ORVIETO MUSICA
Experience. Discover. Create. Perform.

# Creative Insights for Transformational Human Decision Making

Orvieto Leadership Summit
24-26 June 2025, Orvieto, Italy

In collaboration with GR3 Advisory and Global Access Partners (GAP)

## Summit Communiqué

INTRODUCTORY NOTE: This communiqué synthesises the key reflections and insights from the 2025 Orvieto Leadership Summit. It is a values-based statement designed to capture the shared essence, diverse perspectives and guiding spirit of the event, and should be read in conjunction with the Summit's formal report of proceedings.

1. We, the participants of the Orvieto Leadership Summit on '*Creative Insights for Transformational Human Decision Making*', met in Orvieto, Italy on 24-26 June 2025 at the invitation of Orvieto Musica, Inc., GR3 Advisory and Global Access Partners (GAP). We congratulate Prof Kim Walker, Catherine Fritz-Kalish AM, Anca van Assendelft and the Summit organisers for delivering a highly engaging event, bringing together 45 thought leaders and creative thinkers from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Finland, Israel, Italy, Peru, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

2. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mayor Roberta Tardani and the people of Orvieto for their hospitality. Orvieto, with its breathtaking natural beauty, storied past and centuries of wise decision making, was the perfect setting for a summit dedicated to thoughtful leadership and inspired collaboration.

3. We express particular gratitude to Orvieto Musica, both in artistry and spirit, for bringing together remarkable musicians from around the world. It was a privilege to witness their intimate chamber music performances, which filled our Summit with creative energy and inspiration.

4. We appreciate the depth and richness that the integration of Socratic dialogue, somatic experience and music immersion brought to our conversations and connections. We thank the Summit's distinguished thought leaders for their insights into the neuroscience of human creativity, the power of artificial intelligence, and the exciting opportunities created by the nexus of the two. We also thank Summit facilitators Clare Shine, Catrien van Assendelft, Catherine Fritz-Kalish AM and Dr Alex Fischer for their thoughtful moderation, and Allan Parker OAM for his guidance in crafting an 'Orvieto Statement' from our combined take-aways. Special acknowledgment is due to the experiential practices that supported this journey, including Hans Weygoldt's somatic breathwork session and Prof Kim Walker's deep listening exercise.

5. We acknowledge the insights HE Yves Leterme, Prof Riccardo Viale and Peter Fritz AO offered during the Summit's opening session, including their perspectives on the limitations of real-world human decision making and the need for democratic governance to stay fit for purpose at a time of growing external threats and internal challenges. We envision a future in which AI may positively reshape many aspects of the economy, society and government; however, we urge decision makers to use this new technology to empower people and ensure the benefits of AI are fairly distributed to maintain individual wellbeing and social cohesion.

6. We stress the importance of interdependent leadership grounded in human-centred values, empathy and courage as well as data-driven analytics to navigate the complex journey that companies, organisations and governments are about to take. We also call for the inevitable integration of increasingly capable AI in education, art, business and society to be co-designed with citizens, employees and voters, as effective solutions can only be honed and accepted through genuine dialogue with stakeholders and citizens.

7. While we recognise the need for a balanced approach, we are also excited by the prospect of AI-powered alternatives to society's embattled institutions and outdated processes. We note Peter Fritz's point that fundamental advances in technology, ideas or organisational structures are often best achieved through *transition* – by creating entirely new systems that operate outside the legacy framework – rather than incremental transformation or retrofitting.

8. We appreciate Prof Baroness Susan Greenfield's insights into neuroscience and the impact of screens on children's minds. We applaud the commitment of Prof Sharon Goldfeld AM to improve all five domains of preschool childhood development in Australia, given the information we received on early brain development, stagnating rates of attainment of milestones, and the financial and social benefits of improving the results of disadvantaged children.

9. We agree with Nobel Laureates Prof Saul Perlmutter and Prof Brian Schmidt AC that broader integration of the scientific method into schools and universities would strengthen the critical thinking skills required to help future generations interrogate, rather than blindly accept, AI-generated results and social media content. We support their advocacy of deliberative polling and citizen juries to revitalise and inform policy debate.

