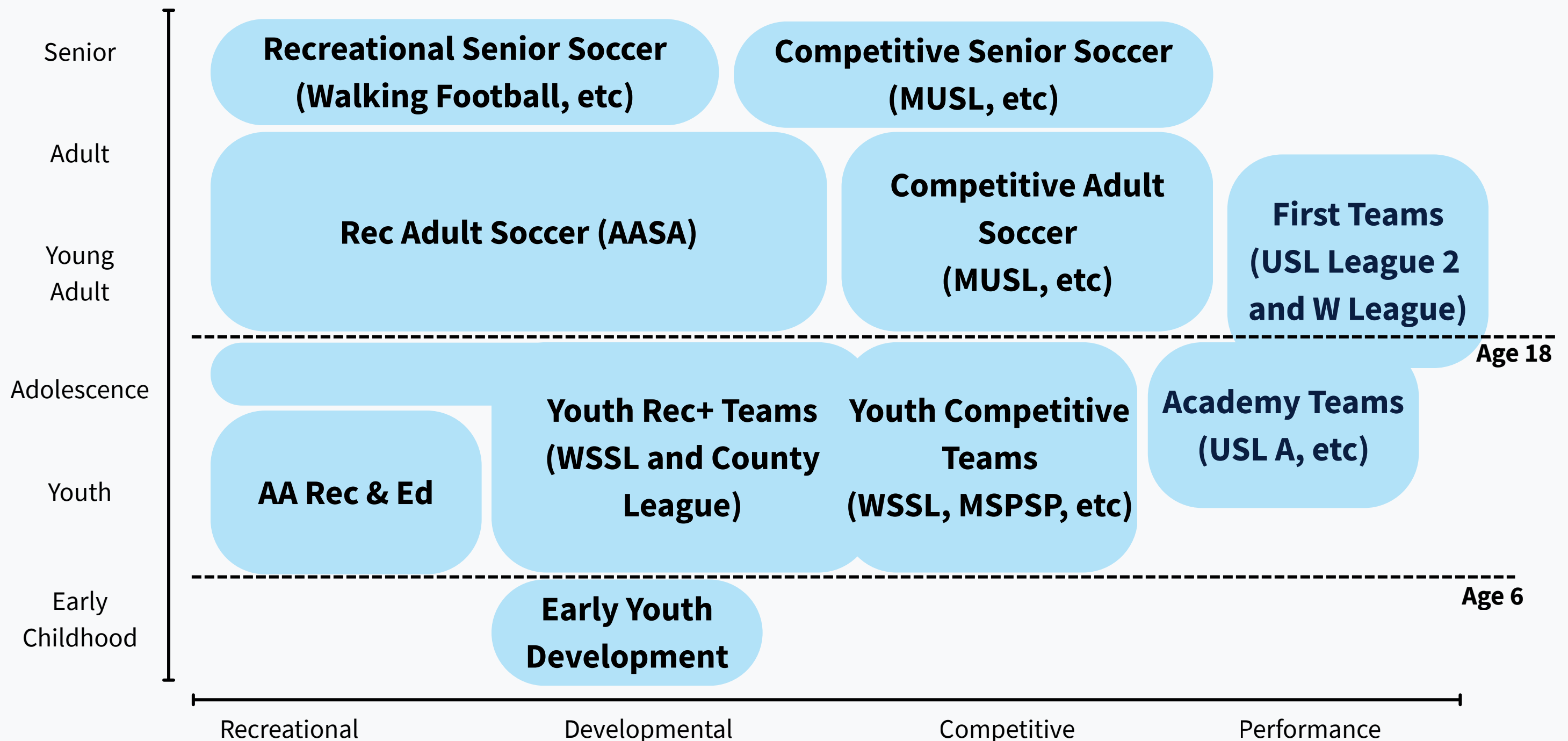
- **Options become legible**
- **Transitions become humane**
- **Stepping back carries no stigma**

