

Fak'ugesi African Digital Innovation Festival in Braamfontein in August

The Fak'ugesi African Digital Innovation Festival will be held in the Tshimologong Precinct, previously Inc nightclub, at 47 Juta Street in Braamfontein, from 19 August to 3 September 2016 to explore and celebrate technology and creativity by Africans for Africa.

The festival's theme is 'Afro Tech Riot', as community, femininity, notions of the spiritual and exploring African knowledge systems in the creative, innovative and technological space come to life in a calendar of events.



Tegan Bristow, festival director

The energetic techno-sphere will offer two weeks of playing, making, shifting and sharing through seminars, talks, exhibitions, game arcades, workshops, performances, innovation riots, installations, tech demos, pitches, parties and future sounds. All events are open for public participation and are aimed at all levels of experience, from 'just interested' to professional developers.

Christo Doherty and Tegan Bristow from Wits Digital Arts, together with Barry Dwolatzky from the Joburg Centre for Software Engineering (JCSE), originally founded Fak'ugesi two years ago. From the isiZulu term meaning, "add power" or "put on the electricity", Fak'ugesi acts as a platform that brings together diverse digital and technology sectors to collaborate and share skills in digital media and technology innovation.

In the spirit of celebrating African technology and innovation through creativity and supporting the festival in its project to develop Johannesburg's ICT capacity, the primary sponsor for Fak'ugesi 2016 is the City of Johannesburg. The festival's annual partners also include the JCSE, Wits University, the British Council's ConnectZA and InnovationZA and the Goethe Institut, together with new partners Pro Helvetia Johannesburg and the Innovation Hub.

Festival director, Tegan Bristow, says that the Tshimologong Precinct, which has been under construction for the last year and a half, will officially launch with this year's Fak'ugesi Festival.

Programme highlights

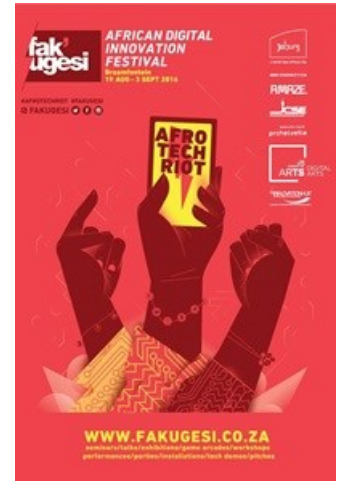
- **Fak'ugesi Digital Africa Residency**, where artists and creative technologists work together to understand and explore contemporary technology from a creative perspective. In 2016, the Fak'ugesi Digital Africa Residency is supported by and is being produced in collaboration with Pro Helvetia Johannesburg. Visitors can attend exhibitions and workshops with artists.
- **Agile Africa Conference** is the software developer's conference organised by the JCSE, which will run from 22 to 24 August. Developers, testers, project managers and line managers participate in three days of sessions focused on the challenges of software development in Africa.
- **Members of the South African Maker Collective, together with the ConnectZA lead Market Hack**, present activities around electronics, digital making and general Saturday fun on the 27 August alongside the weekly Neighbourgoods Market in Braamfontein.
- **A MAZE Johannesburg**, a festival in its own right focusing on both local and international indie gaming and playful media and will take place from 31 August to 3 September. Visitors can look forward to talks and workshops, as well as playing in the A MAZE Arcade.

- **Soweto Pop Up**, started in 2015 in collaboration between A MAZE Johannesburg and Maker Library Network (ConnectZA), this is a day-long festival pop-up that aims to bring digital making and playful media to locations outside of Braamfontein.

New additions

The following will be key events in this year's new programme:

- **ALIGHT**, led by Between10and5 and Create Africa in partnership with the French Insitut and ConnectZA, this street event is a spectacular showing of light art, light sculpture, architectural light installation and light based interactive games.
- **Future Sounds**, in this project Berlin based artists and technologists, The Constitute, (hosted by Goethe Institut Johannesburg) will collaborate with Johannesburg based Create Africa in a project that will bring together South Africa's hip-hop and electronic music artists, local filmmakers, led by Lebo Rasethaba and technologists. The outcome of the collaboration will be performed live at the festivals ALIGHT party.
- **Smart City Day**, a day focusing specifically on Johannesburg and the city's drive towards better ICT and will feature the 2016 Hack Jozi finalists, the School Project in collaboration with Wits Digital Arts and much more.
- **Geekulcha Maker Library Pop Up** is the ConnectZA Maker Library grant recipient for 2016 and will be 'occupying' the festival for its full length to bring a series of fun, interesting and playful tech-related workshops and events. Its programme will include everything from learning about 3D to making holograms and even space walking.
- **Fak'ugesi Festival Talks**, an informative talk series featuring the Fak'ugesi Residents and projects, with nights curated by guests such as Bubblegum Club and more. The series is designed to speak directly to the 2016 festival themes; community, the feminine and spirituality in technology in Africa.



Along with these key events, the festival will have smaller events, workshops and engagements aimed at people, young and old, and at all levels of expertise. The festival invites everyone to claim their territory in the digital innovation movement and bring together creativity and technology by Africans for Africa. For more information, go to www.fakugesi.co.za.

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>