



2023

Annual Report

Locally productive,
globally connected





Table of Content

Foreword From Board

1

2023 In a Nutshell

2

Global Community

3

Learning Programs

4

Research & Innovations

5

Operations

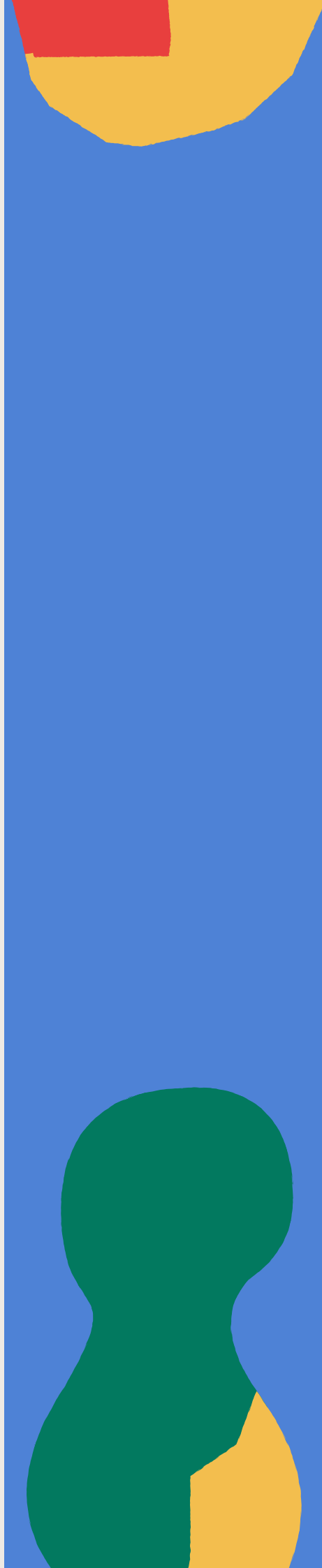
6

Impact in the Community

7

Vision For 2024

8





Board's Foreword

Five years ago we established the Fab City Foundation as a stewarding body for the global initiative for self-sufficient cities. In 2023, our team grew to 15 members across 9 locations, and with the incredible support of these individuals, we have been able to deploy a series of programs and projects to complement our growing Network of cities, regions and settlements.

INVESTING IN THE FAB CITY CHALLENGE

Initiated in 2022 at the Bali Fab Fest, in 2023, we further invested in the Fab City Challenge as a **key mechanism for local impact** with our global community. The Fab Bhutan Challenge, led by Fab City Foundation, Druk Holding and Investments (DHI), in collaboration with Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck SuperFablab (JNWSFL) and the Fab Foundation, addressed urgent areas of intervention by bringing together 40 international participants from 22 countries and 19 Bhutanese participants, collaborating with five local Fab Labs and numerous community partners. During the intense challenge week in August, the five challenge teams successfully developed more than 15 prototypes which were showcased in Bhutan's capital Timphu as part of the Fab Fest Bhutan. Over 650 votes were cast by the general public to select their favorite challenge team. The engagement of the over 250 students played a crucial role in the process and ensured impact beyond the challenge week.

The Foundation was humbled to receive the outcome of research conducted by Milan Thomas, PhD, and Namgyal Tsheden Gyaltshen regarding the potential economic impact of the challenge for Bhutan. Citing **potential yield returns as high as 800% per dollar spent**, the study emphasized the significance of investing in innovation for Bhutan's economic aspirations, and it underscored how innovation challenges like the Fab Bhutan Challenge can play a pivotal role in shaping resilient futures for nations.

Beyond the Fab City Challenge, we continued to develop our learning and education programs to boost the potential of Fab City thinking across all scales of the sociocultural global context. **Our Master in Design for Distributed Innovation entered its second cycle**, attracting 15 students from 10 locations. Our expert faculty contributed to the newest Fab City program, **Distributed Learning Workshops**, which offers accessible, global masters-level education in a flexible format. We're proud to have brought this new program and the **Fab City Bootcamp** to fruition in 2023, creating a robust international educational landscape for makers, innovators and city leaders.

TOWARDS 2024

2023 has given us the opportunity to advance our roadmap towards the 2054 aim of cities producing what they consume. In 2024, we will celebrate the **ten-year anniversary of the first pledge made to the Network by the City of Barcelona**. This momentous year will shed light on the journey so far and our hopes for the future.

