

ALAB

N LAB

CLAIRE TREVOR SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

UCI APPLIED INNOVATION

VISION

The NLab is the Claire Trevor School of the Arts' incubator for art, design, and technology projects that engage the world.

Hosted by UCI Applied Innovation, NLab researchers use the modes and methods of art and design—the creative impulse, critical and experiential perspectives, and lateral thinking—to pursue challenges that cut across disciplines. NLab projects are conceived and pursued inclusively and collaboratively, and project results are oriented towards broad and varied audiences.

The N in NLab represents the numerous variables that creative endeavors must reconcile, from the obvious to the unknown. The N is located outside the box; the variables that matter most are found in the world, beyond our laboratory walls.

The official NLab opening will take place on XXXXXX, 2018.



PROGRAMS

Corporate partnerships support the NLab professional residency program, which solicits proposals from artists, designers, and technologists from UCI faculty and beyond. During the residency period, the professional residents must incubate projects, host public events, and mentor the student residents.

The Beall Center for Art + Technology supports the NLab student residency program, which solicits proposals from students and recent graduates. During the residency period the selected student residents must incubate projects and assist the professional residents.

In both cases, proposals must articulate how a creative project incubated at the NLab and leveraged by the entrepreneurial resources of Applied Innovation has the potential for transformative growth. Residency proposals are accepted on July 1 of each year and take place between September 31st and June 30th.

LEADERSHIP

Stephen Barker, the Dean of UCI's Claire Trevor School of the Arts, initiated the NLab with the support of Richard Sudek, UCI's Chief Innovation Officer and the Executive Director of UCI Applied Innovation. The NLab is directed by Jesse Colin Jackson, a UCI Professor of Electronic Art & Design with 20 years of experience working across disciplines. The NLab is operated as part of the Claire Trevor School of the Arts' Institute for 21st Century Creativity, which is reimagining creativity for the 21st century. The NLab corporate partnership program is coordinated by YYYYYY on the Dean's Arts Council.



SPECULATIO

The NLab is predicated on the idea that design, per se, is the giving of form to the inchoate, whether this consist of an idea, an image, or a concept. In bestowing form, design and design artifacts are actions that make manifest the creative process of design: urban design, product design, set design, fabric design, or sound design. NLab projects engage with the very fundamentals of creativity itself.

STEPHEN BARKER, DEAN,
CLAIRE TREVOR SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Design is the conscious and intuitive effort to impose meaningful order.

VICTOR PAPANEK

SCIE

IMAGI

ENGI

HUMA

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DESIG

CREATIO

Art is science made clear.

JEAN COCTEAU

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*The NLab demonstrates something pithy about
what the NLab demonstrates. The Arts provides
something pithy about what the arts provides.*

RICHARD SUDEK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
UCI APPLIED INNOVATION

YEAR ZERO

Professor Jackson began incubating projects in the summer of 2017 in order to explore and demonstrate the NLab's transformative potential. Foremost among these projects are Closed Loop Plastics and Marching Cubes, which interrogate the emerging technology of 3D printing in perpendicular directions: towards mitigating its negative impacts, and towards demonstrating its expressive potential.

Closed Loop Plastics

Closed Loop Plastics (CLP) is a student-driven green start-up initiative situated at the intersection of sustainability science, design innovation, and entrepreneurship. People use 3D printers to make objects of all kinds from a plastic material called "filament." Spools of filament are currently sourced from virgin plastic, but CLP has developed technology to produce this material from everyday plastic waste instead. CLP is making 3D printing more sustainable.





Marching Cubes

Drawing inspiration from a computer algorithm of the same name, Marching Cubes leverages 3D printing to make the virtual world physical. In the 1980s, researchers devised an algorithm for generating computer graphics from medical scan data that featured an underlying language of faceted cubes. Marching Cubes translates this virtual procedure into interactive installations, which are assembled from a modular set of 3D printed components. Since 2016, unique Marching Cubes events have taken place in Toronto, New York, Vancouver, Tehran, and Stockholm; the latest evolution will be featured at UCI Applied Innovation's Virtual Technology Showroom as part of the official NLab opening.





N L

To create, one must first question everything.

EILEEN GRAY