



THE BEACON PAPERS • No. 14

FROM A METHOD TO A CIVILIZATION

Boston Global Forum and AIWS Establish the Civilization of Human–AI Co-Creation

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Co-production makes things. Co-creation makes people.

I. A Word the World Already Uses

Human–AI co-creation is not a new phrase. Researchers in human–computer interaction, design, and creativity science have used it for years to describe people and AI systems producing work together. Their contributions are real, but their frameworks address particular tasks, creative processes, or domains.

BGF–AIWS establishes Human–AI Co-Creation at a different scale: as the organizing principle of a comprehensive architecture for civilization in the AI Age. It connects human development and cultural identity with constitutional protections, trust infrastructure, institutions, cities, economic systems, and the silicon foundations of AI power.

Where co-creation is measured only by the work, the studies ask whether the joint output is more novel, more useful, or produced faster. By that measure the human being is a variable, not the point. An exploratory study published in 2026 found that pairs of AI agents generated more novel ideas than pairs of humans in every task tested. If co-creation is judged only by what it produces, the field's logical destination is co-creation without humans.

Beacon Papers No. 8 named this limit directly. The idea of human–AI co-creation, it observed, had been proposed and applied within particular domains: education, the environment, the workplace, the studio. What no one had attempted was the whole.

II. What Boston Established

The Boston Global Forum launched AIWS in Boston in 2017. On August 24, 2026, BGF–AIWS presented Beacon Papers No. 8, *The Architecture of the Civilization of Human–AI Co-Creation*: the world's first comprehensive architecture for human civilization in the Age of AI. That paper did not

treat co-creation as a technique. It placed co-creation at the center of a civilization: founded on Human Dignity, protected by Human Sovereignty and Human-in-Command, powered by Human–AI Co-Creation and Co-Elevation, guided by the AIWS Lumina values of Love, Creativity, Nobility, and Wisdom, and directed toward Civilizational Flourishing. It named that civilization **AIWS Civilization**.

Within five weeks the architecture began to take living form. On September 23, 2026, the AIWS Human–AI Co-Creation Movement was launched at the Massachusetts State House. On September 29, the Boston Global Forum adopted the official badges of AIWS Civilization.

This paper completes the foundation. It gives AIWS Human–AI Co-Creation its definition, so that wherever the term is used in this sense, its origin is clear.

III. Co-Production and Co-Creation

Beacon Papers No. 8 set the decisive measure: the ultimate measure of Human–AI Co-Creation cannot be how much humans and AI produce together; the deeper question is what human beings become through living and creating with AI. If AI makes society vastly more productive while people become less capable of independent thought, less creative, and more dependent, then Human–AI Co-Creation has failed.

That failure needs a name. When a person and an AI system produce work together and the only measure is the output, that is **co-production**.

Co-production can succeed while the person fails. The report improves while the analyst loses the ability to analyze. The diagnosis comes faster while the physician loses the eye that once caught what the system missed. The song is polished, and it sounds like every other song.

Co-production cannot see its own failure. Output rises on every chart while the capacities behind it decline out of view. Beacon Papers No. 8 stated the historical record plainly: when a capability is transferred to a machine, the ordinary outcome is not elevation but atrophy. A measure that looks only at the work will report success until the day the human being is no longer needed. This is **the co-production trap**.

Co-creation is measured by the person. A process is Human–AI Co-Creation, in the AIWS sense, only when the human being comes out of it more capable, more fully the author of their work, and more fully themselves.

IV. The Definition

AIWS Human–AI Co-Creation is the creation of work, knowledge, and culture by human beings with artificial intelligence, under four conditions: the human being remains its author; the human being holds command; the process passes the Human Advancement Test; and the culture of the person and the community is carried into the work rather than averaged out of it.

It is the founding model of **AIWS Civilization**, the Civilization of Human–AI Co-Creation, set out by the Boston Global Forum and AIWS in Beacon Papers No. 8 on August 24, 2026.

Its order is stated in one line: *Humanity leads. AI elevates. Together, we create.*

V. The Four Conditions

Authorship. The human being remains the author: the one who sets the purpose, judges what comes back, and answers for the result. AI may contribute without limit to the making. Authorship belongs to the person who can be required to answer for the work (Beacon Papers No. 6).

Human-in-Command. Beacon Papers No. 8 is exact: co-creation is not a partnership between equals, and it is not the use of a passive instrument. It is a division of authority. AI may calculate, analyze, discover, propose, challenge, and create. Humans must ultimately judge, choose, take responsibility, and give purpose. A system that acts beyond the mandate a person has given is not co-creating (Beacon Papers No. 5 and No. 11).

The Human Advancement Test. Every major advance in AI must answer one question: *Does this advance in Artificial Intelligence also advance Human Intelligence, Human Agency, Human Creativity, Human Dignity and Human Wisdom?* If AI education produces perfect answers while students lose the ability to think independently, civilization has not fully advanced (Beacon Papers No. 8).

Culture. AI trained on humanity's data is drawn toward the average. No human being and no culture is average. Beacon Papers No. 8 commits AIWS Civilization to pluralism within universal dignity: human diversity should flourish. Co-creation carries a person's language, memory, and tradition into the work. On October 2, 2026, Pope Leo XIV warned that the danger of this age is not only censorship but homogenization. Research points the same way: in a large randomized experiment, keeping the human actively engaged was what limited the loss of diversity that model-led rewriting produced.