The Ecosystem Lens: Soccer as a landscape, not a ladder

Multiple valid places to belong

Movement is non-linear

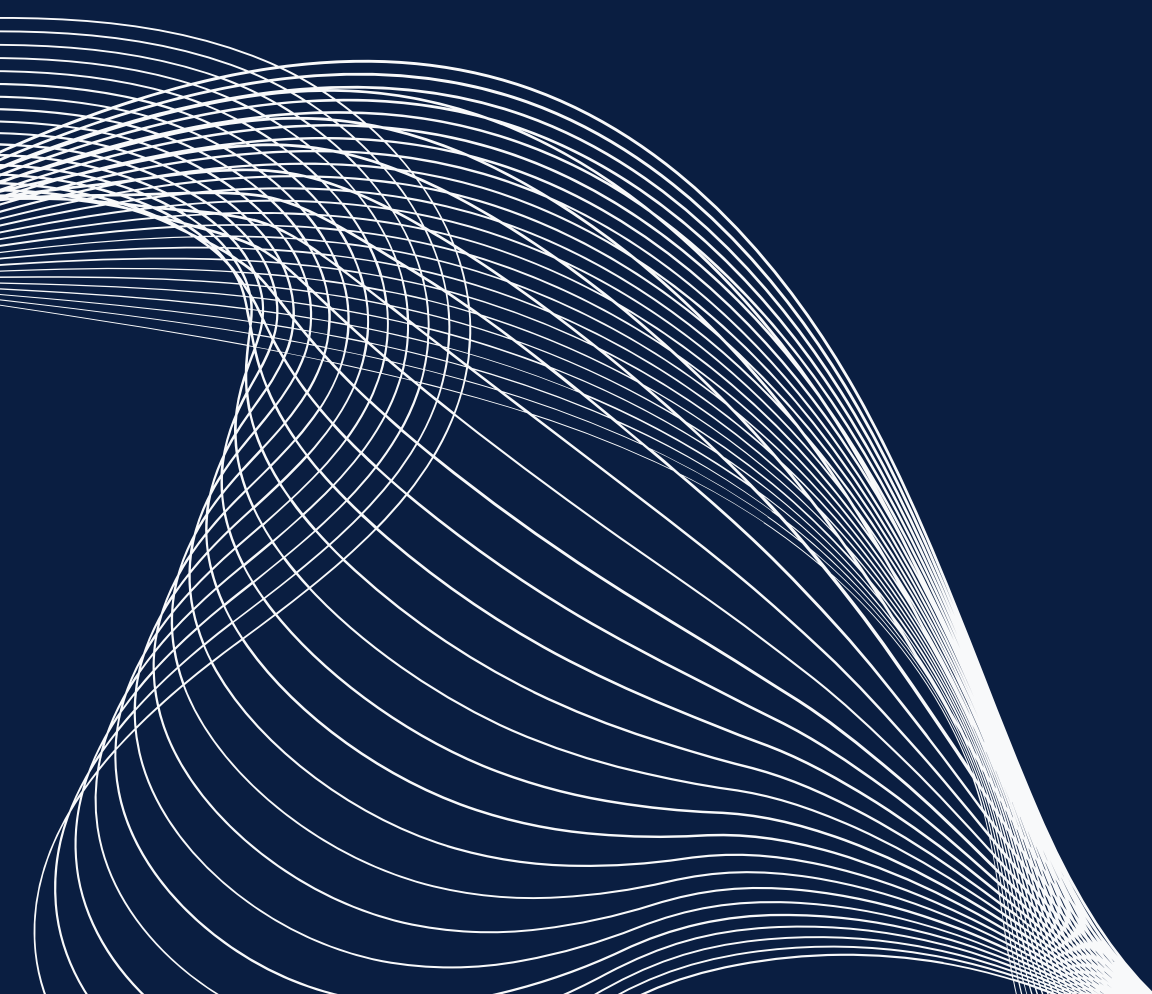
Intensity $\neq$ worth



For Participating Organizations: Collaboration without loss of identity

- **Retain autonomy**
- **Reduce duplication**
- **Refer without reputational risk**

Participation is opt-in and earned through trust.



Stewardship & Accountability: Shared responsibility, not centralized control

- **Non-hierarchical**
- **Time-bounded stewardship**
- **Collective learning as accountability**

