



Crafting the future together

Innovation Labs

Our unique action-research projects that promote exploration, collaboration, and innovation

Who is FutureEverything?

FutureEverything is a cultural agency crafting new ways of living with technology for human and planetary flourishing. For over 30 years, we have helped shape digital culture locally, nationally and internationally.

Through a programme of Creative R&D, Prototyping, and Artist Development, we imagine alternative futures that address the interplay between ecological crises, cultural narratives, and technological acceleration.

Our programme and values are guided by Nature Directed, a ground-breaking initiative to restructure our organisation and behaviours guided by Nature as an active participant in everything we do.

What are Innovation Labs?

FutureEverything's unique action-research workshops designed to spark collaboration, creativity, and knowledge exchange:

- Bringing together participants from across academia, business, and diverse disciplines to co-create responses to current and emerging challenges in specific sectors.
- Using participatory design methods to define real-world problems and generate ideas rapidly, to identify the most viable collaborative solutions.
- Bridging disciplines and driving systemic change through an agile, proven model for unlocking new thinking and enabling long-term partnerships.





“Innovation Labs enable smart collaborations across sectors and build on the pioneering and progressive approach from FutureEverything that has long driven innovation in Greater Manchester.”

Andy Burnham
Mayor of Greater Manchester

Why choose Innovation Labs?

- We are committed to the principle that less is more: if we gave you 5 hours to generate a great idea, you can likely generate the same idea in 5 minutes.
So, we give you 5 minutes.
- We are acutely aware of the ‘cost’ of bringing people together: the intangible price of the human resource in the room, and the value of assembling a room full of skills, experience, and ingenuity.
So, we structure the Innovation Labs to be fast-paced and outcome driven.
- Our creative facilitation is committed to fostering inclusive, exploratory, conversational spaces.
So, we encourage participants to ask bold questions, share knowledge, and shift perspectives.
- Innovation Labs are to be equally robust and agile.
So, we tailor the activities to suit the specific organisational needs





Tracing the Sky. 2019
Jiayu Liu.
Photo: Matthew Watt

How do Innovation Labs work?

Participants collectively select a key focus to address and move through creative, iterative stages to develop concepts that may evolve into tangible projects, initiatives, or funding bids.



The collaborative journey includes identifying the driving forces of the challenge, breaking down the challenge into constituent parts, and rapid ideation towards solution-driven outcomes.



Ideas are tested for feasibility before moving onto project design followed by peer sharing or pitching to confirm legacy planning.

All within the space of 5 hours!



Previous Clients

Innovation Labs have explored fields such as AI, data ethics, sustainability, healthcare, fintech, placemaking, as well developing large scale funding proposals and action plans for strategy delivery.