A process qualifies as Human–AI Co-Creation in the AIWS sense only when it meets all four conditions. An impressive output alone cannot establish that qualification.

VI. From One Person to a Civilization

A method can be adopted by a team. A civilization must hold at every scale. The same four conditions apply from the individual to the chip.

- *The person:* the AIWS Human–AI Co-Creation Movement, whose members take three commitments: *I remain the author of what I create. I bring my own culture into what I create with AI. I use AI to become more capable, never less.*
- *The institution:* schools, hospitals, and enterprises apply the four conditions to the way AI enters their work. AIWS Co-Elevation Certified is designed to verify whether they do.
- *The city:* AIWS Co-Creation Cities will maintain a public City Record of what has changed for their people.
- *The economy:* value is to be recognized through Creative Capital, Knowledge Capital, Trust Capital, and Contribution Capital, so that economies reward genuine creation (Beacon Papers No. 8).
- *The silicon:* Constitutional Silicon is designed to build human command into the foundations of AI power (Beacon Papers No. 9), so that every consequential action leads to a human answerer (Beacon Papers No. 10).

The research community treats co-creation as a method. AIWS establishes it as the order of a civilization.

VII. The Badges of AIWS Civilization

On September 29, 2026, the Boston Global Forum adopted the official badges of AIWS and its ecosystem. They share one emblem: the Angel rising in light, the Bald Eagle above her, and two mai vàng blossoms on the ring. The emblem never changes. Only the inscription on the ring names which part of AIWS the badge represents.

- **AIWS Civilization** — *AIWS CIVILIZATION · HUMAN–AI CO-CREATION*. The principal badge, carrying the model of the civilization. It appears in the colophon of every BGF–AIWS document.
- **AIWS Lumina** — *AIWS LUMINA · LOVE · CREATIVITY · NOBILITY · WISDOM*. The badge of the cultural architecture, carrying the four values.
- **AIWS Human–AI Co-Creation Movement** — *HUMAN–AI CO-CREATION MOVEMENT · AIWS*. The mark of commitment, open to every person, school, organization, or community that takes the three commitments.
- **The Human–AI Co-Creation Atlas** — *HUMAN–AI CO-CREATION ATLAS · AIWS*. The emblem of the public record at atlas.aiws.net.
- **AIWS Co-Elevation Certified** — *CO-ELEVATION CERTIFIED · AIWS*, with an outer gold ring stating Level I–IV and *Independently Verified*. The mark of verification, granted only to organizations independently assessed.



AIWS Civilization



AIWS Lumina



*AIWS Human–AI Co-
Creation Movement*



*The Human–AI Co-Creation
Atlas*

The badges follow one rule above all: **commitment is not certification**. Beacon Papers No. 8 holds that elevation must be measured, not assumed. Because the co-production trap is invisible in the output, no claim of co-creation can rest on the output alone. The Movement badge states what a person or community has promised. The Co-Elevation Certified mark states what has been shown, and at what level. The Atlas keeps the record, so that anyone can check either claim.

VIII. Beacon Principle No. 14

Co-production makes things.

Co-creation makes people.

A civilization is measured by the people it makes.

AI ADVANCES. HUMANITY MUST ADVANCE FURTHER.

Beacon Papers

- No. 5, *Who May Command? The Double Crisis of Power in the AI Age* (Aug 2, 2026). bostonglobalforum.org/news/the-beacon-papers-no-5/
- No. 6, *Who May Author? Human Authorship, AI Assistants, and Responsibility in the Age of Artificial Intelligence* (Aug 8, 2026). bostonglobalforum.org/news/beacon-papers-no-6-who-may-author/
- No. 8, *The Architecture of the Civilization of Human–AI Co-Creation* (Aug 23, 2026). bostonglobalforum.org/wp-content/uploads/Beacon_Papers_No8_Architecture_of_AIWS_Civilization-official-2.pdf
- No. 9, *Civilization Begins with the Chip* (Aug 30, 2026). bostonglobalforum.org/wp-content/uploads/Beacon_Papers_No9_Civilization_Begins_with_the_Chip.pdf
- No. 10, *No AI Agent Without Identity* (Sept 6, 2026). bostonglobalforum.org/news/beacon-papers-no-10-no-ai-agent-without-identity/
- No. 11, *No Power Without a Mandate* (Sept 13, 2026). bostonglobalforum.org/news/beacon-papers-no-11-no-power-without-a-mandate/

Boston Global Forum

- Boston Global Forum Launches the AIWS Human–AI Co-Creation Movement at the Massachusetts State House* (Sept 23, 2026). bostonglobalforum.org/news/boston-global-forum-launches-the-aiws-human-ai-co-creation-movement-at-the-massachusetts-state-house/
- Official Badges of the AIWS Ecosystem: Notice of Adoption and Use* (Sept 29, 2026). bostonglobalforum.org/wp-content/uploads/AIWS_Official_Badges_Notice.pdf

Other sources

- Pope Leo XIV, Address to the Artists and Curators of “The Art of Possibility: Weaving Together,” Vatican, October 2, 2026. www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2026/october/documents/20261002-artisti-dce.html
- “AI-AI co-creation outperforms human pairs in creative tasks,” arXiv:2608.09023 (2026). arxiv.org/abs/2608.09023
- “Partnering with Generative AI: Experimental Evaluation of Human-Led and Model-Led Interaction in Human-AI Co-Creation,” arXiv:2510.23324. arxiv.org/abs/2510.23324



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