



International ABCD Festival Goa

27-30 January 2026

Calangute, Goa, India

Effective Community Building is as Simple as ABCD!

Preamble:

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is a global grassroots movement committed to strengths-focussed, place-based and community-driven development. Across the world, villages, neighbourhoods, communities and their residents have discovered the power of focusing on their assets, capacities and opportunities, as opposed to their needs, deficiencies and limitations. They have begun to act as citizens, rather than accepting the passive roles of clients, customers and consumers of someone else's development programs and services.

After a five-year break due to COVID, the ABCD Goa International Festival is will be convened once again from 27-30 January 2026, with the theme ***“Effective Community Building is as Simple as ABCD!”*** This will be the third occasion since 2017 that community enthusiasts from across the globe have gathered in the beautiful Indian state of Goa to celebrate, share stories and learn together about the ABCD approach of building communities from the *“inside out”*, where community members begin with what they care about and invest their gifts, creativity, passions, ideas, assets and capacities in the process.

Location: Calangute Beach, Goa, India. Goa is one of the most attractive and historic destinations in the world, home to three World Heritage sites. Its ever-changing kaleidoscope of vibrant colours and the intriguing contrasts of India will once again weave their magic and mystery into the fabric of this event in this fascinating part of the globe.

The ABCD Festival base will be Casa Severina - <https://casaseverina.in>



Cost: The four-day event will cost Aus \$880 (Canadian \$840, US \$ 590, Ind R 12,500)

This cost includes all meals (including Welcome Sundowner and final Festival Dinner), masterclasses, bus trips, E Bike learning excursion to the “Island of the Gods” and other workshop sessions. It excludes accommodation and travel.

NB: Festival is being convened as a not-for-profit event- any profits after expenses will be utilised to provide scholarships for Indian participants who may not be in a position to attend.

ABCD Festival Hosts:

- Paul Born, Co-Founder and former CEO, Tamarack Institute, Canada
- Joanna Pyres, Co-Founder, Act for Goa, India
- Rituu Nanda, Participatory Program Advisor for South Asia, Global Fund for Children, India
- Paul Gravett, Associate, Bank of I.D.E.A.S.
- Peter Kenyon, Director, Bank of I.D.E.A.S., Western Australia
- Kate Munro, Founder, Luminosity Youth Development Solutions, NSW, Australia

BOI Festival Secretariat:

- Peter Kenyon
- Paul Gravett

Draft Program Structure:

Tuesday 27 January:

From 6pm- 8pm: **Welcome Sundowner Event** at Casa Severina, Calangute

- Official Welcome by the Village Panchayat of Calangute Sarpanch (Mayor) – Joseph Sequeira

8pm- **Dinner** on the Calangute Beach

Wednesday 28 January:

From 8.30am: **Official Opening Breakfast**

10.00am: Bus depart for Vagator Beach

11.00am- **Opening Festival Presentations** at the Alcove Resort, Ozran Beach, Vagator.

- ***“Done to, Done for. Done with. Done by: Why understanding the difference and using an ABCD Lens changes everything”***

- Paul Born - Co-Founder and former CEO, Tamarack Institute, Canada
- Peter Kenyon – Director, Bank of IDEAS, Western Australia
- - ***“ABCD in the Indian Context”*** - Joanna Pyres, Co-Founder, Act for Goa, India and Rituu Nanda, Participatory Program Advisor for South Asia, Global Fund for Children, India

12.50pm- **Lunch and Conversations**

2pm – Opportunity to participate in **two Workshp Options-**

- *“Men’s Sheds and Their Alignment with ABCD: Building Belonging, Building Community and Their Alignment with ABCD Principles”* – Barbara McMillian
- *“Deepening Community: how to build belonging that mobilises people to action”* -Paul Born, Co-gen, Australia Founder and former CEO, Tamarack Institute, Canada
- *“ABCD and Its Role in Community Climate Resilience’* -Joanna Pyres, Co-Founder, Act for Goa, India
- *“Community Treasure Hunting – A playful, story-rich session on discovering hidden gifts and strengths in communities, using creative tools to spark imagination, connection, and action.”* - Dimitrios Papalexis, Founder & Managing Director, Soulgen, Australia

4.00pm- Swimming in one of Goa’s most stunning beaches or a drinking time option!