Kate Armstrong



Lucas Lemos



Tomas Diez





2023



2023

In a Nutshell



About Fab City Global Initiative

WE ARE CIVIC LEADERS, MAKERS,
URBANISTS AND INNOVATORS
WORKING ON SHIFTING THE
INDUSTRIAL URBAN PARADIGM
TO ONE THAT BETTER SUPPORTS
LIFE ON EARTH.

It all started in 2014, when Barcelona challenged all cities to produce what they consume by 2054. The call to action has grown into a sustainable cities network focused on digital transition, localisation and regenerative economy.



Our Roadmap

2011 - 2014

Launched in Fab7 Lima. Fab City starts to be in the agenda of the Fab Lab Network.

2014 - 2018

At the Fab10 Barcelona closing event, the Mayor announces the 2054 challenge.

2018 - 2020

The Fab City Foundation is founded in e-Estonia. The Full Stack is launched.

2021 - 2025

The strategic action plan based on the Full Stack is developed with the global initiative. Products and programs of the Foundation are expanded to meet the global challenge.

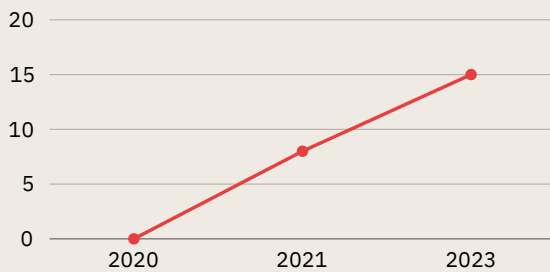


Fab City Foundation

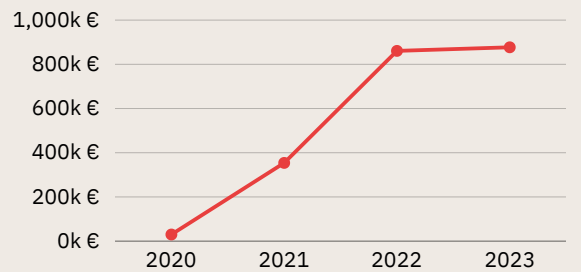
The Fab City Foundation is the stewarding body of the Global Initiative of Fab City. The Foundation supports the global initiative by developing projects, designing distributed educational programs, and promoting knowledge transfer opportunities and network building. These experiences are focused on building the capacity of localities and their communities.



