



FUTUR.A

Annual Report

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About Futura

Futura is Aruba's innovation hub, focused on driving progress in education, entrepreneurship, and community development. We collaborate with local and global partners to create programs that make a lasting impact, from digital learning initiatives to cultural preservation and sustainability efforts.

Our mission is simple: to turn ideas into action, improving lives and building a smarter, more inclusive future for Aruba.



These collaborations and initiatives reflect Futura's unwavering commitment to innovation, education, and community development in Aruba and beyond.

As we look ahead to the future, we remain dedicated to leveraging technology and creativity to drive positive change and build a better world for generations to come.

Our Team

Futura's strength lies in its people—a dedicated team of professionals passionate about innovation, technology, and community development. With expertise in technology, entrepreneurship, and social impact, we work together to bring creative solutions to Aruba and beyond.

In 2023, our team led projects that digitized cultural traditions, supported young entrepreneurs, and advanced education through technology. Collaboration and curiosity drive us, and we remain committed to using innovation to create meaningful change.



Isella Wernet

Board Member



Ulrich Hermans

Board Member



Francois Croes

Director



Xavier Simileer

Legal Advisor



Richelle Chirino

Project Manager



**Thessaly
Zimmerman**

Project Manager



Jefryene Dijkhoff

Project Manager

SMAC Collaboration

Futura proudly partnered with the Stichting Maneho di Aruba su Carnaval (SMAC) to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of Aruba's colorful Carnaval season. Recognizing the importance of preserving Aruba's cultural heritage while embracing modern advancements, our collaboration aimed to revolutionize event management practices.

Leveraging Futura's tablets and devices, typically utilized across a diverse range of projects and initiatives, we embarked on a mission to digitize information and judging procedures, thereby streamlining operations, and reducing environmental impact by minimizing paper waste.

Building on our track record of successful collaborations with organizations such as 'Un Canto pa Aruba su Himno y Bandera' and 'Festival di Dande', Futura remains dedicated to contributing to educational and cultural projects, using our resources to effect positive change. Through initiatives like these, we hope to inspire others to join us in leveraging technology for the betterment of our community.



To commemorate International Women's Day, the Women's Club of Aruba organized a seminal event focusing on 'Innovation & Technology for Gender Equality'. As a guest speaker, Futura was honored to share insights and experiences, particularly highlighting our innovative project, SuperNova; an experimental pop-up serving as a hub for women and girls of all ages to connect, exchange ideas, and acquire new skills. By facilitating dialogue and empowering women in tech and innovation, we aim to foster an inclusive environment that promotes gender equality and encourages the participation of women in traditionally male-dominated fields.



Women's Club Seminar



Kidspreneur\$

Futura collaborated with Department of Economic Affairs, Trade, and Industry's IDEA on the Kidspreneur\$ with BIG Ideas initiative at 7 after-school programs on Aruba. This exciting program, developed by Idea, aims to instill entrepreneurial skills and mindset among young students. Through engaging sessions covering topics such as innovation, the future of work, sustainable development goals (SDGs), and financial literacy, we provided participants with the tools and knowledge needed to navigate the complexities of the modern world. By nurturing creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities, we hope to empower the next generation of entrepreneurs and change-makers.

University of Aruba FHTMS Presentation



The Futura team had the privilege of visiting the University of Aruba to deliver a presentation to junior students from the Faculty of Hospitality & Tourism Management Studies (FHTMS). During the session, we showcased our portfolio of tech projects and discussed the EduTech Fund program, which aims to promote innovation in education through the integration of technology.

By inspiring students to explore the intersection of hospitality, tourism, and technology, we hope to foster a new generation of industry leaders who are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to drive positive change in their communities.



SDG GO GOALS

At Schakel College, Futura hosted an interactive workshop aimed at raising awareness about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among students aged 12-14.

Through the combination of an informative presentation and a hands-on board game, participants learned about the importance of sustainable development and were encouraged to think critically about how they can contribute to achieving the SDGs in their own lives and communities.

Mo-B Lab



After a hiatus in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mo-B Lab returned to action in 2023 with a renewed sense of purpose and vigor. Led by the dedicated Mo-B Team, the program made a significant impact on the lives of thousands of students across Aruba, visiting neighborhoods and engaging with schools from kindergarten to high school. Through hands-on activities and creative experiments, Mo-B Lab inspired young minds to explore the wonders of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), nurturing a passion for innovation and discovery.



