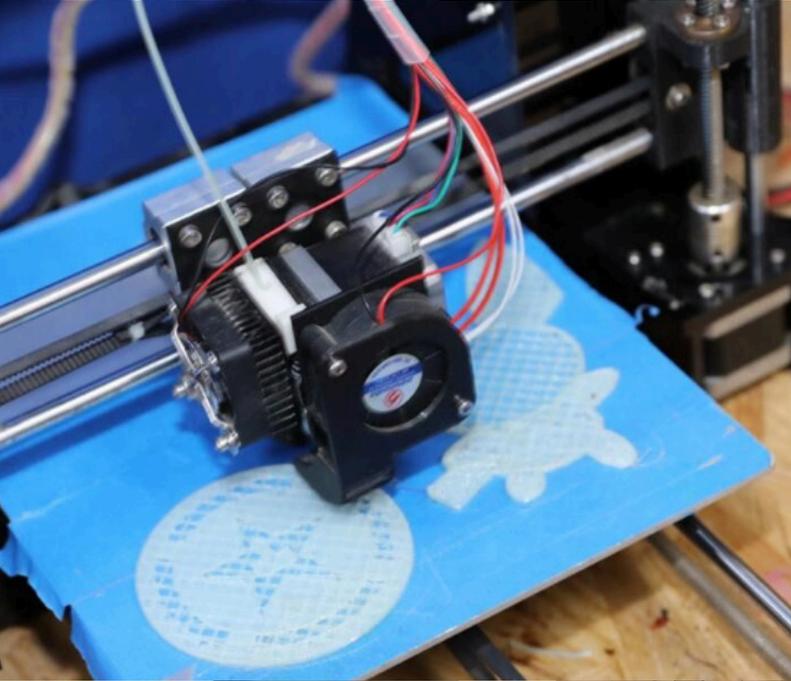


FUTURA

ARUBA GOVERNMENT INNOVATION LAB

INTERIM REPORT



ABOUT FUTURA

Futura serves as the Aruba Government innovation lab and national think-tank. Futura is supported by the innovation team of the Ministry of Innovation. The team is led by the Aruba Government's Chief Innovation Officer, Varelle Croes.

STRATEGY

Futura's strategy is based on the road map Aruba Innova 2030 prioritizing 5 innovation spaces. Our goal is to develop a thriving innovation ecosystem where each key player understands and do their part. We believe that our people are our biggest asset and our human-centered innovation strategy puts the prosperity of the Aruban citizens first.

WHAT WE DO

Build

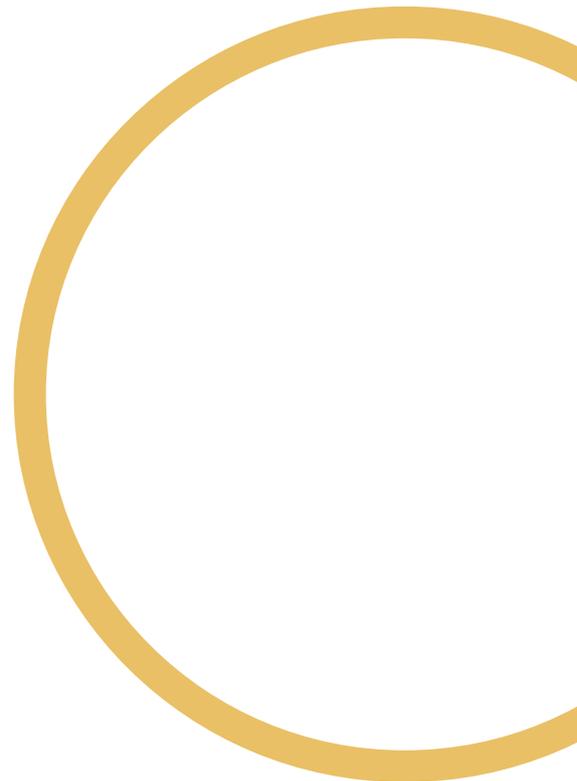
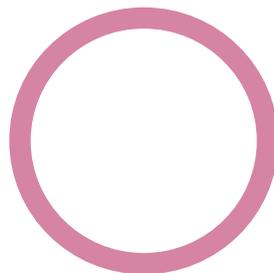
We co-design, test prototypes and collaborate on innovative ideas that stimulate the innovation capacity of the public sector and citizens (including children and youth).

Share

We share knowledge through workshops and think-tank sessions, and we facilitate the development of new programs and products through open design-thinking sessions for our partners.