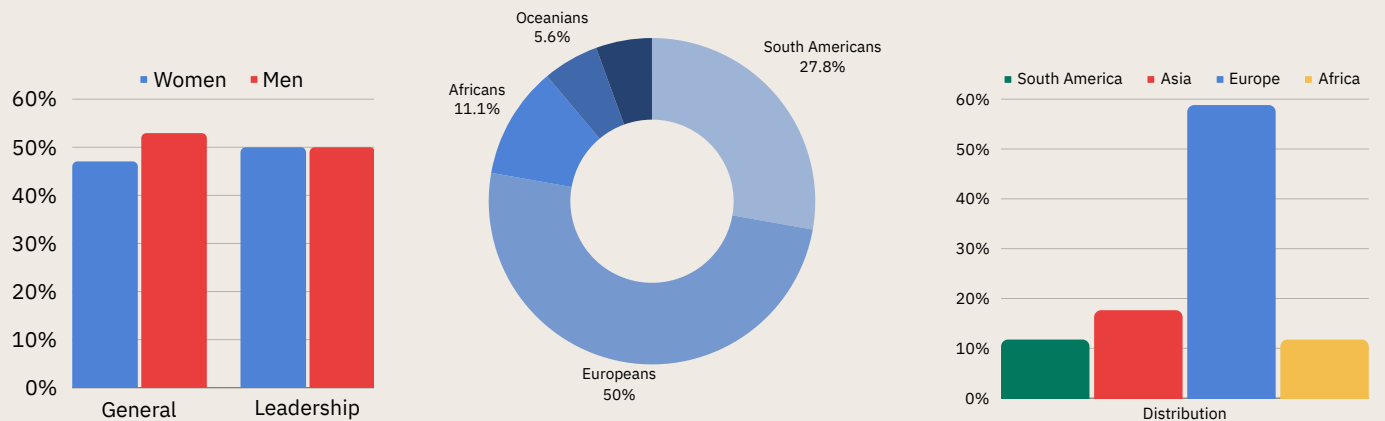
Team Growth



Annual Budget



Team Diversity





2023



Global Community

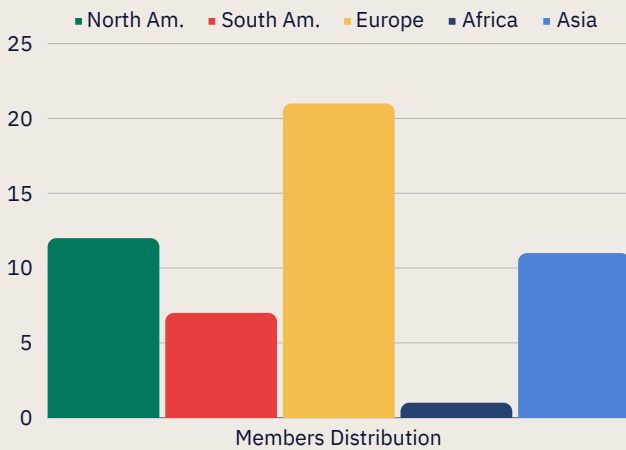


Fab City Network

A global network of localities (cities, regions, islands, nations) that works collaboratively towards resiliency by taking up the challenge to move towards producing (almost) everything they consume by 2054.



+50 Members Milestone!



38
Fab Cities

01
Fab Island

02
Fab Countries

03
New Members

01
New Members

11
Fab Regions

FAB CITY COLLECTIVE

Group of experts who steward Fab City's ideas within their work and like-minded organisations. Continents represented: North and South America, Asia, Oceania and Europe.

09
Members

04
Continents

04
Sessions

ROUND TABLES

Open discussions with experts on current and trending topics around Fab City, proposed by FCF or members of the Fab City Network or Fab City Collective.

02
Hosted Tables

101
Participants

03
Hours Online

48
Countries

12
Speakers



Fab City Summit Bhutan

With a history of 8 successful editions, the Fab City Summit Bhutan proved to be another transformative annual event that brought together visionary leaders, innovators, and changemakers from around the world. Through a series of engaging talks, workshops, interactive sessions, and showcases, participants explore cutting-edge ideas, sustainable solutions, and groundbreaking technologies that drive the evolution of cities towards self-sufficiency and resilience.

**514**

Live Views

21

Speakers

4.5

Hours Online

Fab 23 Bhutan Related Activities

FULL STACK BOOTCAMP 🏔️ | 55 Participants in 4-hour Live Streams from Fab23 Bhutan

COMMUNITY MATTERS WORKSHOP 🌱 | 8 Participants in 2-hour Workshops

DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM DECLARATION ✍️ | 58 Signatures from 42 Organizations

SMART CITY PANEL 🏙️ | 4 Panelists & 32 Virtual Inputs

MDDI • MASTER'S GRADUATION PANEL 🎓 | 3 Graduates Present

FAB CITY CHALLENGE SHOWCASE 👥 | 679 Community Votes & 6 Demo Booths in 1 Day

FAB CITY CHALLENGE WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT 🏆 | 2 Winning Teams



Fab City Summit Bhutan

Fab Bhutan Challenge



05 Challenges	59 Participants <i>19 Bhutan & 40 International</i>	22 Countries	07 Days <i>during the Fab23 event</i>
15+ Community Partners	250+ Students Engaged	€2 - 8 ROI <i>for every € spent</i>	15+ Prototypes Developed

