The Catherine Project https://catherineproject.org Founded 2021 6 person team





About

We provide substantive, high-quality, person-to-person teaching to adults 16 years or older at no fixed cost to them. We also host peer-led reading groups and lectures.

We seek to cultivate free and independent learners who study on their own initiative, driven by their own fundamental questions. To do so, we follow the tried-and-true practice of liberation through person-to-person conversation about great books. Such reading and conversation has long been a refuge for the poor, oppressed, and marginalized, and it enriches people from all walks of life.

The Catherine Project offers no credits or degrees. We do not grade the efforts of our participants. We charge no tuition. We encourage donations from our readers in accordance with their ability to pay, as well as from benefactors interested in our mission. We believe that no one's inability to pay should be an obstacle to their opportunities to learn.

Goals

Our organization is driven by the needs of individuals for serious intellectual connection and community. Should the need dry up or be satisfied by other means, our existence as an institution will no longer be justified.

We seek a minimum of structure to meet those needs, with an eye to our simple practical, moral and legal obligations, so as to avoid the bureaucratic overreach and dysfunction so common to our contemporary institutions.

In the short term, we would like to grow as quickly as possible, while seeking to maintain a distinct and serious intellectual culture, without overwhelming our human or financial resources. We make our courses available to anyone meeting basic registration criteria who has an internet connection or access to email or the postal service.

In the medium term, we seek a global network of teachers and learners in order to reach as many people as possible and so as to learn from as broad a swathe of humanity as possible.

We recognize that online connections are an imperfect substitute for in-person intellectual communities. Thus in the long-term, we hope that our network can form the basis for local, autonomous, brick-and-mortar educational institutions conducted in our spirit, once conditions permit such an undertaking.