Connect

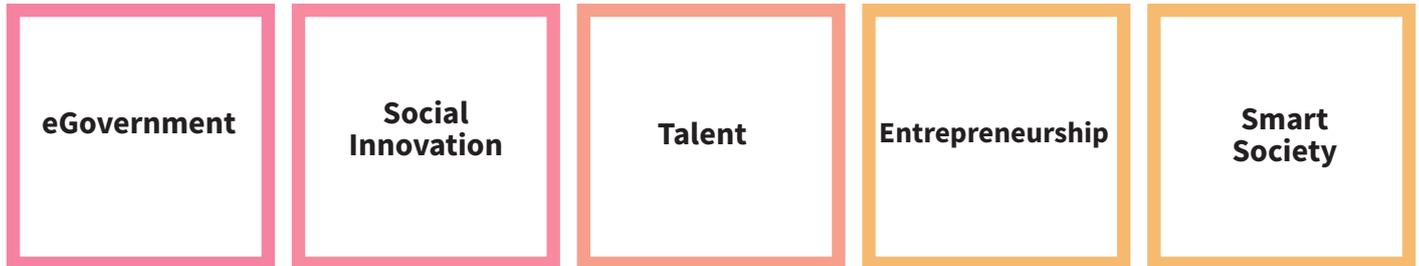
We collaborate with local and international partners on pioneering initiatives to stimulate the knowledge and innovation capacity of the Aruban community.



ARUBA INNOVA 2030

A national road map to prepare Aruba for and shape the future and guide policy decisions. The road map prioritizes five innovation spaces. Each space is designed to contribute to the national innovation ecosystem.

Innovation spaces



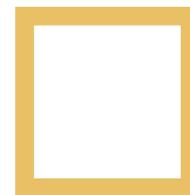
KEY MILESTONES

A number of strategic innovation initiatives were launched in 2018 and a large number of local change-makers were engaged. These initiatives jointly establish the foundation needed to drive systemic change in Aruba. The timeline chart below provides an overview of some key initiatives that kicked off this year.