Seedfunding

€10,000.00





2023

Learning Programs



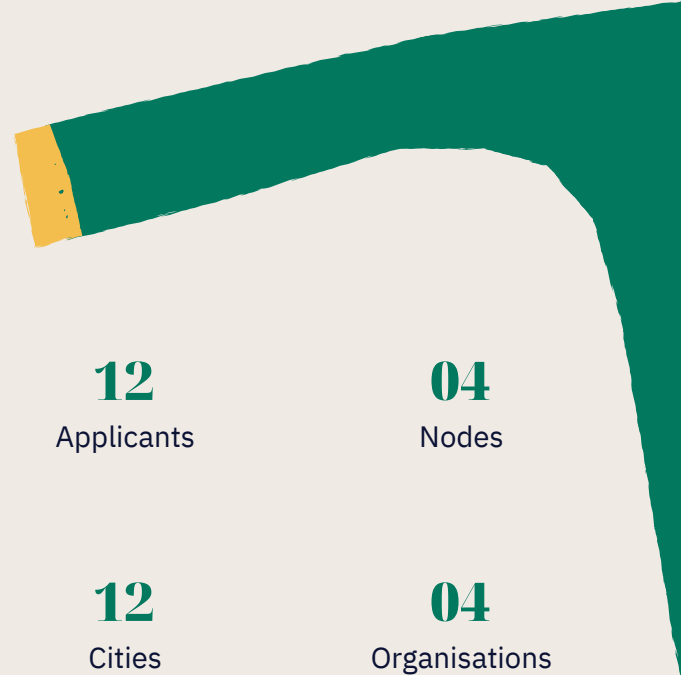
Programs

MDDI

The Master in Design for Distributed Innovation (MDDI) is a distributed learning program focused on the intersection of design, technology, ecosystems and communities to improve interspecies wellbeing. It connects a global community of changemakers with local innovators in order to address complex challenges. Combining online and hands-on learning, it supports the development of the social and technical skills needed to develop projects for positive impact in local communities that aim for global transformational change.

Partners: IAAC & Fab Lab Bcn

Locations: Thessaloniki, Vienna, Jeddah, Fuji, Montreal, Malaga, Lima, São Paulo, Brussels, Los Angeles, Cincinnati, Singapore, Belgrade



12

Applicants

04

Nodes

12

Cities

04

Organisations

26

Faculty Members

521

Leads

DISTRIBUTED INNOVATION

WORKSHOPS

The Distributed Innovation series of international workshops provide participants with transformative and dynamic learning experiences in various areas of innovation and sustainability. Led by outstanding international researchers, activists and professionals, each workshop focuses on a specific theme and aims to empower participants with applied knowledge, skills, and perspectives to address global challenges and drive positive change.

Locations: Montreal/Quebec

05

Applicants

01

Node

01

Cities

01

Organisation

12

Faculty Members

03

Leads





Programs

FAB CITY CHALLENGE

A Fab City Challenge is a unique format of collaboration that brings together local and global innovation communities to propose meaningful outcomes that respond to urgent areas of intervention in cities and regions as a driver of change. Fab City Challenges help address the most pressing issues around sustainability, innovation and life systems in local contexts. Some areas of intervention from past Fab City Challenges: Regenerative Materials, Agriculture, Waste Management, Water Conservation, Food Security, Human Wildlife conflict, Sustainable Mobility, New Learning Models, Preserving Natural Ecosystems, New systems of value and exchange, Renewable Energy ... among many more. Teams from around the world are invited to focus and learn about a specific local initiative, propose and prototype design outputs to win seed funding for its implementation.

Partners: Fab Foundation & DHI Innotech

Locations: Thimphu, Phuentsholing, Paro, Punakha, Sarpang



59 Applicants	22 Organisations
05 Cities	34 Leads
27 Nationalities	02 Winners

€10,000.00
Winner Funding

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Fellowship Program is an initiative designed to facilitate collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the development of the Fab City Hubs concept within creative industries and makers, governments and policy makers, community leaders and organizations, academia & research institutions and entrepreneurs and social innovators in partnership with the CENTRINNO project.

Partners: CENTRINNO & Ars Electronica Festival

Locations: Amsterdam, Paris, Occitanie, Barcelona, Hamburg, Südburgenland, Ljubljana, Lisbon, Milan, Lugano, Dusseldorf

12 Applicants	11 Cities	11 Organisations	15 Leads
-------------------------	---------------------	----------------------------	--------------------





Programs



FAB CITY FULL STACK BOOTCAMP

The Full Stack Bootcamp is a comprehensive learning experience designed to empower Fab City participants with a deep understanding of the seven layers of the Fab City Full Stack (infrastructure, learning, innovation, communities, territories, bioregions, and planet). This workshop aims not only to facilitate the implementation of the Full Stack framework in their local context but also to enhance collaboration with the global Fab City Network. Engaging hands-on activities, interactive discussions, and collaborative projects guide participants through an exploration of each layer, learning how to apply the principles of the Fab City Full Stack to their specific city, and developing a strategic implementation plan tailored to address local challenges and opportunities.

Partners: Fab Foundation

Locations: Boston, Hamburg, Montreal, Amsterdam, Jakarta, Puebla, Cordoba, Oulu, Brussels, Lima, Milan, Reykjavik, Taipei, Detroit, Seoul, Barcelona, Shanghai, Lisbon, Sidney, São Paulo, Thimpu, Paris, Prague, Tokyo

55

Applicants

24

Cities

27

Organisations

03

Faculty Members

FAB CITY AWARDS

The Fab City Awards 2023 are the first iteration of an international contest, organised by the Fab City Foundation, that recognises best practices from town, city, region, and nation members of the Fab City Network that are working to advance the Fab City vision of sustainable, regenerative and self-sufficient living through local production and global connections. The Awards serve as a catalyst for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and inspiration within the Fab City global network. By participating in the Fab City Awards, organisations and individuals representing them have the opportunity to connect, understand and learn from each other’s impactful work. It is a chance to ignite new opportunities, forge meaningful partnerships, and collectively make the network even more powerful.

