



The
International Fab Lab Association
The public window to the international Fab Lab community.

Newsletter - May 2012

Here is the **May 2012 Newsletter of the International Fab Lab Association** (Sorry for the delay). 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



From left to right: Alex, Betty, Hiro, Lass, Pieter, Axel, Lindi, Peter

In our board meeting via Skype on May 14th, we focused on the coming **Fab8 conference** in New Zealand. Issues were our annual members meeting, time zones inconveniences and the way we could support the organizers. Further, we added "**intellectual property**" to our list of common issues (see below). Our next board meeting has been scheduled for June 11th 2012. That is also the deadline for our June Newsletter that will be published one week later.

FABulous greetings!

Alex, Axel, Betty, Hiro, Lass, Lindi, Peter, Pieter

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.



CC-BY dullhunk - The picture in the April 2012 issue of our Newsletter showed Chips, a funky pink, brown and peach building in Manchester UK, seat of Fab Lab Manchester (and more); <http://www.fablabmanchester.org>.

Deadline 1 June 2012 for submissions Open Knowledge Festival Finland

Please, hurry, if you want to submit a proposal to the Open Design stream at the Open Knowledge Festival that takes place from 17-22 September 2012 in Helsinki, Finland; <http://okfestival.org/call-for-proposals/>; **the deadline is 1 June 2012**. The stream covers Open Design in all its facets and applications, also including Open Hardware, Open Fabrication and Manufacturing, and Making in general. The stream includes keynotes, presentations, panels and discussion, practical hands-on activities and topic-focused workshops, and an exhibition with open design / hardware / manufacturing artefacts. Contact: Peter Troxler at trox@fabfolk.com.

FAB-✱ Education conference

The FAB-✱ Education conference (Bremen, 15-17 June) has published its program; see <http://www.fabeducation.net/de/symposium.html>. Registration is open at <http://www.fabeducation.net/en/registrieren.html?view=form>. Enter "Fab Lab community member" in the "Kommentar" field to get free entry to the conference (while space lasts).

How to manage a Fab Lab

In our April newsletter we informed you about a new (pilot) course of the Fab Academy: "How to manage a Fab Lab" to be started September 2012. We included a questionnaire. If you missed it, [please, see the separate document titled "Preview: Expanding Fab Academy educational content: "How to manage a Fab Lab" and fill the short questionnaire!](#)

eLearning Africa in Bénin

On behalf of the Association, Pieter van der Hijden and Lindi Mophuti prepared a presentation "Fab Lab: Shifting eLearning from Bits to Atoms" tot the eLearning Africa conference that took place in Cotonou, Bénin, from 23-25 May 2012. About 35 participants attended the parallel session, Pieter delivered there. They came from a variety of African countries. Most of them did not know the Fab Lab concept. There was a serious interest, especially in low budget Fab Labs. See the slides at <http://slidesha.re/JKXIRm>.

By the way, by far the best plenary speech of the conference was delivered by Father Godfrey Nzamujo, who started the Songhai project for agricultural innovation, teaching and production AND the location of the Fab Lab Bénin. Your reporter visited the project in Porto-Novo after the conference. Excellent! Although the Fab Lab is not completely up and running yet, due to its context, it already can be an example for Fab Labs elsewhere (<http://www.songhai.org>). To be continued!

Web site member pages

We have filled the member pages on our web site with our year program, our backstage with information on ongoing work, our archive with the minutes of our annual general members meeting and monthly board meetings and our preparations for Fab8 and the next general members meeting.

Intellectual property

One of the Fab Labs sent us a case regarding IP-rights. They asked for any rules or policies regarding IP-rights of Fab Lab visitors, internships, Fab Lab itself, sponsors etc. As far as the board knows, the community has a variety of opinions on this topic. It is a rather specialistic topic that has to be figured out further. Contact: Peter Troxler at trox@fabfolk.com.

Reading and watching

Skipped this month.

Upcoming events

For the latest information, check our website at <http://www.fablabinternational.org/newsroom--2/upcoming-events>.

2012

- 1 June 2012: OpenKnowledge Festival Finland September (see below): deadline for submission to stream Open Design / Hardware / Manufacturing / Making; <http://okfestival.org/call-for-proposals/>
- 15 June 2012: Helsinki, Finland: 15 h. Opening of the Aalto Fab Lab; <http://fablab.aalto.fi/site/>
- 15-17 June 2012: Bremen, Germany: FAB-✱ Education; conference; <http://fab-education-bremen.blogspot.com/>
- 15-25 June 2012: Bremen, Germany: FAB-✱ Education; exhibition with workshops; <http://fab-education-bremen.blogspot.com/>
- 18-24 June 2012: Various locations: Boot camp on Fab Lab management and installation; coordination@fabacademy.org
- 28 July - 4 August 2012: Atlanta, USA: 9th International Summer School on Gaming/Simulation; learn to develop your own teaching/training games; <http://www.isaga-summer-school.org>
- 8-11 August 2012: Amersfoort, The Netherlands: international Grassroots Fab Lab event; <http://www.fabfuse.org>; info@fabfuse.org
- **22-28 August 2012: FAB8 International Conference; Wellington, New Zealand; Massey University, the Institute of Design for Industry and Environment at the College of Creative Arts; <http://www.fab8nz.com>; Chris Jackson fab8nz@gmail.com.**
- 17-22 September 2012: Helsinki, Finland: OpenKnowledge Festival; special stream on making; <http://okfestival.org/call-for-proposals/>
- 18-21 October 2012: FabLab Toulouse Conference; <http://conference2012.fablab-toulouse.fr/>

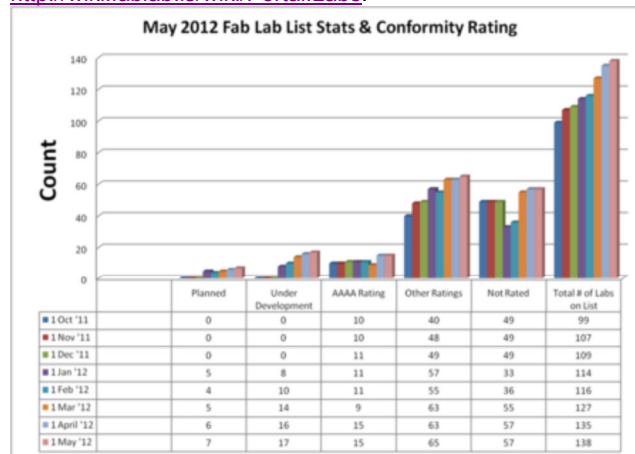
2013

- May 2013: eLearning Africa; Windhoek, Namibia; <http://www.elearning-africa.com>
- **August 2013: FAB9 International Conference; Kamakura, Japan;** <http://fablabjapan.org>; 田中浩也 (Hiroya Tanaka) htanaka@sfc.keio.ac.jp
- 7-10 December 2013: International conference on ICT and Development; Cape Town, South Africa; <http://ictd2012.org>

Statistics

Our association has 141 members (individual persons). If you know people interested in becoming a member, let them fill in the form you find on <http://fablabinternational.org/fab-association/how-to-join>.

There are now 138 Fab Labs. Please, check your ratings at <http://wiki.fablab.is/wiki/Portal:Labs!>



Contact: *Lindi Mophuti*.


Colophon

This Newsletter is sent to you on behalf of the Board of the International Fab Lab Association. Our central email address is board@fablabinternational.org; the address of our preliminary web site is <http://www.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).

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