



## Hello Fab World!

2016 is off to a great start and promises to be an exciting year as the Fab Lab community continues to grow, innovate and impact our world.

FAB12 will be here before we know it and the FAB12 teams in Cambridge, Shenzhen and Barcelona are working hard to finalize details. The website is now up and this newsletter contains details for everyone planning to attend the August 8 to 14 gathering in China. Of particular note, are the Visa application instructions which have longer lead times this year.

Please check below to be sure you have all the information you need to plan your trip!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again very soon,

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FAB12 will take place August 8 to 14, 2016 in and around the city of Shenzhen, China which has a long history of fabricating and manufacturing. We are delighted that the Shenzhen Industrial Design Profession Association is hosting FAB12 in collaboration with the Fab Foundation and the MIT Center for Bits and Atoms.

FAB12 will focus on Fab Lab 2.0, the ability of a fab lab to use its own digital fabrication tools to produce a fab lab and to produce the manufacturing machines of the future. Central to the meeting is the challenge to the fab community to build the first Fab Lab 2.0 in a week - no small feat, but a challenge the network takes on with

enthusiasm!

The Sheraton Shenzhen Futian Hotel China, Guangdong, Shenzhen, Futian, Fuhua Road will be the primary conference location. The website has a variety of options for accommodations in every price range.

### **Website**

The FAB12 website is now up at [www.fab12.fablabcon.net](http://www.fab12.fablabcon.net) with preliminary details regarding all aspects of the meeting.

Be on the lookout for an email from [fab12@fabfoundation.org](mailto:fab12@fabfoundation.org) that will include your personal invitation and the password to register for FAB12! Registration for the main conference is for the Fab Lab community only, but the Symposium and the public event on the final weekend are open to the public.

### **Visas**

Remember to register early for FAB12 so you can be sure to get the early bird discount and your travel documents, including your Chinese visa, well in advance. The visa process takes several steps and could take a few weeks. Please consult the VISA tab on the FAB12 website for instructions.

### **Workshops**

The workshop submission period is now open and will close on May 1. Check the Workshop section of the website for more information. Here are details on the Research Paper stream:

The topic of the FAB12 Research Papers Stream is "Fab 2.0". We encourage papers from all application areas of fab labs. Watch the Fab12 website and facebook for details.

To apply for the Programme Committee and for any other questions please contact Peter Troxler, [trox@fabfolk.com](mailto:trox@fabfolk.com)

### **Sponsorship**

If you or your company are interested in joining us in China for FAB12 as a sponsor, please email [sarah@fabfoundation.org](mailto:sarah@fabfoundation.org) for more details on the benefits of participating with this vibrant fabrication community! We are especially in need of scholarship funding for fabbers traveling from the developing world.

**We look forward to seeing you in Shenzhen!**

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## Sponsor News

### Autodesk

This year Autodesk is officially joining the Fab Lab community by offering **all Fab Academy students** one-year professional licenses to its comprehensive portfolio of 3D product design and development solutions, which include AutoCAD, Fusion 360, Inventor, ReCap and 3ds Max, as well as the 123D family of apps and other software.

They are also providing Autodesk A360, a cloud-based collaboration platform that we can access under the licenses in order to work more closely within the Fab Lab Network on iterative, innovative designs. A360 integrates directly with Fusion 360 to make the collaborative design process intuitive and easy. Check out the possibilities in [this video](#) .

Fab Lab Barcelona will be working with the Fab Foundation to administer the licenses to all the Fab Academy gurus and students.

Academy attendees should have already received an email from [coordination@fabacademy.org](mailto:coordination@fabacademy.org) with instructions to get access to Autodesk products. Access to other Autodesk products not included here are available on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Fab Academy or visit the [Fab Academy Resources section](#) of the website.

Once you are up and running, Autodesk has offered to help spread the word about cool Fab Lab stories. After all, sharing is what Fab Labs are all about! Please share a brief description about your cool projects and use of Autodesk software at [FabLab\\_Stories@Autodesk.com](mailto:FabLab_Stories@Autodesk.com). You can also share Fusion 360 models on its [gallery page](#).

***Watch this space and our social media channels for updates on the Autodesk collaboration that will soon be spreading to all registered fab labs!***

Thank you Autodesk, and welcome to the Fab Lab community!

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## The Power of Metrics

As a network, we are constantly looking for metrics that support the ideas around Fab Labs being beneficial (or not!) spaces for sustainable practices, for education, for teacher professional development, for workforce development, for innovations that turn into businesses, for characterizing the users in the communities we

serve (students, entrepreneurs, artists, lifelong learners...), etc.

This is a call for metrics from your Fab Labs. Do you have any data that you have collected about your fab lab users, practices, applications that you would like to share with everyone? We will have a linked webpage for metrics such that when labs are applying for funding, they can tap into some of the metrics the community has collected. It will really help a lot of us get funding for labs and for projects.

If you have metrics to share, please send them to: [info@fabfoundation.org](mailto:info@fabfoundation.org) and we'll be sure to include them in the community resource we are building. Thank you!

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## Events

### **DigiFabCon, Cambridge MA**

DigiFabCon, April 22 & 23, 2016 at the Microsoft NERD Center in Cambridge, MA, explores and celebrates how Digital Fabrication is changing our world. Keynotes will be delivered by

- Sherry Lassiter, Director, Fab Foundation
- David Ott, Senior Innovation Analyst, International Committee of the Red Cross
- Mike Adelstein, President & CEO Potomac Photonics Inc.
- Andreas Bastian, Board Member, Enable; 3D Printing Research Scientist, Autodesk

A public FabFest on Friday evening will bring demos and interactive activities to life. Saturday's breakout sessions will include education, workforce development, medicine and social entrepreneurship.

[Registration for DigiFabCon](#) is now open.

### **FabLab Festival, Toulouse France**

The Artilect FabLab in Toulouse, France will host FabLab Festival on the 5 - 8 of May this year. FabLabs from France, Europe and all over the world gather in Toulouse to discuss, create and share their experiences with visitors coming to the Festival.

FabLab Festival is a 4-day event that shows how Digital Fabrication changes life! This year a Drone Festival will be featured. The festival location, The Halle, dates back to the last century, a time when the city of Toulouse counted many factories in its midst. For details, go to the [FabLab Festival website](#).

### **MakerFaire, Cairo**

Sherry Lassiter was a keynote speaker at the recent MakerFaire in



Cairo. Fab Lab Egypt had a key role in the event which was a lot of fun!

For photos and more details go to the [FabLab Egypt website](#).

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### An Easy Way to Help

As the network expands, so do our financial needs to support all the great Fab Lab work around the world. To generate funds, we've signed up for Amazon Smile.

Just log into <http://smile.amazon.com> and select Fab Foundation as your charity of choice, then shop as you usually would. A small amount of your purchase is donated back to the Fab Foundation from Amazon. It's not a lot of money per order, but can add up - especially when you have as large a network as we do. And it doesn't cost you anything!

Thanks in advance for adding the Fab Foundation to your existing Amazon shopping experience.

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