Locations: Curitiba, Guanajuato, Montreal, Amsterdam, Córdoba, Barcelona, São Paulo, Hamburg

17

Applicants

08

Cities

12

Organisations

18

Jury Members



2023



Research & Innovations

Projects

The Foundation is consolidating a research agenda, following the organisation’s vision and strategy. We move beyond the traditional “academic” ways of doing research to focus on the realisation of innovation projects that maximise the local impact, while sharing the produced knowledge globally. We support and expand a network of potential research collaborators on a global scale to advance the visibility of the Fab City agenda both in academia and on the ground.

In Europe & Asia

€705,500.00*

Budget Received



*For the whole duration of each project, not only 2023!

Overall Outcome

CENTRINNO

CENTRINNO is a research project focused on industrial historical sites under transformation. It will showcase the potential of these cultural landscapes to become new and inclusive hubs of entrepreneurship for city residents while fostering sustainability.

Outcomes

- Onboarding Centrinno Pilots to Slack Platform;
- Development of CENTRINNO Fellowship Program;
- Incorporation of CENTRINNO resources to FCF's agenda (i.e. cartography, FCHs Toolkit);
- Design strategy on CENTRINNO Legacy

53K

Euro Budget

26

Partners Involved

10

Countries Involved

02

Consortium Meetings

95%

Project Stage

Know more: <https://centrinno.eu/>



Projects

INTERFACER

INTERFACER project is to build, test, and validate an open-source digital infrastructure in the form of a federated network to build up and run a local and yet globally connected value creation system.

Outcomes

- Final Conference

99.5K

Euro Budget

04

Partners Involved

10

Countries Involved

01

Consortium Meetings

100%

Project Stage

Know more: <https://www.interfacerproject.eu/>

mAKE

mAKE is a 3-year project promoting cooperation and strategic partnerships between digital innovation hubs (DIHs) in Africa and Europe. Its overall aim is to strengthen the EU-Africa innovation and start-up ecosystem by creating the necessary infrastructure for decentralized production and collaboration as well as shared policy frameworks and educational opportunities.

Outcomes

- Assessment of approaches for policy advocacy in maker communities;
- Launch of an open catalogue of business models for makers;
- Capacity building programs launched for makers eg. The makers residency program;
- Knowledge exchange facilitation through knowledge pills and community calls;
- Publication of maker resources open to anyone to access and use. eg. Map of Machinery and Skill-mutual and recognition standard.

52K

Euro Budget

09

Partners Involved

10

Countries Involved

04

Consortium Meetings

65%

Project Stage

Know more: <https://makeafricaeu.org/>



Projects

DAFNE+

Decentralized platform for fair, creative content distribution empowering creators and communities through new digital distribution models based on digital tokens.

Outcomes

- DAFNE Platform and DAO;
- First platform business model;
- First DAO revenue model;
- First DAO governance model.

300K

Euro Budget

09

Partners Involved

08

Countries Involved

12

Consortium Meetings

50%

Project Stage

Know more: <https://dafneplus.eu/>

DDP

The Distributed Design Platform acts as an exchange and networking hub for the European maker movement. The initiative aims at developing and promoting the connection between designers, makers and the market.

Outcomes

- Two contributions to the DDP blog;
- One High-quality resource published: Open-sourcing a makerspace community;
- Two articles included in the Driving Design publication;
- Distributed Design activities in TalTech's Design & Technology Futures (D&TF) master's program;
- Exploration of synergies with DAFNE+ through the DDP Quality Label initiative.