Mo-B Lab, proudly visited 8 neighborhoods, engaging with over 16 enthusiastic schools, from kindergarten to high school, and positively influencing the lives of more than 5000 kids and students.

The Mo-B Lab is currently stationed at the University of Aruba, marking an exciting new phase in its journey. At the end of 2023, Mo-B Lab became a valuable asset for the university, serving as a hub for innovation and exploration for students and the community alike.



FUTURA SPACES REMODELING

Futura Spaces underwent a significant transformation in 2023, with the aim of creating a more vibrant, inspiring, and collaborative work environment for our team members.

The redesign incorporated captivating colors, modern furnishings, and ergonomic workstations, all aimed at fostering creativity, productivity, and employee well-being. By investing in our physical workspace, we hope to create an environment that cultivates a culture of innovation and excellence.



our new look



to ignite creativity

Miss Universe Collaboration

Futura had the privilege of collaborating with the Miss Universe Aruba organization in 2023, providing our creative and aesthetic Futura Spaces as a venue for their exclusive trainings and workshops. Designed to empower and prepare contestants for the Miss Universe competition, these sessions focused on developing essential skills such as public speaking, personal branding, and confidence building. In addition to these core topics, Futura also conducted presentations and trainings on environmental protection and sustainability, equipping the candidates with knowledge and awareness on these critical global issues. By providing a supportive and inspiring environment, Futura Spaces served as the perfect setting for these transformative sessions, enabling participants to unlock their full potential and shine on the global stage.

Mastercard (Bahamas & New York)

Futura continued its partnership with Mastercard, collaborating on several initiatives aimed at driving digital transformation and fostering inclusive growth in Aruba. Through our participation in events such as Mastercard's FinTech Summit in the Bahamas and GovTech IDEA in New York, we showcased our shared vision for the future of technology and innovation. By leveraging our expertise in areas such as digital transformation, we are working together to create a more resilient and prosperous future for Aruba and its residents.

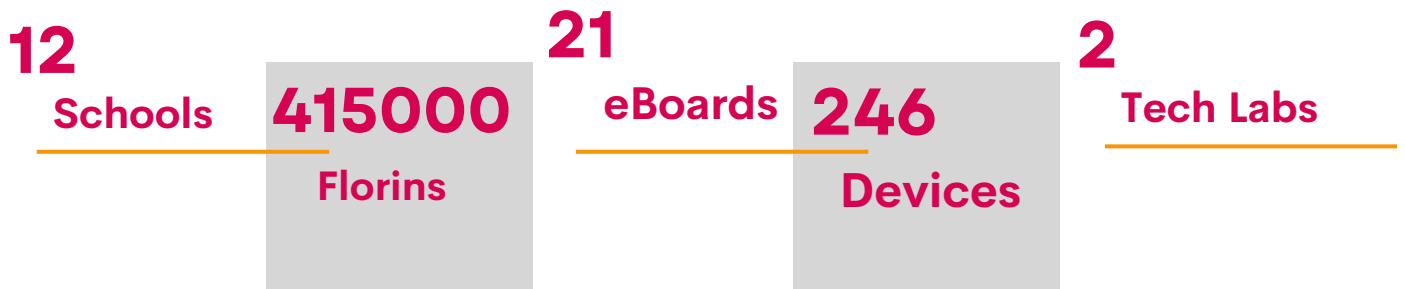


EduTech Fund

The EduTech Fund continued its mission to transform education in Aruba by fostering innovation and interactive learning in classrooms. Through grants awarded to schools, teachers, and students, the program provided essential resources to modernize teaching methods and enhance student engagement.

A total of 12 schools were awarded grants across multiple cycles, implementing initiatives such as digital classrooms, STEM education, and creative learning spaces. Schools received state-of-the-art e-boards, Chromebooks, iPads, tablets, and fully equipped tech labs—tools that encouraged collaboration, critical thinking, and digital literacy.

Due to its success, the EduTech Fund was renewed for the 2023–2024 school year, receiving over 50 applications from schools eager to integrate technology into their educational programs



EduTech Fund

Cycle 2

- **EduCampus** – Created a MakerSpace to foster design-thinking and make innovation accessible to youth.
- **Pius X School** – Upgraded classrooms by replacing traditional blackboards with digital boards.
- **Maria Goretti College** – Introduced laptops, tablets, and digital boards to 5th-grade classes for a balanced hands-on and traditional learning approach.



