

# International Fab Lab Association Newsletter – January 2012



Here is our January 2012 Newsletter, also as PDF. We will inform you about what is happening in our association and abroad and how you can participate. Feel free to forward it further.

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## From the board

In our board meeting via Skype on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2012, we “celebrated” our mid-term review as we are half-way to the next General Members Meeting. On our to-do-list are the Fab Year book 2012, Fab Academy 2 (on setting-up and running a Fab Lab), a survey on Fab Labs in developing countries, Fab Lab Business models, update of Fab Charter, rite-de-passage and Fab list, website, basic set of machines, promoting regional conferences and spreading the Fab word in related international conferences. We are working on more than half of these items and hope to make that visible to you soon!

Our next board meeting has been scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup> 2012. We will send you our February Newsletter one week later.

### FABulous greetings!

## Picture of the month

What are you seeing, where on earth is this found and what is its relation with Fab Labs? The answer will be revealed in our next issue.





The picture in the December 2011 issue of our Newsletter showed Christmas Dreamland. It was on display in Hotel Intercontinental in Berlin (Germany) during the Online Educa Conference. We used a better picture than ours, copied from the crafters web site <http://www.weihnachts-traumland.de/>. It looked as if the crafter, Steffen Berthold, had a Fab Lab with laser cutter nearby. On his web site, he explained how this EUR 1650 masterpiece was crafted: small batches, sizes and design may vary, and “Our wood products are of course 100% ‘Made in Germany’ and created by hand and using precision laser technology - only in this way is the incredible attention to detail achieved.”

## Hands-on

We are looking for helping hands to accomplish our targets! If you have ideas or suggestions yourself, or if you would like to contribute to some of the targets the general meeting and the board have set, please, contact one of the board members (addresses at the end of this Newsletter).

## FABulous News

**In December 2011 we welcomed five new Fab Labs:** Fab Lab Noord-Brabant (The Netherlands), Fab Lab Zürich (Switzerland), Fox Valley Technical College Innovation Lab (Appleton, USA), Fox Valley Technical College Mobile Lab (Appleton, USA), Aalto Fab Lab (Helsinki, Finland), Fab Lab Leon (Spain).

Not listed yet, but in fact being planned or under development are four new African Fab Labs: Burkina Faso (2), Cameroun and Tunisia.

More details can be found on the official list of Fab Labs at <http://wiki.fablab.is/wiki/Portal:Labs>.

## Reading and watching

- **Fab Lab Planning & Justification Webinar** (20 May 2011) Recording; USFLN; 2011; free download/run of [recording](#) (pw: “networks”) and [Discussion Guide](#).
- **Users as Designers**; a hands-on approach to Creative Research; D. van Dijk, F. Kresin et al.; Waag Society, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2011; free download (58 pages, 7.6 MB) via <http://issuu.com/waag/docs/creativeresearch>.
- **The art of community; building the new age of participation**; Jono Bacon; O’Reilly, 2009. Extended second edition coming spring 2012. “The critically acclaimed The Art of Community by Jono Bacon and published by O’Reilly brings together over a decade of experience in growing, empowering, and leading communities to success.” The first edition is free to download via <http://www.artofcommunityonline.org/downloads/jonobacon-theartofcommunity-1ed.pdf>.

## Upcoming events

- 18 January – 30 May 2012: Fab Academy. 3<sup>rd</sup> intake; <http://tinyurl.com/d7j4bfr>
- 27 January 2012: Davos, Switzerland: at the World Economic Forum (25-29 Jan.), Neil Gershenfeld will talk on “Digital fabrication: from virtual to physical”;  
[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/AM12/WEF\\_AM12\\_ProgrammeWeb.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/AM12/WEF_AM12_ProgrammeWeb.pdf)
- 10-12 April 2012: Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA: USFLN Symposium 2012; <http://usfln.org>.
- 16-19 May 2012: Manchester UK: FAB- \* Manchester, European Fab Summit at Future Everything Festival; <http://futureeverything.org/festival/>
- 23-25 May 2012: Cotonou, Benin: E-learning Africa; <http://www.elearning-africa.com/>.
- 18-24 June 2012: Boot camp in various locations; Fab Lab management and installation;  
[coordination@fabacademy.org](mailto:coordination@fabacademy.org).
- 22-28 August 2012: Wellington, New Zealand; Massey University, the Institute of Design for Industry and Environment at the College of Creative Arts; <http://fab8nz.wordpress.com/>. [fab8nz@gmail.com](mailto:fab8nz@gmail.com).

**Statistics** - Our association has 100 members (individual persons). If you know people interested in becoming a member, let them fill in the form you find on <http://fablabinternational.org>.

There are now 114 Fab Labs. Please, check your ratings!

FAB LABS	1 Oct. 2011	1 Nov. 2011	1 Dec. 2011	1 Jan. 2012
Planned	NA	NA	NA	5
Under development	NA	NA	NA	8
AAAA rating	10	10	11	11
Other ratings	40	48	49	57
Not rated	49	49	49	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>114</b>

**Colophon** - This Newsletter is sent to you on behalf of the Board of the International Fab Lab Association. Our central email address is [association@fabfolk.com](mailto:association@fabfolk.com); the address of our preliminary web site is <http://fablabinternational.org>.

Of course, you also can contact our board members directly:

- Chairperson, Pieter van der Hijden ([pvdh@sofos.nl](mailto:pvdh@sofos.nl)),
- External and Internal Relations, Axel Sylvester, Hiroya Tanaka ([axel\\_association@fablab-hamburg.org](mailto:axel_association@fablab-hamburg.org), [htanaka@sfc.keio.ac.jp](mailto:htanaka@sfc.keio.ac.jp)),
- Innovation (new products and services), Alex Schaub ([alex@waag.org](mailto:alex@waag.org)),
- Liaison CBA and FABn, Sherry Lassiter ([sherry.lassiter@cba.mit.edu](mailto:sherry.lassiter@cba.mit.edu)),
- Registrar (Fab Charter, Rite-de-passage, List), Lindi Mophuti, [lindi.mphuthi@gmail.com](mailto:lindi.mphuthi@gmail.com),
- Secretary, Peter Troxler ([trox@fabfolk.com](mailto:trox@fabfolk.com)),
- Treasurer, Betty Barrett ([bb1@illinois.edu](mailto:bb1@illinois.edu)).