University of Manchester

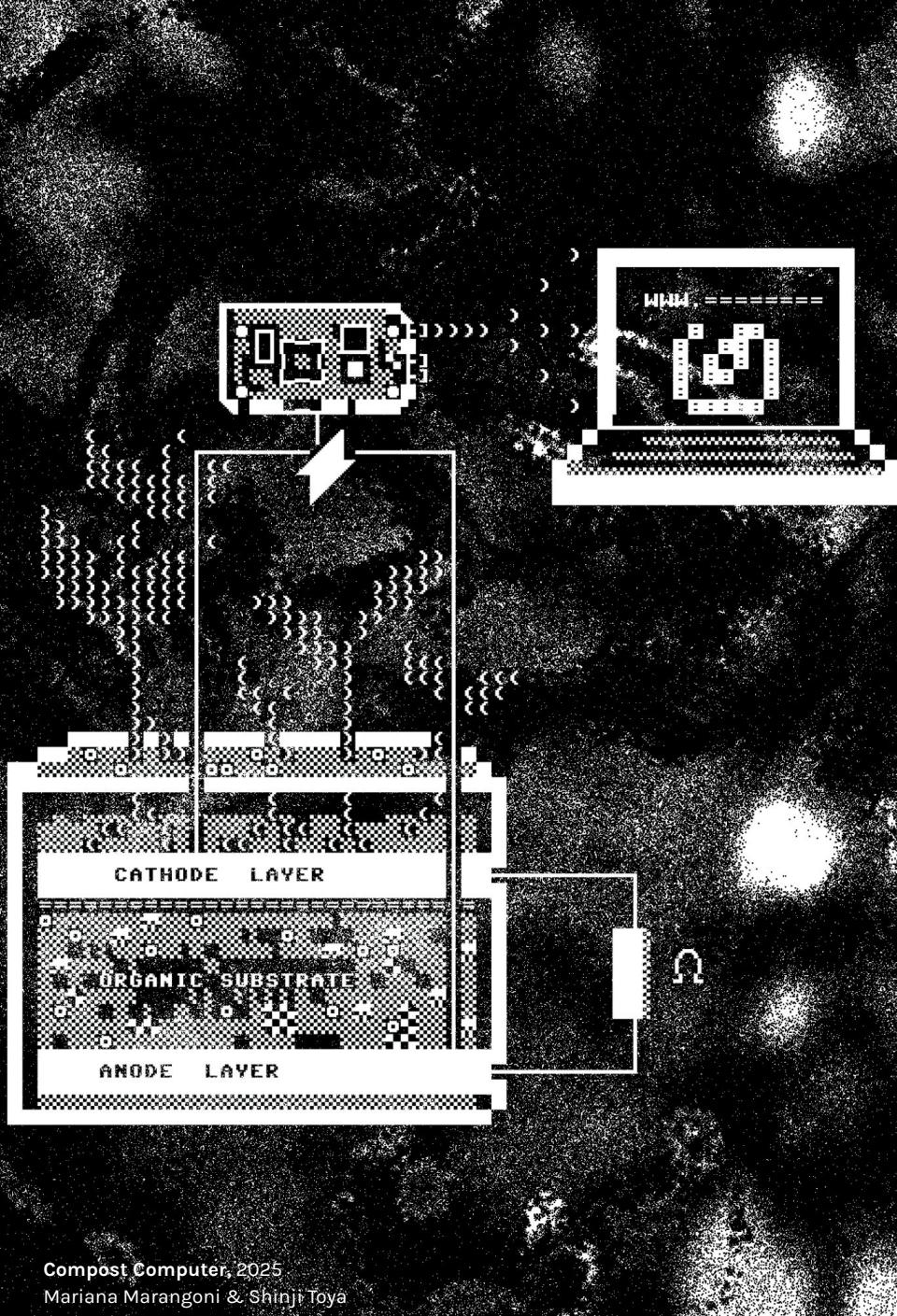
Description

FutureEverything has delivered over 40 Innovation Labs for the leading academic institution across a diverse range of focus areas and sectors. The Labs brought together people from business and academia to address industry-specific challenges, and participants have included Siemens, British Cycling, Bruntwood, NHS, Centre for Net Zero, Transport for London, Arup, and Cummins Inc.

Outcomes

Cummins Inc presented four internal business challenges, ranging from using AI in product cycles to questions around optimising combustion engines and machinery. The results of the Lab included 4 project proposals put forward for funding, with 97% of participants said they would recommend an Innovation Lab to their colleagues

Built on connections made at the Innovation Lab, Cummins, Holtex and The University of Manchester won a £2.4M UK government award to launch Project Unity to develop an advanced digital tool aimed at improving the design and durability of components used in hydrogen-fuelled powertrains.





Atmospheric Memory, 2019
Rafael Lozano-Hemmer
Photo: Rob Connor

National Trust

Description

The People's Plan for Nature, was a partnership project with National Trust, RSPB, and WWF, focused on nature and the biodiversity issues in the UK. FutureEverything delivered a large-scale extended Innovation Lab to convert the Calls to Action within the People's Plan for Nature publication into tangible actions to be taken forward by communities and influence broader systems change.

Outcomes

The Lab generated a series of action plans for delegates to disseminate in their communities to bring the People's Plan for Nature to life with tangible outcomes, and further inspire individuals, groups, communities and organisations to make commitments to care for and champion nature.

“The room was full of people driving positive change for nature who don't often get to hold the mic. The energy and ideas in the room were and the Lab was critical to connect, empower and galvanise further action across communities.”
Kathryn Machin, Head of Community Engagement Campaigns, WWF-UK

University of Oxford

Description

FutureEverything delivered an Innovation Lab to develop transdisciplinary funding bids, in response to a grant call for Antimicrobial Resistance research for up to £3M. Spanning a wide consortia of specialisms, under the thematic banner of Antimicrobial Resistance, the Lab brought together academics from across University of Oxford to work in teams to explore and develop potential funding bid ideas.

Outcomes

The Lab generated 4 tangible research ideas that were put forward for Expressions of Interest for the £3M funding opportunity.

“The Lab had an amazing structure that expertly kept the people engaged for an extended period. It promoted inclusion and the process ensured that the louder voices did not dominate. As a means to generate ideas for funding bids, this is now our preferred approach.”

**Sarah Tonkin-Crine, Professor of Health Psychology,
Nuffield Department of Primary Health Care Service,
University of Oxford**



PROTO, 2025
Photo: Richard Tymon



Why work with FutureEverything?

FutureEverything bring 30 years of experience delivering collaborative, multi-stakeholder projects that drive meaningful change.

We offer a powerful combination of robust project management and world-class creative facilitation to guide partners through complex, systems-level challenges.

Drawing on our extensive experience, we use a wide range of creative and strategic tools to bring diverse voices together, foster collaboration, and embed long-term innovation.

The FutureEverything Team



Chris Wright, Executive Director

Over 30 years experience in cultural strategy, arts programming and producing, and creative facilitation nationally and internationally, including UK, Europe, and Asia.



Lucy Sollitt, Creative Director

Over 20 years of experience in cultural strategy, programming and policy dedicated to innovatively merging art, technology, and ecosystemic change.

With a portfolio of 30 years experience, here are some recent projects that describe the scope and quality of our work:

[Stockport Creative Campus
Cultural Accelerator](#)

[Nature on the Board
Innovation Labs](#)

[Compost Computer
Plasmata](#)

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Emotional Biodiversity, Di Mainstone