Cycle 3

- **Colegio Laura Wernet-Paskel** – Acquired Chromebooks, tablets, and eBoards for 1st and 2nd grade, completing their transition to modern classroom technology.
- **St. Paulus School** – Expanded their Chromebook program by adding 50 Chromebooks for 3rd and 4th-grade students.
- **Cacique Aterima** – Enhanced early education with STEM toys and applications, introducing young learners to science, technology, engineering, and math.



EduTech Fund

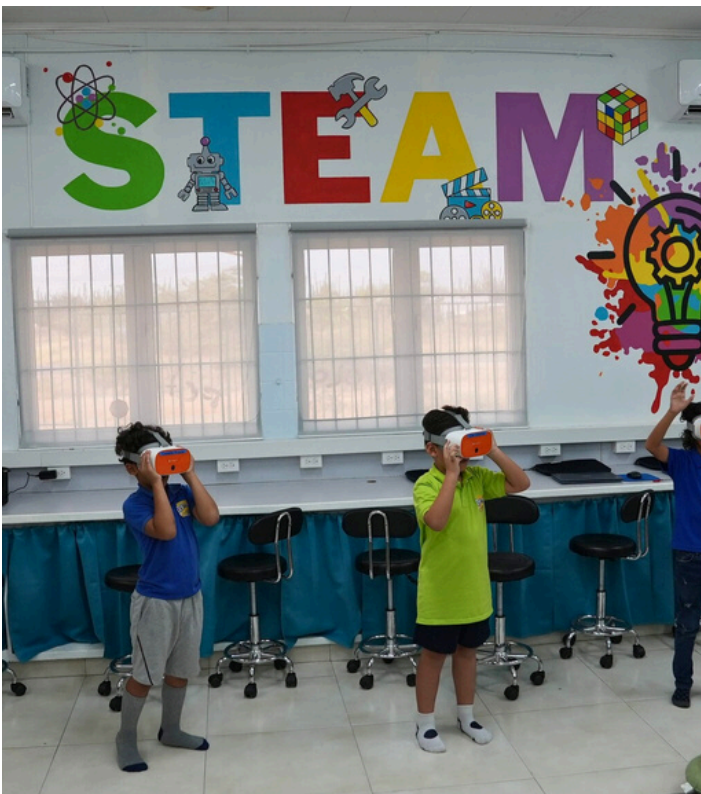
Cycle 4

- **University of Aruba** – Established a Tech Lab to promote digital literacy, innovation, and technology-enhanced learning.
- **Scol Preparatorio Nos Paraiso** – Installed Samsung Flip eBoards in all classrooms to create a more interactive learning environment.
- **St. Dominicus College** – Provided iPads and Chromebooks to support students in digital and interactive learning.



Cycle 5

- **St. Franciscus College** – Focused on 21st-century skills by integrating iPads and Chromebooks into learning and project work.
- **Colegio Felipe B. Tromp** – Created a STEAM classroom where students can explore science, technology, engineering, art, and math through hands-on experiments.
- **Colegio Sagrado Curason** – Introduced 3D printers and Cricut cutting machines to their TechLab, enabling students to develop digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and design skills.



EduTech Fund School Visits



As part of our commitment to supporting educational innovation, Futura visited several grant-winning schools during the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 school year. These visits allowed us to witness firsthand the impact of the EduTech Fund in creating dynamic learning environments. From interactive classrooms to hands-on labs, we saw students engaging with new tools, developing critical skills, and embracing technology in their education.



A highlight of these visits was the presence of Aruba's Prime Minister, who joined us in recognizing the schools' efforts in embracing digital learning. Together, we engaged with students and teachers, witnessing their enthusiasm as they explored new tools like interactive eBoards, Chromebooks, iPads, and STEM learning kits. Educators shared their experiences on how these resources have enhanced lesson delivery, making learning more engaging, collaborative, and hands-on.



At each school, we saw the tangible impact of the EduTech Fund, from students confidently using digital devices to teachers incorporating technology into their daily lessons.

Work with Us

At Futura, we believe in the power of collaboration to drive innovation and create meaningful change. Whether you're an educator, entrepreneur, organization, or creative thinker, we welcome partnerships that help shape a smarter, more inclusive future for Aruba.

From educational initiatives and tech-driven projects to community development and sustainability efforts, we work with passionate individuals and organizations to bring bold ideas to life.

If you share our vision and want to collaborate, sponsor, or contribute, let's connect and explore how we can make an impact—together.



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