



International Fab Lab Association Newsletter - October 2011

Welcome to our Newsletter. With this newsletter we will inform you about what is happening in our association and abroad and how you can participate.

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From the board

In our board meeting via Skype on October 10th, we discussed the outcomes of a meeting with Neil Gershenfeld and Dutch Fab Labs (Amsterdam, 16 September 2011). Further we made a plan to improve our Fab Charter and the rite-de-passage and to clean-up the list of Fab Labs renew Fab Charter. We are halfway with a plan regarding our website and of course we had some backoffice issues to discuss like bank account, Chamber of Commerce, etc. Our next board meeting has been scheduled for November 14th. We will send you our next Newsletter one week later.

Picture of the month

Like the Google Earth Sightseer, we are asking you: What are you seeing and where on earth is this happening? The answer will be revealed in our next issue.



Fab Yearbook

For those who did not notice yet: In July 2011, the second edition of the Fab Yearbook was released. You can download it from <http://fabfolk.com/docs/FabYearBookforFabFolk.zip> (198 MB). (Cover



design by Stephen Gallagher)

For the 2012 edition (to be published February 2012) we are looking for 3 or more people who want to help form the editorial team. Get in touch if you want to make sure the third edition of the FabYearBook is even bigger, brighter and better. And on time ;) Send an e-mail to ton@fabfolk.com.

Neil Gershenfeld met with Dutch Fab Labs

Neil Gershenfeld met with Dutch Fab Labs in Amsterdam on September 16th. Three topics were on the agenda: Fab Academy, Set of machines, and Business models.

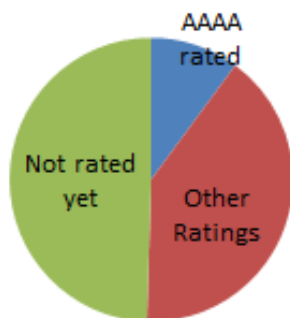
Fab Academy - The Fab Academy of Spring 2011 is being evaluated right now and improvements in logistics and coaching will be implemented before the next intake (January 2012). The Fab Academy is mainly oriented at technology. As there is a growing demand for other topics like setting-up a Fab Lab and running a Fab Lab, a second Fab Academy is needed. Klaas Hernamdt from The Netherlands is willing to coordinate the preparation of this Fab Academy 2.

Set of machines - Three issues were discussed: 1) The current set of machines needs a periodical update. 2) The basic set itself could be extended. 3) Fab Labs can exist on various scales with an initial investment ranging from USD 110 to USD 1 million.

Business models - Seven "archetypes" of Fab Lab business models have been identified recently: 1. access, production, 2. education, 3. enabler, 4. incubator, 5. network, 6. guru's for hire, 7. techno tourism. Most of the Fab Labs apply a mix of these.

The board of the association invites you, the members, to join a workgroup, chaired by Klaas Hernamdt, to prepare a separate Fab Academy 2. The topic of this academy is setting-up and running a Fab Lab; it should start in Autumn 2012. If you are interested, please contact Klaas directly via klaas@fabfolk.com.

Fab Charter etc.



One of our targets for this year is: cleaning up the list of Fab Labs, evaluating the rite-de-passage and preparing an update of the Fab Charter. As of today, the official list of Fab Labs counts 99 Fab Labs. 10% have been rated AAAA, 40% have other ratings, 50% have not been rated at all. So there is some work to do.

Therefore, would you please check:

- **Is your Fab Lab on the list? If not, ask your Fab Lab manager to add it.**
- **Is your Fab Lab rated? If not, ask your Fab Lab manager to rate it. Is your Fab Lab AAAA rated?**
- **If not, ask your Fab Lab manager for plans to up grade your Fab Lab in order to get at the AAAA rate.**

You find the Charter, the rite-de-passage and the list via our website at <http://fablabinternational.org>.

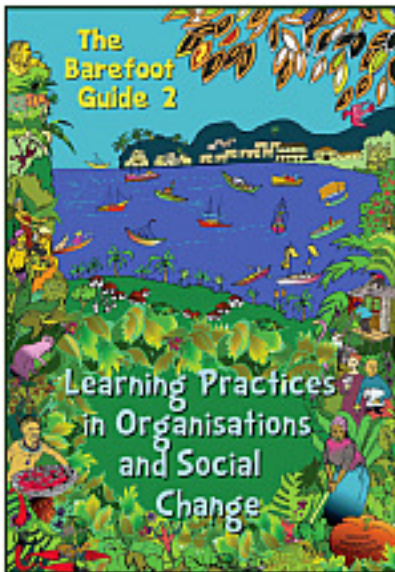
Our board member Lindi Mophuti will set-up and chair a workgroup for proposing an improved Fab Charter, monitoring and evaluating the rite-de-passage and cleaning the list. Would you like to join this workgroup, please write her at lmophuti@csir.co.za.

FABulous News from the Network

Amy Sun - As of 13:00 EDT October 6, Amy Sun successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis at MIT and may now be addressed as Dr. Amy Sun. Everett is ecstatic and relieved, and the rest of us heartily congratulate her on this wonderful achievement. Congratulations Dr. Amy!

EU funding - The European Fund for Regional Development is funding cross border projects of Belgian and Dutch Fab Labs. The result will be new Fab Labs in Genk (Belgium) and Eindhoven (The Netherlands) and extending the existing Fab Labs in Leuven (Belgium) and Maastricht (The Netherlands). The total budget is almost EUR 2 Million, 50% being funded by the European Union.

Reading and watching



The Economist - Some months ago already, but still interesting are two articles in The Economist. On 10 February 2011, this newspaper published both a leader and a briefing on 3D printing. The leader was titled "[Technology: Print me a Stradivarius; How a new manufacturing technology will change the world](#)", the briefing "[3D printing: the printed world](#)". Both articles are free to download.

Barefoot Guide 2 - Something totally different is "[The Barefoot Guide 2: learning practices in organisations and social change](#)"; 223 pages, 29MB, free; 2011.

A few years ago, a mixed North-South collective wrote the well illustrated book "Barefoot guide to working with organisations and social change". At that occasion the writers noted already that their last chapter on "Staying alive to change; learning and innovating in organisations" deserved a book on its own. Now it is there; the second barefoot guide is totally focused on learning, individual learning, organizational learning, learning related to change etc. A interesting source of information when reflecting on our Fab Lab work!

Upcoming events

- Oct 14-16 -- Zweite Deutsche RepRap Prusa Mendel 3D Drucker Meisterklasse, Aachen (Germany); http://hci.rwth-aachen.de/masterclass_3dprinter_14102011
- Oct 20-23 -- FabLab Toulouse Conference (France); <http://fablab2011.artilect.fr/>
- Oct 22-30 – Dutch Design Week, Eindhoven (Netherlands); presentations by Dutch Fab Labs; <http://www.ddw.nl>.
- Oct 22 -- Fab Off, Champaign-Urbana FabLab (US); <http://cucfablab.org/blog/fab>
- Oct 25 -- 3D printing event 2011, Eindhoven (Netherlands); <http://3dprintingevent.com/>
- Oct 29 -- FabCamp Torino (Italy); <http://www.fablabitalia.it/fabcamp#.TpYSjuv88kd>
- Nov 4-6 -- Make it easier to customize 3D models on the Web @ Mozilla Festival, London (UK); <https://mozillafestival.org/>

Statistics - Our association now has 95 members (Europe 46, North America 24, Africa and Asia both 10, Africa 3). If you know people interested in becoming a member, let them fill in the form you find on <http://fablabinternational.org>.

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, the address of our preliminary web site address is <http://fablabinternational.org>.

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

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