

Fab News

It's been a FABulous year for the worldwide Fab Lab Network and the Fab Foundation! So much has happened thanks to the tireless efforts of this diverse group of committed and creative Fabbers.

From the new [STEM collaboration with Chevron](#) and Fab Lab [design software contribution from SOLIDWORKS](#) to the White House Maker Faire and the opening of new labs around the world, the growth of the Network is mind-boggling and shows no sign of slowing down! This first newsletter of 2015 highlights a few cool projects from recent months, along with a heads-up for big initiatives coming in 2015.

Happy New Year! And to every single one of you in the Fab Lab world, thank you for making 2014 truly spectacular!

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In This Issue

Fab11

News from the Network

Talks & Events

In the News

Social Media

Website

Save the Date!

Fab11 August 3 - 9, 2015



Passing the Torch in Barcelona for Fab11

This is an occasional newsletter by and for the Fab Lab Network.

Please email

fabnews@fabfoundation.org

if you have announcements to make to the Fab Lab community.

Fab11 is coming home to Boston! After traveling the world, the entire Fab Lab Network will convene in the city where the Network was born. In partnership with MIT and The Fab Foundation, the cities of Boston, Cambridge and Somerville are hosting a distributed FAB event that will include workshops, talks, networking, a Fab Fest for the public, Fab Academy graduation and a culminating symposium to knock your socks off.

To ensure you get the latest news on registration, competitions, agenda and travel logistics, be one of the first to sign up for the FAB11 mailing list www.fab11.org. Registration will open in the next month and there will be an early bird special! So get yourself on the list today!

■ New Fab Labs Join the Network

In the last few months, more Fab Labs have come online. Here are a few new members of our community:

China

A team from MIT's Center for Bits and Atoms installed a flagship Fab Lab at Gezhi High School in Shanghai.



China - CBA Installation Team

Zhang Zhimin, the prestigious public school's principal is an innovator in the education field. Zhang saw the value of the Fab Lab concept for innovation and education and worked with MIT to establish this first high-school based Fab Lab in Shanghai. Zhang has also founded an organization to scale Fab Labs in high schools, called the China Inter-School Fab Lab Alliance. The Alliance already has 34 members and is growing rapidly.



The Alliance will establish best practices for China Fab Labs through its relationship with CBA, and will partner with the Fab Foundation and FabEd to scale and develop curriculum.

Barcelona

The Fab City announced at FAB10 by Mayor Trias of Barcelona has just officially opened another Barcelona Fab Lab. Here's a [link to the complete story](#).

■ News From Around the Network

Fab Lab San Diego

Growing by leaps and bounds, Fab Lab San Diego is moving to a new location in downtown San Diego and what better place to land than Makers Quarter, a growing maker-themed neighborhood in the city's East Village. [Click here](#) to learn more about the new digs and the opportunities it offers for the Maker community.

Toulouse Fab Fest

From the 6th to 10th of May 2015 FabLab Festival at Toulouse will bring together European Fabbers for workshops, networking and a public Fab Lab experience. For details please see: <http://www.fablabfestival.fr>

Floating Fab Lab in Amazon

Can Digital Fabrication change the way we develop and innovate in the Amazon? There is a deep desire to develop projects that enhance the conservation and sustainable development of natural and cultural resources in this part of the world. Fabbers around the world recently gathered to share ideas about the possibility of a future floating Fab Lab that would be a research platform for Amazon region development. <http://amazon.fablab.org/>

Ghana Fab Lab

The Ghana Fab Lab collaborated with the KNUST Creativity Group to set a national record in high altitude exploration; their space balloon TECH HAB 001 reached a height of 23 km! Congratulations on bringing Fab Labs to new heights [pun intended!]. Find the complete story and lots of photos on the project's [Facebook page](#).

FryskLab MakerTour2015

Europe's first Mobile Library FabLab from the Netherlands is taking a road trip over the Alps on a Makertour2015 to Florence, Italy, in February 2015. FryskLab will visit 8 countries in 14 days, stopping at a number of Fab Labs en route. FryskLab will conduct workshops between February 5-20 in Florence (Italy), where the lab will participate in the conference [The Art of Invention](#), organized by OCLC. FryskLab, a former book mobile turned mobile library lab, is a project of Bibliotheekservice Fryslân (BSF).

Goals of the program are to strengthen the connection between fablabs and libraries, as well as to also foster coherence between European fab labs. You can find the itinerary and roadmap here: www.frysklab.nl/makertour2015.

Talks & Events

DigiFabCon

With underwriting from Chevron and the Deutsch Foundation, Fab Labs were front and center at the DigiFab Conference on November 17 in Baltimore organized by Fab Lab Hub and Potomac Photonics. Sherry Lassiter and Blair Evans delivered keynotes to the 200 attendees about the impact of Digital Fabrication in the world.



The education track was organized by Caroline McIness of TIES and featured speakers from around the Fab Lab Network. For the complete program and list of speakers, see <http://www.DigiFabCon.org>. We look forward to this regional conference again next year!

City Awake Expo

Fab Foundation was amongst 235 social impact partner groups featured in a 10 day

festival in Boston. The City Awake Festival celebrated and connected vibrant organizations and diverse activities that make the Boston Metro area a social impact center. As part of the festivities The Fab Foundation demonstrated a laser harp designed and created by high school students from the Edgerton Center at MIT, a history quilt made by LMerchie Frazier from the SETC Fab Lab, and featured Fab Lab Hub 3D printing snowflakes for attendees to take home.

FabED Monthly Meeting Reminder

Each month the FabED community meets online to learn about fab education projects and curriculum, and to share new ideas and best practices. Educators from the Network present projects and topics via video conference and the global community interacts with the speakers for lively discussions. FabED meets on the 1st Tuesday every month, currently at 3:30 p.m. east coast time. Write to amandajohnson <at> tiesteach <dot> org to snag an invite.

■ Fab Labs In the Media

- In collaboration with Chevron, *The Atlantic* recently featured Fab Labs and our ability to motivate women in STEM. *The Atlantic* production team produced a great video that you can [see here](#).
- Blair Blackwell of Chevron joined Sherry Lassiter in a Google Hang Out Town Hall on Nov. 12 organized by STEMconnector to explore the impact of The Maker Movement on STEM. If you missed the live feed, you can [watch the complete program here](#).
- *Make Magazine* featured a decade of fab labs in its [10th anniversary issue](#).
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- A [FABulous documentary](#) on FAB10 has been released by our friends in Barcelona.

■ Social Media

With the network growing by leaps and bounds, we'd like to help Fab Labs communicate more easily. Jean-Luc in our office is helping us develop social media communication.

To interact with us on Twitter, please follow @FabFndn and @FabLabHub. We will be sure to follow you back and share your Tweets. Using the hashtag #FabLab in your tweets will help us track them. You can also search under those hashtags to see what is happening in the network. If you'd like to receive a Twitter Tips Powerpoint presentation, just email Sarah <<at>> fablabhub <<dot>>org.

We're also on Facebook now, so be sure to "[Like](#)" our page and we will do the same for your group's page. Post your news, needs, projects, people, and programs and we'll help promote them to the social media world.

■ Website

While the Fab Exchange section of our [website](#) is under development, we've added a Fab Lab Resources section to post items you might need. That's where you'll find the [application for the SOLIDWORKS software](#).

We are also increasing content on the website and will be adding a blog that features Fabbers and their cool projects. If you have something you'd like us to write up, please email it to Sarah Boisvert: Sarah [at] fablabhub [dot] org.