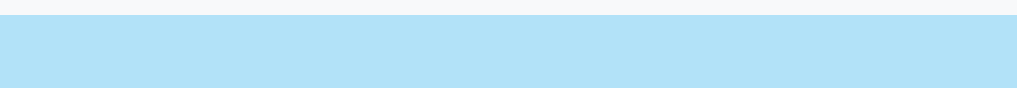
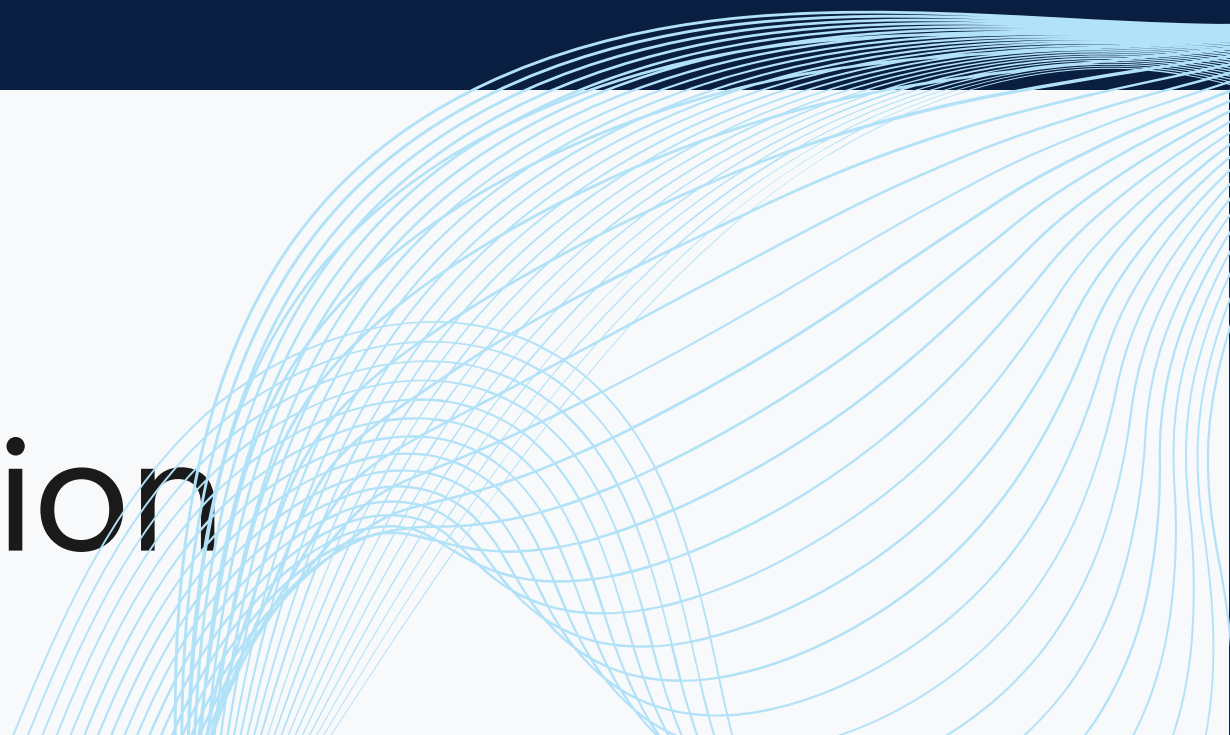
**Relationships
already exist**

**Gaps are
visible**

**System is still
flexible**

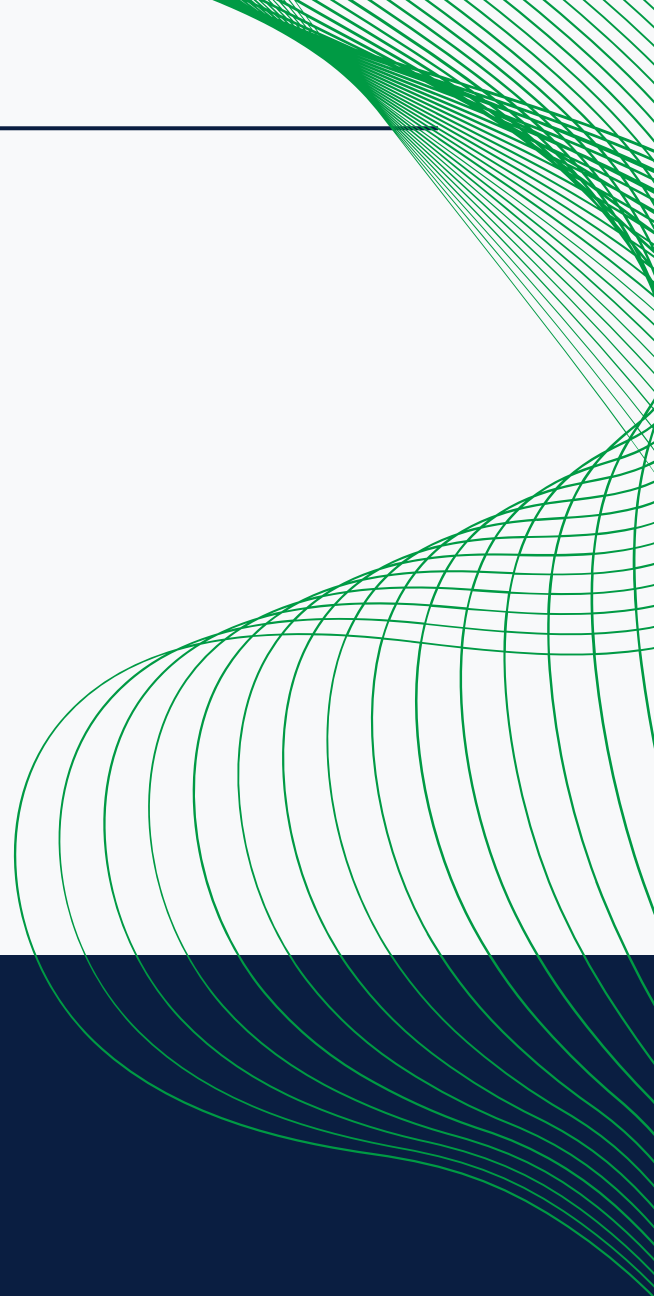
Why Start Now:

