

# CELESTIAL COMMONS

A Celestial Object is anything above the Earth's atmosphere. A Commons refers to any resource shared and accessible to all members of a society.

A Celestial Commons is rooted in the idea that, like the air we breathe, the water we drink, the oceans we cross and the environment we all enjoy, space and all it contains should be the shared inheritance of all.

As both governments and private corporations around the world increasingly look to space with a sense of ambition for wealth and power, it is important that the public considers the implications for what might happen when these Earth-bound interests take exclusive hold of an infinite frontier.

Our mission is to seize an unprecedented opportunity for positive global change, by engaging and empowering the public to engage with space - ensuring that the journey, as well as the vast scientific, cultural and material wealth it holds, is open to and shared by all.

# OUR MISSION

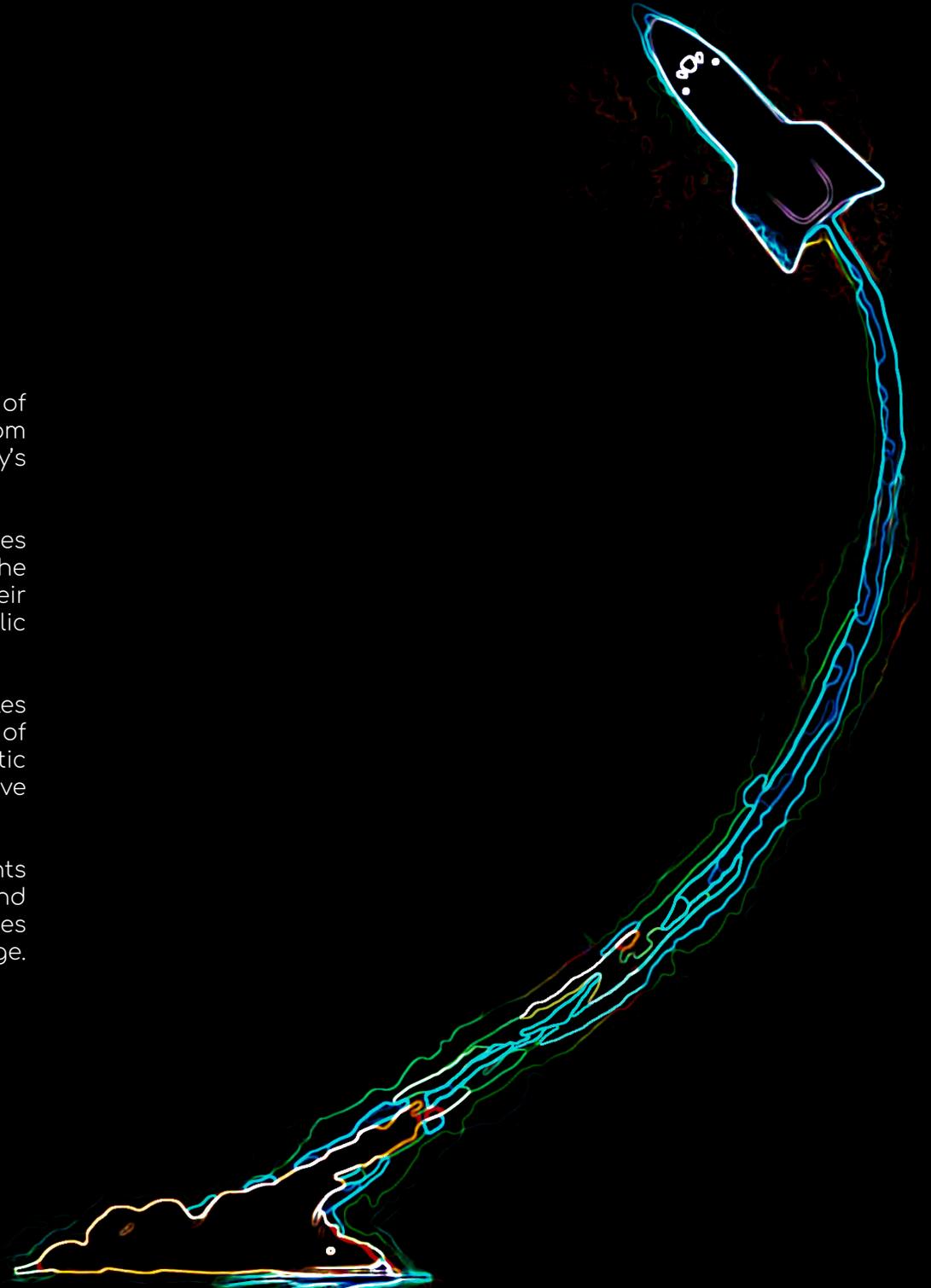
To consult, represent and lobby on behalf of communities presently disenfranchised from decision making and the development of humanity's future in Space.

To educate the public on the scope of possibilities in space, the return on public investment, the opportunity for public good, the impact on their lives and the risks associated with a lack of public scrutiny and oversight.

To ensure that representative democratic principles and decision making govern the development of space by strengthening public and democratic institutions and promoting common collaborative legislative frameworks.

To foster partnerships, policy and agreements that share space-based technology and resources in order to address global challenges such as education, poverty and climate change.

Our mission is to Share Space.



# SHARING SPACE

In the decades after the Apollo program, Space struggled to maintain public attention while development, hampered by strained interest, fickle budgets and political priorities, progressed at snail's pace. The case for space was undermined and momentum was lost.

