



Proposal

Hosting Afrilabs Annual Gathering 2017

“Future of African cities”

**From 12 to 15 October 2017
At the French University in Egypt
www.districtspaces.xyz**

**By: District Spaces
To: Afrilabs Organization
Date: 5 April 2017
Location: Cairo, Egypt**

1- Hosting: “District Spaces”

Founded in 2011, District is the first coworking space in Egypt spreaded in 3 branches in Cairo. It hosted thousands of startups, entrepreneurs and freelancers. District Space is renown for accommodating a diverse community of change-making business ventures including sustainable agriculture, tech start-ups, health, transportation, culture and art.



2- Theme of the gathering “Cities of the Future”

Cities are growing rapidly, serving and hosting more and more residents. There is an exponential increase in demand of efficient and more convenient infrastructure. Today, the world is changing due to the megatrend of urbanization. By 2050, more than 75 % of the world population will be living in cities. Mckinsey Global Institute's estimate is that 60 % of the cities that we need in 2050 don't exist today. Thereby, from now until 2050, governments will have to create one new city worldwide everyday to meet this increase.



Most governments and public sectors cannot meet all of their citizens needs. Today, Local entrepreneurs and innovation hubs are playing important role to find solution for urban problems through cost effective ideas and local project that are more aligned with their inhabitants. There are 528 cities in Africa alone with population more than 250,000. African urbanisation will be the fastest in the world in the next 30 years. Meanwhile, The speed and

unregulated character of urban growth in Africa plays a critical role in predicting the prosperity and stability of those cities. Antananarivo, capital of Madagascar, which ranks as one of one of Africa’s most fragile cities and whose urban population is growing at 5.1% a year. Abuja and Port Harcourt in Nigeria, cities with high fragility scores, are ticking along at 6.2% and 5.1% respectively. Meanwhile Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso, is experiencing eye-watering population growth of 7.2% while Mbouda in Cameroon is the continent’s fastest growing city at 7.8% annually. Keep in mind that the average global urban population growth rate is currently 1.84% a year.

The Afrilabs gathering’s purpose is to highlight urban challenges in Africa and advocate new technologies and solutions that have been in place in 6 main areas:



- **Affordable Housing:** Highlight new ways, methods, technologies and materials to make housing and its components cheaper, better, eco friendly, more protected and more convenient.
- **Placemaking & Tactical Urbanism:** Tactical urbanism is an umbrella term used to describe a collection of low-cost, temporary changes to the built environment, usually in cities, intended to improve local neighborhoods and city gathering places. Tactical urbanism can include : new design of crosswalks, pop-up cafes in public spaces, movable libraries, cycling days, eyebombing, DIY pallette furniture in streets, etc...
- **Natural Resources Management :** use cities’ local and renewable resources in a better and safer way for the resident.
- **Food & Urban Farming:** Advocate new methods and ways to effectively produce food, respecting the urban issues, needs, weather and area.
- **Mobility, Transportation and Connectivity:** Highlight new products and technologies that make city transportation, connectivity and mobility faster and cheaper for inhabitants and goods.
- **Circular Economy:** Turn the city economy into a closed, self-sufficient cycle that turns its waste into products in order to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

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3- Location of the Gathering and the venue:

Egypt is located in the heart of the world with over 100 million inhabitants, it is the the third-most populous in Africa. It has the third biggest economy in Africa as well with 280 billion USD and one of the largest and most diversified in the Middle East. it is bordered by Libya to the west, the Sudan to the south, and the Gaza Strip and Palestinian to the east. It is also bordered by the mediterranean in the north and the red sea in the east.



Egypt has one of the most dynamic innovation and startups scene in the middle east and Africa. It is ranked the 12th worldwide by startup ranks in term of startups penetration rate with almost 400 startups each quarter. It hosts more than 11 incubation and accelerator programs and more than 140 coworking spaces. It includes also 3 technology hubs and one smart village. In addition, Egypt has 63 private and public universities spreaded around the country.

Venue: “The French University in Egypt”

The French University in Egypt UFE is one of the leading universities in Egypt that is located in Sherook City between the New administrative Capital and Greater Cairo and 25 minutes from Cairo International airport. Established in 2002, The University has 3 main faculties: Engineering, Management and applied language and represents an opportunity for a lot of African students to receive french education and Masters in Africa from the French government. The venue can host 250 persons together and has classes available for bootcamp.



4- Capacity and partnerships:

District spaces and its partners; Progrss Cities, Deep Cities, Nantes University and The French University in Egypt are working together to mobilize their ecosystem in order to address cities and urban problems through entrepreneurship and innovation. They have the experience to develop the necessary content for the gathering and specify the key elements in building cities and engage important partners. Our partner the French university in Egypt could help in sponsoring the venue and mobilize their students in order to volunteer during the gathering.

Potential Stakeholders:

- Progrss Cities
- Deep Cities
- French University in Egypt
- Universite de Nantes
- Microsoft Africa
- Dutch Embassy in Egypt
- French Embassy in Egypt
- American Embassy in Egypt
- Africa-America institute

5- Commitments:

District and Afrilabs will work together using their network and infrastructure to address the theme proposed by District with the following commitment from both parties:

AfriLabs commitments

- Allocate the total budget For the gathering
- Engaging the Pan-African ecosystem and AfriLabers
- Sponsoring AfriLabers to attend (subject to funding)
- Recommending speakers, panelists, and masterclass contributors
- Awareness campaigns in Africa
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Co-creating the agenda and theme of the event with hub host
- Marketing and awareness in Africa

District responsibilities

- Planning and coordination for entire event (Paid)
- Creating The agenda, theme and activities of the gathering and Selection of providers, suppliers and local partners in Egypt
- Advising on budget
- Recommendation for Venue, hotel, transportation & entertainment mapping out engaging the local ecosystem, engaging volunteers during the annual gathering
- Marketing and awareness in Egypt
- Additional fundraising in return for a percentage

6- Accommodation and Logistics:

- **Accommodation options:** Venue is located at the French university in Egypt in shorouk city 25 minutes by car from the capital Cairo. Hotel rooms are available in sherook and in Cairo in good prices in both cities.
- **International Flights to Egypt:** Egypt has 28 airports all over the country that serve international and local flights. Cairo International Airport CIA is the main gate for the international flights to Egypt, it is a crossroads of Africa, Asia, the middle east and Europe. It is the second busiest airport in Africa and the gateway between the the continent with direct and indirect flights
- **Local Transportation options:** The venue is located 25 minutes from Cairo and Cairo international airport and 45 minutes from downtown Cairo. It is accessible with public transportation, private taxis and uber.

- **Entry Visa requirements and arrangements:** Egypt needs a visa before departure and on gate for some countries. The cost of a visa is 25 dollars for one entry.
- **Tourism, Recreational, Cultural Evenings, Excursions:** Sherook is a new modern city that has only basic needs and limited places for hanging-out. However, Greater Cairo is accessible in 20-25 minutes with car, uber and some public transportation. It is the largest and busiest metropolitan place in Africa. Greater Cairo has a lot of places to visit: The Egyptian museums, the Giza pyramids, the Nile river cruise, Memphis and Sakkara, islamic and coptic places .. Etc. If you have more time, you can spend days in Alexandria or visit the red sea and enjoy the water! You have also the possibility to visit Luxor and Aswan in upper Egypt that have more than one third of the world monuments!!