A window for design, not disruption



What Success Looks Like:

Health of the ecosystem—
not dominance of any pathway

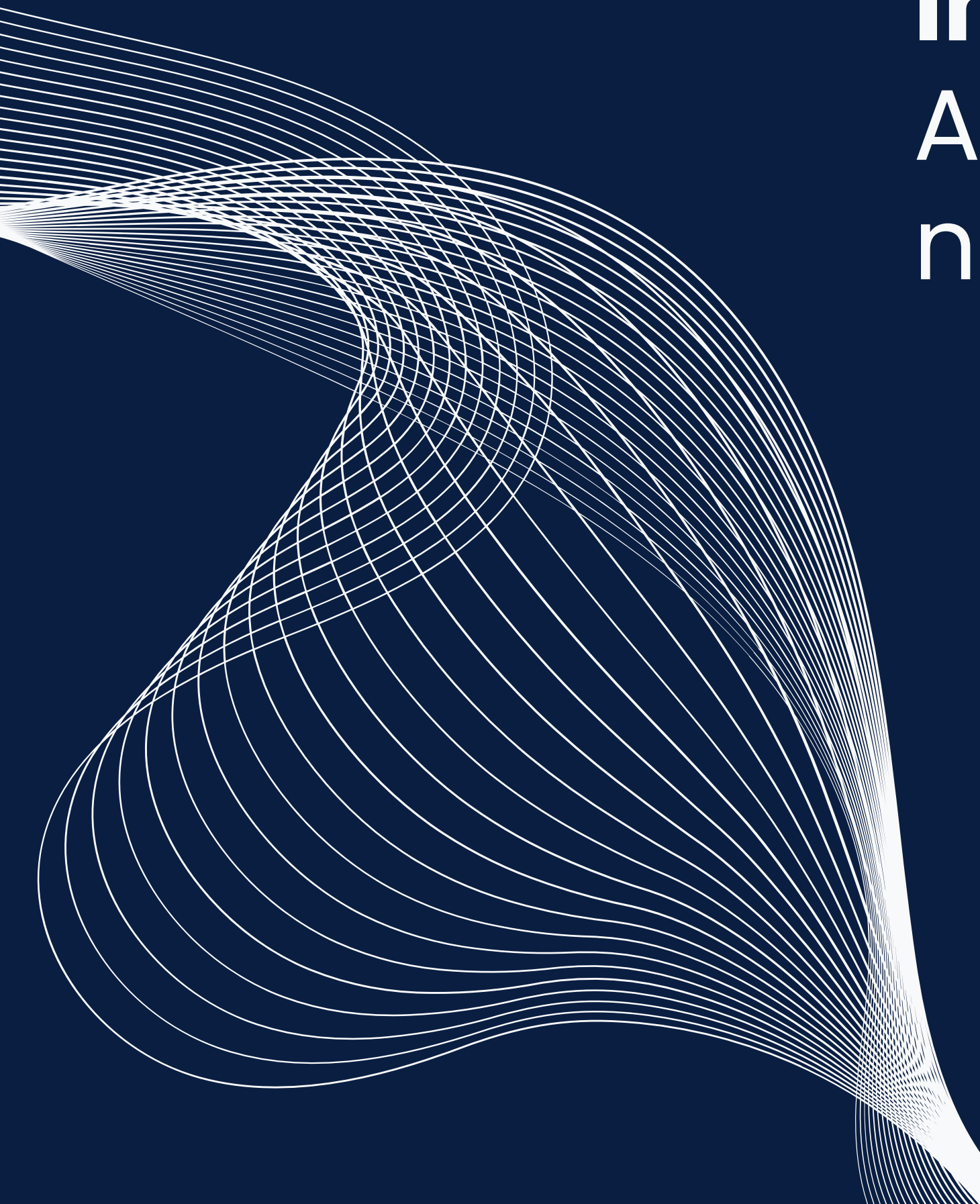


Sustained participation

Dignity in choice

Stronger inter-organizational trust

Inclusion as lived reality



Invitation / Next Step: An invitation to explore— not a finished plan

- **Early-stage**
- **Learning-oriented**
- **Open to critique and refinement**

We're seeking conversation, not endorsement.