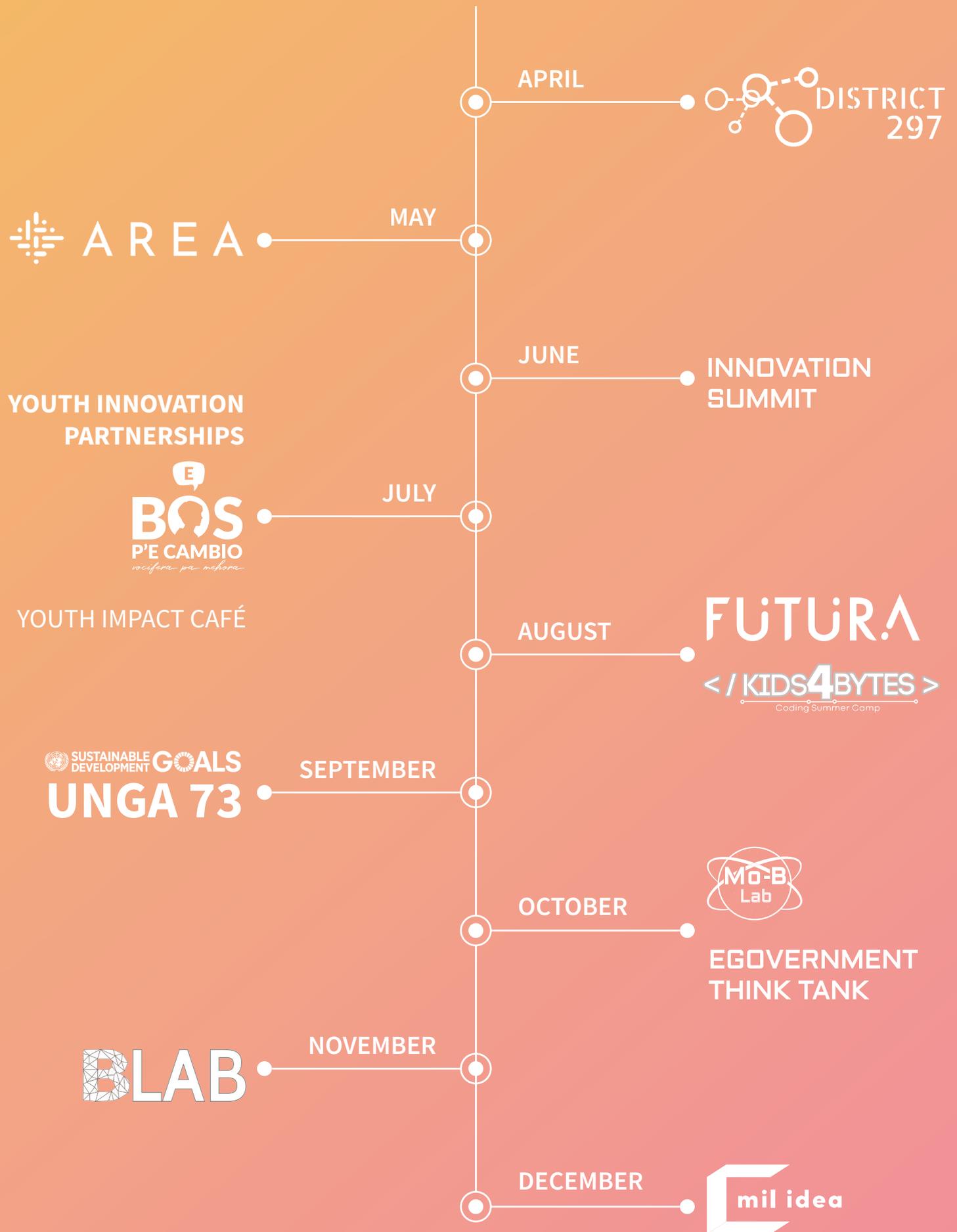
Approach taken in 2018

A new way of working was adopted from day one. The following key steps were taken during the design and implementation of the projects listed below:

- Engaged 700+ stakeholders across the private, public, NGO and academic sectors
- Aligned stakeholders
- Conducted a baseline assessment (SWOT)
- Prioritized objectives with stakeholders
- Conducted experimentation and ran pilots
- Prioritized collaboration and innovative partnerships



2018 MILESTONES



KEY INNOVATION PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

The following pages contain a summary of key innovation projects and initiatives led by Futura or where Futura played a key collaborator role.

eGovernment

A cohesive eGovernment strategy with emphasis on capacity building of the public sector will also support the development of our knowledge economy. This is an essential building block in achieving a balanced growth model within the boundaries of our island's carrying capacity. With a seamless public service experience, the private sector can focus on their businesses, on being better corporate citizens, and help the nation drive inclusive growth.

Digital Assessment

An assessment of the Government's digital infrastructure was completed during the third quarter of 2018. The results serve as an initial guideline for the development of the eGovernment road map.

Cyber Security Committee

The Aruba Government instituted a National Cybersecurity Task Force in October 2018 consisting of key stakeholders.

eGovernment Think Tank

The first eGovernment Think Tank was held in November 2018, during which key public and private stakeholders convened to discuss the challenges and opportunities.

Social Innovation

Aruba's most valuable asset is its people. To cultivate an innovation economy, Futura focuses on unleashing the innovation capacity from within by introducing programs and projects that aim to stimulate creativity and increase the knowledge capacity of the Aruban citizens.

E Bos p'E Cambio



Futura collaborated with SDG Aruba Youth Ambassador, Gilia Croes, the Aruban Youth Parliament and partners to organize this pilot event on July 3, 2018. The initiative serves as a method to give our youth the voice they deserve and develop their critical thinking skills.

Mil Idea



Mil Idea is a pilot project with the departments resorting under the Ministry of General Affairs. The intention is to develop a collaborative platform to empower public employees to come up with their own solutions to their challenges.

Aruba Youth Impact Café Aruba Youth Impact!

Aruba Youth Impact Café is led by the Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation (HCLF). The program targets vulnerable youth and focuses on engaging this particular group to become active citizens and to develop themselves to be the best that they can be.

Global Money Week



Futura collaborated with the Central Bank of Aruba and many other financial and non-financial stakeholders to organize the first Aruba Money Week. Futura, in collaboration with Metabolic Foundation, introduced the participating kids to digital currency.

Talent

Talent cultivation and retention with a focus on the skills needed in a future work force is key to develop a system that can rapidly adapt to changing skill requirements.

District 297



District 297 is a future-focused platform for Arubans abroad to engage, connect and collaborate toward the socio-economic development of Aruba. The objective is to engage the Aruban diaspora, tap into their intellectual capacity, and leverage their knowledge, network, and ideas to stimulate the Aruban economy.

Kids4Bytes



Kids4Bytes is a coding camp for kids focused on the development of 21st Century Skills. When it comes to preparing kids for the future, it is important to help them learn to code. Coding helps kids develop collaborative and analytical skills, build qualities like perseverance and empathy.

Mo-B Lab



Mo-B Lab is a first of its kind mobile makerspace for tech education in Aruba. It was officially launched on the 1st of October 2018. Mo-B Lab, a partly (80%) OCTA EU funded pilot project, is a collaboration with Metabolic Foundation (known as B|Lab), and the National Library of Aruba with support from the Ministry of Education, Science and Sustainability.

B|Lab – The Library Makerspace



B|Lab, is a tech lab located at the National Library of Aruba in Oranjestad. B|Lab is an initiative by Brenchie's Lab, in collaboration with Futura and Biblioteca Nacional Aruba. Kids of all ages and youth can experiment with the latest technologies such as, laser cutters, 3D Printers, robotics and more. Kids learn the basics of coding, electronics and robotics, while developing 21st Century Skills.