10. We welcome the research insights shared by Prof Karim Lakhani, Prof Hila Lifshitz and Steven Randazzo of the Harvard Business School on the augmentation of employee performance through generative AI. Their 'Automation, Augmentation and Transformation' framework offered a compelling lens for rethinking personal and team productivity in business settings. We note with interest the satisfaction reported by employees when interacting with generative AI, alleviating potential concerns of the dehumanising effect of this technology. We also enjoyed the interactive sessions led by Prof Hila Lifshitz to explore the use of AI in music and business innovation.

11. We were inspired by the personal courage and fortitude displayed by Joe Gagnon and Dr Brenda Lau MD and acknowledge the links they forged between physical vitality and good mental health. Mr Gagnon challenged us to live with intention and focus, showing how discipline and clarity can shape a meaningful life, while Dr Lau explained how the language we use can be a hidden driver behind chronic disease and burnout. We were also intrigued by the original approach of Christopher Duncan towards personal enlightenment and professional success. These contributions demonstrate the value of embodied awareness, somatic insight and reflective self-inquiry in shaping transformative leadership.

12. We support ongoing cooperation with the Club of Madrid, led by María Elena Agüero, to leverage the experience and convening power of its members to promote international democracy and better leadership. We agree with Ms Agüero's observation that 'the triangle' of data, analysis and resources will not result in positive social change without strong leadership.

13. We look forward to maintaining the friendships we forged at this Summit, developing the scientific and social themes it explored, and building on these discussions through participating in GAP working groups over the coming year.

## The Orvieto Statement

We propose that decision making in business and government be guided by the following overarching principles:

I. **In an uncertain world of rapid technological change and cultural upheaval, new technologies such as generative AI must be harnessed to empower rather than replace human agency, political democracy and social engagement.**

II. **Interdependent leadership must engage with and listen to stakeholders to seek consensus and build the collective wisdom required to navigate current challenges, repair the social fabric and ensure that democratic governance remains fit for purpose.**

III. **For the sake of a flourishing world, leaders must embrace governance that respects individual autonomy, encourages civic agency and ensures that the benefits of technological progress are shared with current and future generations.**

These principles were co-designed through a consensus-driven workshop facilitated by Allan Parker OAM and reflect the collective input and mutual agreement of all participants.

## Summit Recommendations

1. We support the creation of GAP and GR3 'Second Track' taskforces and working groups to explore and implement the Orvieto Principles and identify specific examples of successful, scalable innovations that could inform broader policy shifts.
2. We also support, in principle, the proposal for GAP to convene a cross-sectoral working group to explore the concept of a 'Digital Republic' to unlock the potential of AI to enhance democracy and citizen engagement. We acknowledge this as one perspective among many and suggest broad, inclusive engagement to identify a range of future governance models.
3. We recommend post-Summit working groups explore ways to translate the personal health and wellness insights offered at the Summit into state and national policies to mitigate the deleterious effects of the social determinants of health.
4. We urge GAP to accelerate the establishment of a Centre for Human Thinking and Decision Making to explore the neuroscience and psychology of human choice and the potential of AI to inform better policy making and improve public services.
5. We support the appropriate integration of artificial intelligence into business and organisational workflows to augment, rather than replace, the expertise of human workers, given the evidence presented by the Laboratory for Innovation Science at Harvard and other contributors at the Summit. We also recommend more rigorous academic research into the use and implications of AI and call for adequate training for employees, students and decision makers to maximise its benefits.
6. We advocate the incorporation of scientific thinking techniques throughout schools and universities to equip young people with the critical thinking skills they need to separate fact from fiction and make evidence-based decisions for themselves and society.
7. We invite students and leaders to draw on the complexity and beaty of the natural world as a source of insight and innovation. This Summit has challenged conventional boundaries, reminding us that meaningful progress often emerges though interdisciplinary exchange, reflective observation and even moments of creative disorder. It is in this spirit that we advocate an educational approach that values not only critical analysis but also the interdependence of human systems and natural ecosystems, informed intuition and alternative ways of thinking.
8. We hope the Orvieto Summit becomes an annual fixture on the global leadership calendar and support greater participation by younger people in future events to expand intergenerational insight and co-creation.