EDITORIAL

The Critical Making Mentoring Programme aims to foster responsible-making practices in maker communities globally. Packed with expert and practical insights, the program's teachings are available as video recordings and blog posts. This guideline poster provides the shortest possible summary.

The aim is to empower makers and promote ethical decision-making throughout the open hardware ecosystem. Hopefully, it will help you to confidently navigate the intricate landscape of responsible making, fostering a future where technology and innovation thrive harmoniously with societal and environmental well-being. Enjoy!

Curating A Curious Mind That Goes Beyond Conventional Thinking

Makerspaces should encourage individuals to cultivate the skill of adaptability to make the most of their current circumstances and available resources to foster an open mindset. Doing so allows individuals to take apart commercially made mass-produced objects, and let people learn how to modify and create something meaningful and effective for their community and the wider world.

"Doing what you can, where you are, with what you have"

– Saad Chinoy
(SalvageGarden Assistive Tech Makerspace, Singapore)

Advancing Empathy As A Tool For Commitment To Care And Responsible Innovation

Makerspaces should promote "learning by doing and doing by learning" as it generates knowledge from various perspectives or disciplines. Individuals can reflect on their actions, evaluate their outcomes, and refine their approaches by actively making or creating something. Thus, this iterative cycle of doing, reflecting, and learning contributes to continuous growth and improvement.

"Valuing differences amidst conflict means looking at it with naturality and kindness for the sake of the collective process"

– Georgia Nicolau
(Instituto Procomum, Brazil)

Cultivating The Skill Of Documentation & Transferring Of Knowledge

Makerspaces should encourage the dissemination of diverse perspectives and expertise, fostering a collective and collaborative approach to problem-solving. In aiming to democratize access to information, it enables individuals to share their insights, methodologies, and practical know-how with others, openly, enhancing the collective intelligence of a community.

"Openness is related to the freedoms of open knowledge... freedom to make, produce, copy, remix, and then you're retransferring knowledge and experiences of making... to solve specific problems"

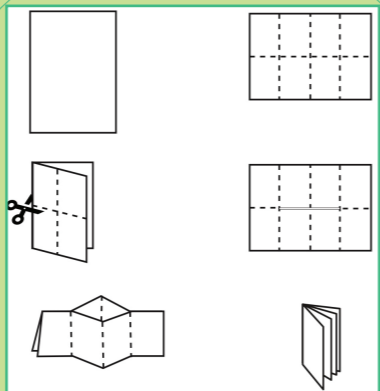– Emílio Velis
(Appropedia Foundation, El Salvador)

To learn more about this project and find the full material of the mentoring programme visit our webpage: criticalmaking.eu/

Instructions on how to fold the Guidelines

Generating A Cycle of Thinking for Longevity

Makerspaces should promote ideas that allow short-term solutions that have been created by society and turn them into long-term projects and have it adapt to the different timely situations. To consider present resources and anticipating future outcomes. To preserve the environment, we must shift our perspective and view it as the ecosystems within which we exist.

"Rather than extracting ourselves from nature, we should strive to be responsible users and supporters, recognizing our interconnectedness with the environment"

–Aravinth Panch
(DreamSpace Academy, Sri Lanka)

Reversing Power Dynamics in Community

Makerspaces should organize a structure that enables individuals to understand there are a lot of opportunities for bright young people within their localities. When offering meaningful roles and responsibilities, there is a shift in power from traditional hierarchical structures to a more inclusive and equitable environment fostering authentic partnerships.

"You cannot do the work alone; you have to engage the voices"

– Bahar Kumar
(Impact Hub Kathmandu, Nepal)

CRITICAL MAKING REFLECTION TOOL
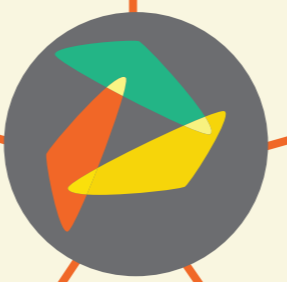
Build for Continuity

- Fully self-sustaining
- Strategy for self-sustainabilty developed
- Potential for self-sustainability identified
- Needs external support
- Not self-sustaining at all

Integrate local knowledge

- Integration of both local knowledge & practices
- Some integration of local knowledge & materials
- Just one of the methods
- Some local input
- None at all reinventing the wheels

Share how you make

- None at all
- At least some pictures
- +Description
- Schematics or STL files
- Some instructions
- Detailed instructions +Schematics +License

Include ecosystem services

- Toxic
- None at all
- Giving back less than consumes
- Giving back as much as consumed
- Giving back more than consumed

Make things that make sense

- Just for fun
- Using something fun for something fundamental
- Fundamental, can also be fun