Now, advancing technology, global crises and renewed public attention have met with a surge in interest from private companies who see unlimited economic gain, and nation states who see space as a theater of strategic power. The race for space is back on.

However, this fresh development is taking place within a relative vacuum of effective policy and consideration. In the interest of incentivizing growth, public institutions are failing in their obligation to account for a future where dominance over space affords dominance over everything.

Space is an infinite frontier with infinite potential.

Allowing any single entity or collection of entities, be they public or private, to be the gatekeepers of that potential is to irrevocably repeat the mistakes of the past and exacerbate the problems of the present.

We are presented with the opportunity to harness that potential in inspiring, engaging and improving the lives of every human being - through scientific discovery, exploration and economic prosperity - as well as the challenge of balancing development with appropriate measures to protect against inequality, environmental degradation, conflict and the erosion of democracy.

Finding this balance is critical to the peaceful, equitable and sustainable expansion of human civilization to the stars.

# SHARING RESOURCES

Control over primary resources, as well as the logistics required to access and utilize those resources, involves enormous expense, yet will ultimately deliver unlimited returns.

Space is worth the investment, no matter the cost. A fact that many in the private sector have already woken up to. However leaving it to a few individual interests means exacerbating inequality on an unimaginable and irreparable scale, ultimately allowing wealth to unduly influence free democratic society more than it already does.

In the public sector there is a popular narrative of opportunity cost and false choice that plays investment in space off against earthbound concerns. However the possibilities arising from space-based industry have the potential to generate unprecedented public wealth and prosperity, with the capacity to fund social services and infrastructure for billions.

The sharing of profits from space-based industry is not just about protecting democracy either. It is also about protecting space itself. Industry that fails to account for damage to the environment in which it operates can have vast and often unforeseen consequences. Something we have experienced on Earth and see indications of in space, with orbital debris.

By increasing public investment, treating space as a commons and cooperating internationally to enshrine responsible policy and ensure private profit from public resources is treated accordingly, we can achieve enormous public good, address global crises and incentivize the sustainable and efficient development of space.





# SHARING KNOWLEDGE

What is known, pales in comparison with what is yet to be known. Space offers the opportunity to not only explore new worlds, but expand every sphere of human endeavor, from the physical sciences, to the social, as well as art and culture.

In order to make the most of this opportunity, knowledge sharing is critical. Proceeding into space with antiquated divisions will only endanger people and impede development.

Whether exploring celestial bodies (such as moons, planets and asteroids), conducting scientific experiments, or learning more about the relationship between humanity and life in space - information must travel freely between all parties in order for us all to succeed.

The International Space Station helped form relationships between astronauts and cosmonauts from across the globe while advancing science. In the same way, increasing partnerships between nations, NGOs, universities, private enterprise and communities can unite us in progress and common purpose.

We can learn more and travel further together.

# SHARING RESPONSIBILITY

The planet is at risk. Centuries of irresponsible behavior and systems that prioritize immediate gain over long-term consequences have created a serious threat to life on Earth that is spiraling out of control.

But as we work to repair and even reverse the damage done here at home, we also need to be careful not to repeat the mistake elsewhere. Lest we do to a thousand worlds what we have already done to one.

The sheer vastness of space can often make it seem like environmental damage is a non-issue. It allows for the notion that there's so much room, mess doesn't matter. But this couldn't be further from the truth. Space debris in Earth orbit is already creating issues and even the largest environments can be damaged by small precipitous changes.

Responsibility in space however, extends beyond the physical to the biological. As we touch down on other worlds, we must be extremely careful not to upset any ecosystems already in place, through pollution or the introduction of other organisms.

Finally, we have a responsibility to ourselves. With space increasingly being viewed as a potential theater of conflict, there is a renewed obligation to develop and update treaties and international agreements, ensuring that we don't pollute space with any of our worst habits.





# SHARING POWER

In the past, knowledge, resources and the capacity to move both around have individually brought great power to those who wielded them. The ability to wield all three collectively has built empires.

Throughout the colonial history of our world, we have seen how that power corrupts and abuses. Even today, we are left dealing with the lasting damage of old empires in the form of global social, economic and geopolitical issues. All while empires of a different variety set the stage for a repetition of history.

Left too long, any attempt to regulate power will defer to its interests.

Whether state or corporate, power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. And power over space is absolute power. Sharing it is not just a matter of wisdom and the value of democracy. It is a matter of survival.

Our collective journey into space requires new policy and a reformation and reinforcement of democratic institutions on a global scale. It needs everyone to be involved, everyone to have a say and everyone to reap the rewards.

This is a critical moment. One where an infinite expanse of wealth, knowledge, opportunity and ultimately, power will inevitably dictate the course of human history.

It must be shared.

# JOIN US

We are an international community of like-minded individuals who believe that going to space is the most incredible and inspiring endeavor that humanity can undertake. It presents the opportunity to not only build a peaceful and prosperous future together, but address some of the world's most pressing issues.

Celestial Commons is borne out of that sense of optimism. We see what wonders and benefits the shared journey to and development of space might bring. However, we are concerned by what might happen if those benefits are reaped only by a few.

Every government, enterprise, community, and individual has a role to play and the right to participate in building our future in space. One which is shared, not owned.

If you feel the same way as we do, then join us in building a global network to bring public interest and oversight into the space sector.

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