2017 Fak'ugesi Festival themed 'Brave tech hearts beat as one'

The Fak'ugesi African Digital Innovation Festival will once again be a celebration of technology, creativity, collaboration, and innovation from across the African continent. It takes place from 6-16 September 2017 under the theme 'Brave tech hearts beat as one'.

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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 technology innovation and digital media.

The Tshimologong Precinct located at 47 Juta Street in Braamfontein will be at the heart of festivities to include opportunities for attendees to meet, play and share at a variety of seminars, talks, exhibitions, workshops, hackathons, music, films, artists, games, innovation riots, and much more.

Now in its fourth year, Fak'ugesi was originally founded by Prof Christo Doherty and Tegan Bristow from Wits Digital Arts, together with Prof Barry Dwolatzky from the Joburg Centre for Software Engineering (JCSE).

Key events

8 September: Digital Africa Exhibition Opening and Festival Launch

8-10 September: Making Weekend, a free workshop programme to promote and celebrate skills development and skills exchange in the digital and technological space, catering to a variety of ages and experience levels. This will include a special focus on community driven urban design via Mixed Reality and Minecraft with Ericsson, UN Habitat and the City of Johannesburg.

11-13 September: Daring Curating, International Forum for Art and Technology in Africa, drawing the festival's theme of bravery and collaboration, this forum brings together practitioners at all levels of professional experience to debate issues around curating art and technology in Africa.

13-16 September: A Maze, welcomes African and international game developers, digital artists, forward thinkers, entrepreneurs, and digital activists to South Africa to exchange tools, skills, and ideas in the fields of independent games and playful media.

14 September: Fak'ugesi Conference, this one-day event will highlight the important conversations on the role of collaboration and interdisciplinary practice for creativity, technology and innovation in Africa.

16 September: Fak'ugesi Beats Bloc Party, curated by We Heart Beat and featuring ColabNowNow by British Council ConnectZA together with Canada 150.

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