

DEPARTEMENT CULTUUR, JEUGD & MEDIA

ULTIMAS 2016
Flemish Culture Prizes
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ULTIMA 2016 CULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP TIMELAB

Timelab is an open city lab in Ghent. Since it was founded in 2010, Timelab has offered local and international players a place where ideas can develop. This place offers a breeding ground for a dynamic community and a good dose of external insights. At Timelab, artists, city dwellers, entrepreneurs and authorities work on projects to increase autonomy in a world where scarcity and the market seem to call the shots.

On several occasions, this dynamic has resulted in projects that review waste flows and logistics chains, reinvent organisation models and redefine the role of the artist in society. Sharing knowledge and reflecting together upon the creation process provides new methods, innovation processes and economic models which can be applied both within and outside the arts. The striking characteristics of Timelab are the combination of an international programme, urban life and a broad network of partners. Timelab currently has five employees.

An individual who joins Timelab's workshop joins the community – the network of people and companies that play a role within Timelab. Members – of whom there are over one hundred today – can use the machines and expertise in the workshop two, three or four days a week.

The workshop is permeated with the open source concept. This term indicates that the structure of a code or product can be consulted, adjusted and improved by everyone.

'ADEM' is a good example of a Timelab project. Together, citizens, Timelab and an artist in residence developed a self-assembly particulate matter measuring device to be installed on a bike. Some other examples are 'Knotplex', a sustainable building material made of Japanese knotweed, one of the most undesirable invasive plants throughout Europe, and 'Calabaz', a sun-powered lamp distributed as a self-assembly and self-repair package in various African and Asian countries where there is currently no power supply. Finally, '100% Gans' is a pâté made of Canadian geese that are caught as part of the nature conservation programme in Flanders. This invasive non-indigenous species threatens other water birds, which is why some of them are caught and killed each year.

<http://timelab.org>

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