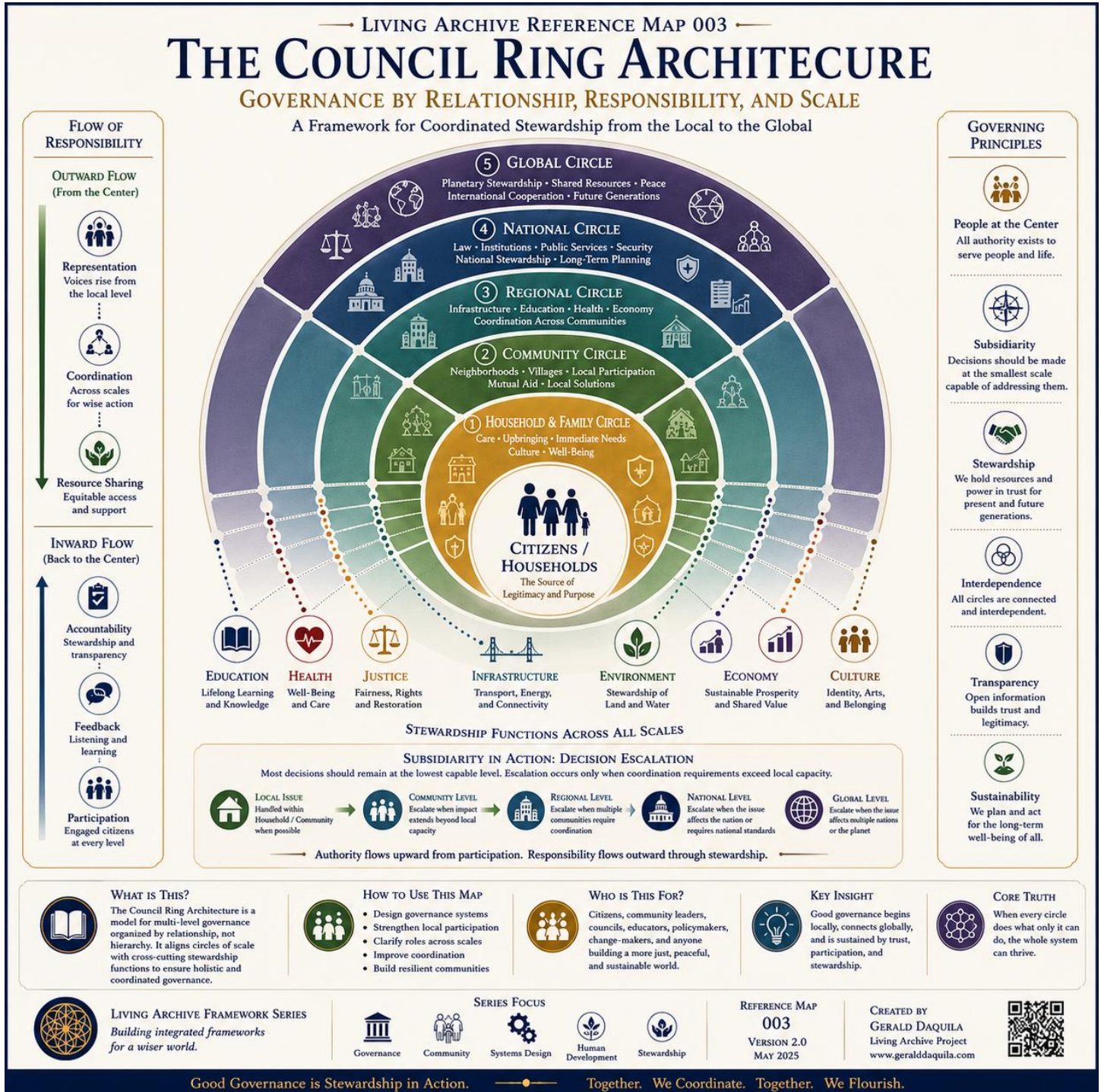


# Living Archive Reference Map 003

## The Council Ring Architecture

### Governance by Relationship, Responsibility, & Scale



The Council Ring Architecture presents a governance framework organized by relationship, responsibility, and scale. Rather than concentrating authority in a single center, it illustrates how stewardship functions can operate across households, communities, regions, nations, and global coordination structures. The model emphasizes subsidiarity,

participation, accountability, and stewardship, encouraging decisions to remain at the lowest capable level while enabling larger-scale coordination when needed.

## Visual Description

A concentric governance map illustrating how stewardship responsibilities are organized across increasing scales of society.

At the center are Citizens and Households, representing the source of legitimacy, participation, and governance purpose. Surrounding the center are five expanding council rings: Household & Family, Community, Regional, National, and Global. Each ring represents a broader scale of coordination while maintaining a connection to the levels within and beyond it.

Stewardship functions—including education, health, justice, infrastructure, environment, economy, and culture—extend across all rings, indicating that every scale of society carries governance responsibilities appropriate to its context.

Supporting panels illustrate the flow of responsibility. Representation, coordination, and resource-sharing flow outward across scales, while accountability, feedback, and participation flow inward toward the center. Together these flows create a governance model based on stewardship, transparency, and reciprocal responsibility.

The diagram emphasizes subsidiarity: decisions should be made at the smallest scale capable of responsibly addressing them. Escalation to broader levels occurs only when coordination requirements exceed local capacity.

The framework is intended as an orienting model for governance design, civic participation, leadership, community development, and institutional stewardship. It is not a hierarchy of power but a map of coordinated responsibility across scales of society.

## Framework Note

The Council Ring Architecture is a conceptual framework for understanding how governance responsibilities can be organized across different scales of society. It is not intended as a blueprint for any specific political system, government structure, or ideology.

The model emphasizes subsidiarity: decisions should remain at the lowest level capable of responsibly addressing them, with broader levels serving coordination functions only when challenges exceed local capacity.

The council rings represent increasing scales of stewardship rather than increasing ranks of authority. Each level exists to support the well-being, participation, and flourishing of the levels it serves. Effective governance emerges through accountability, transparency, participation, and cooperation across all scales. This framework is intended as a tool for reflection, dialogue, governance design, community development, and institutional stewardship. It should be adapted thoughtfully to local cultures, contexts, and circumstances.

## Living Archive Reference Map 003

### The Council Ring Architecture Governance by Relationship, Responsibility, & Scale

*Created by Gerald Daquila*

*Living Archive Project*

*Governance • Community Design • Stewardship • Systems Thinking*

*A governance framework illustrating how stewardship responsibilities can be coordinated across households, communities, regions, nations, and global systems while preserving local participation and accountability.*

*© Gerald Daquila. Shared for educational, personal, and non-commercial use.*

*Life. Understood. [www.geralddaquila.com](http://www.geralddaquila.com)*