67K

Euro Budget

19

Partners Involved

14

Countries Involved

04

Consortium Meetings

66%

Project Stage

Know more: <https://distributeddesign.eu/>



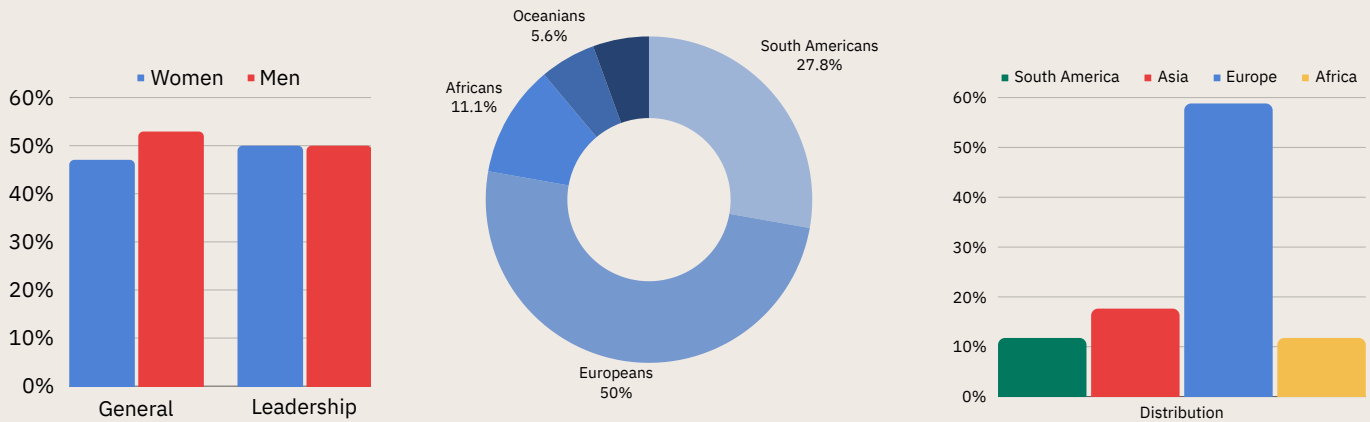
2023



Operations

Team Diversity & Funding

<p>04 New Positions</p>	<p>85.71% Staff Retention Rate <i>% of staff leaving vs hired</i></p>	<p>21.43% Staff Increase</p>	<p>03 Internal Mobility <i>members moving to new roles</i></p>
------------------------------------	--	---	---



<p>€359,091 Projects Grants</p>	<p>€79,091 Programs</p>	<p>€368,182 Donor Grants</p>
<p>€806,364 Total Funding Received</p>		



2023



Impact in the community

Online Marketing & Communications



227

Posts



65,500

Total audience across all marketing channels



24%

Audience Growth

Top Countries



*In line with the 2023 goal of diversifying the Global Initiative's international reach.

Knowledge Sharing & Resources

08

Published Blog Posts

31

Published News Posts

02

Fab City Hub Pop-up

06

MDDI Interviews

02

Press Releases

01

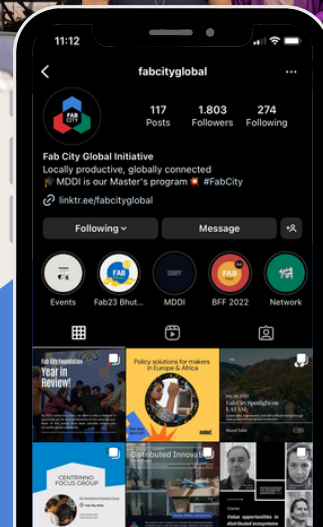
Documentary

03

Resources

02

Full Stack Translations
(languages)



Declaration of Commitment

2023



COMMITMENT

to share and collaborate
openly and collaboratively
to share and collaborate
openly and collaboratively

OPENNESS

FAIRNESS

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

BY

Vision for 2024



Fab City's 10th Anniversary

25

1 Regional Activations

Focus on regional activations globally by using and disseminating open tools, resources and how-tos.

2 Programs Scaling

Incorporate MDDI, Full Stack Bootcamp and Fab City Challenge in Cities onboarding.

3 Bioregionalism

Embrace bioregionalism, harmonizing with natural systems to support sustainable human settlements.

4 Neighbourhoods

Recognize culture as a vehicle to unpack local wisdom and access neighbourhood scale ways of doing.

5 Metrics

Prove Fab Cities' relevance to the Fab City roadmap and measure their accountability, Impact and internal performance. Spiral innovation is key to ensuring the metrics chosen develop inline with the growth and development of each city location.

6 Digital Architecture

Enhance digital infrastructure through the implementation of digital platforms, knowledge repositories and the Fab City approach to progress towards distributed economies, with the Fab City Framework serving as a blueprint.

7 City Focus Shift

Understand the city as the interface between neighbourhoods and bioregions.

Our trusted collaborators





[@fabcityglobal](https://twitter.com/fabcityglobal)

fab.city