5.30pm- Return to Casa Severina, Calangute

From 7.15pm- dinner in local restaurant.

Thursday 29 January:

8am – Buses leave Casa Severina for Old Goa.

9am- Depart for **E Bike Excursion of Dewar Island (Island of the Gods) visiting community assets and projects.** Morning tea at traditional Goan home.

12 Noon- return to Old Goa

12.30pm – **Lunch and Conversations** at the Monastery of the Cross of Miracles – Bon Vista Hill- Hill of Good View, Old Goa

1.15pm – **Presentation** on the *“Asset-based advocacy - bringing the voices of younger generations into decision-making”* - Kate Munro, Founder, Luminosity Youth Development Solutions, NSW, Australia

1.45pm – **Presentation** - *“Using the Assets of Giants to bring about Community Transformations”* - Rhys Williams, MP for the Mandurah and former Mayor, Mandurah. Western Australia

2.15 pm **Presentation:** *“Connection is a Public Good: Co-Designing Implementation Pathways for National Public Health Guidelines for Social Connection* – Canadian

Experiences” – Kiffer Card, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Canada

2.45 – Refreshments and Conversations

3.15pm- **Presentations:** *“The Impact of SALT- on community Transformation throughout Nepal, India and Bangladesh”* – Rituu Nanda, Participatory Program Advisor for South Asia, Global Fund for Children, India and Indian SALT Facilitators -

4.00pm – Tour of the World Heritage area of Old Goa – lead by Dr Annabella Lobo, Goan historian and educator

5.30pm Return to Casa Severina

From 7.15pm – **Goan Dinner** - sharing conversations with local Goan community activists.

Friday 30 January:

8.30am- Buses leave Casa Severina for International Centre Goa, Donna Paula

9.15am – Masterclasses –

- *“Thinking like a Network”* -Barbara McMillian, Coordinator, Men’s Shed Movement, Canada
- *“Deeping Community” – “how to build belonging that mobilises people to action”* -Co-Founder and former CEO, Tamarack Institute, Canada
- *“Using the ABCD Lens to Re-invent Dying Rural Communities”* Peter Kenyon, Director, Bank of IDEAS, Western Australia

12 Noon- Lunch and Conversations

1pm- Presentations-

- *“Asset-based and Citizen-led Development (ABCD) as an Approach for Enhancing Local Participatory Democracy in South African Municipalities”*– Hanna Nel and Judith Mitsewu (Dept of Social Work and Community Development, University of Johannesburg, South Africa
- *“Building pride, Encouraging Participation and Fostering Connections in the City of Launceston Through an Eight Year ABCDE Learning Site”* – Sarah McCormack (Community Connector) and Linda Page (Community Development Team Leader), Launceston, Tasmania, Australia

- “*Creating a New Future and Opportunities for Social, Cultural and Economic Development Through ABCD Approaches for Our Indigenous Community*” - David Crew, Manager, Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Aboriginal Corporation, NSW, Australia

3pm – Leave for **Walking Tour of Fontainhas Heritage Precinct of Panjim**

4.30 pm – Sundowner at heritage Panjim Inn- presentation by Jack Sukhija, Goa Heritage Action Group on the “*Reinvention of the Fontainhas through building on Heritage assets*”

6.00pm – Return to Casa Severina

From 7.30pm- **Final Dinner at Casa Severina**

For More Information: Peter Kenyon, Festival Secretariat

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Registration:

To register and pay click on the link to the website:

<https://bankofideas.com.au/events/international-festival-go-2026/>