Hour of Code



Hour of Code is a global initiative where students from around the world for one hour during the week of December 3 – 5, 2018 learned the basics of computer science. Futura, Setar N.V., and Biblioteca Nacional partnered up to bring together various public and private stakeholders to organize the largest Hour of Code week in Aruba yet, with over 2.000 participants.

Entrepreneurship

A key element of a thriving innovation ecosystem is the presence of successful entrepreneurs. Through its programs and investments, Futura looks to foster an entrepreneurial mindset and improve business climate for startups and SMEs.

Abia – Aruba Business Incubation Association

A key strategy to stimulate successful entrepreneurship involves the set up and encouragement of incubator programs. The Aruba Chamber of Commerce (KvK) has led the development of a new program with support from COSME (an EU program) and input from local private stakeholders.

Smart Society

The goal is to develop key arenas of collaboration between the public and private sectors and citizens to increase engagement and awareness in developing smart city and circular economy policies.

AREA

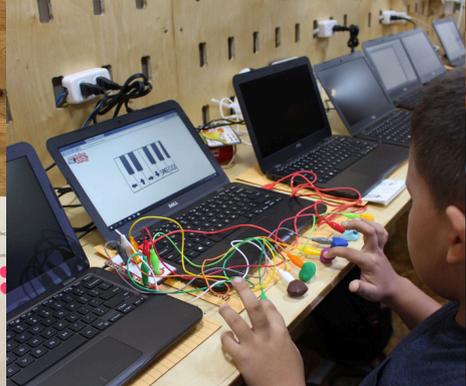


Aruba Re-Imagined Areas (AREA) is an Innovation District Platform to help re-imagine and re-design key business and innovation opportunity areas in Aruba, and in turn ignite economic energy and increase the quality of life in those areas.

AWARENESS RAISING INITIATIVES

As part of the overall strategy to raise awareness about the importance of innovation and the future of work demands, Futura hosted various presentations and workshops on the importance of innovation policy and how to stimulate a knowledge economy driven by innovation.





STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATORS

Futura initiatives and programs are only possible with the support and collaboration of our partners. Partnerships are an essential part of accelerating innovation to achieve the desired systemic change and create a thriving innovation ecosystem.





ARUBA TRADE & INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION

A**TECH***

BLAB



KAMER VAN KOOPHANDEL
EN NIJVERHEID ARUBA



BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

As the national innovation lab, Futura is a member of various think-tanks, project boards, working groups and committees, where it serves as a strategic- or knowledge partner. Futura is an active innovation partner to many key stakeholders on the island. This ensures that innovation remains top of mind in policy- and decision-making.



**Cybersecurity
Committee /
National Task Force**

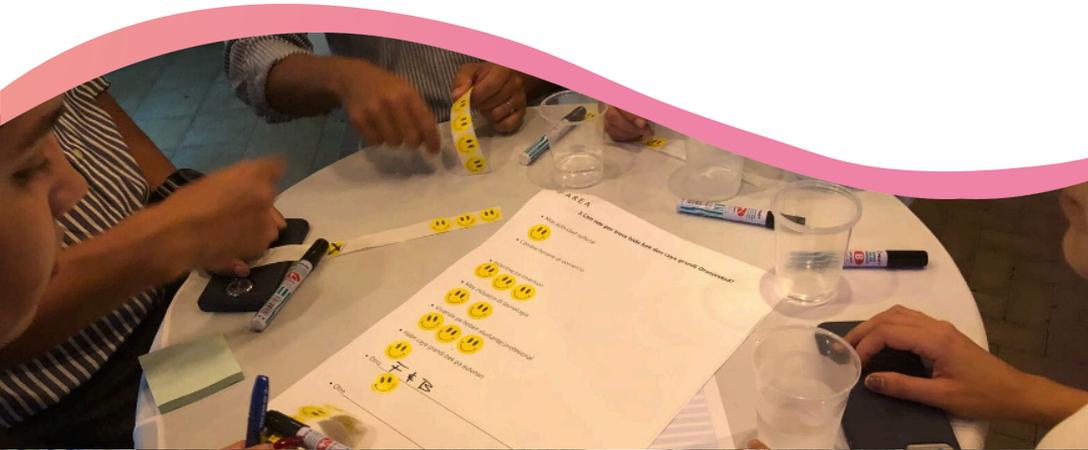
**National
Strategic Plan
Working Groups**

**Nationaal
Onderwijs Plan
(NOP) 2030**



LOOKING AHEAD: 2019

For the upcoming year Futura will continue to focus on the innovation priority spaces, eGovernment, Social Innovation, Talent, Entrepreneurship, and Smart Society, with exciting new projects in the pipeline.



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