

MIT MEDIA LAB

Festival of Learning 2020

Friday January 31st

~ 9:30am–10:30am ~

Breakfast!

E14 3rd Floor Atrium // Hosted by MAS

“Registration”, aka Make Your Own Wacky Nametag

*E14 3rd Floor Atrium // Hosted by *~ the FoL Team ~**

~ All-Day Workshops 10:30am–5:00pm ~

balloonfriends

E14 5th Floor Kitchen Workshop Area // Hosted by Aubrey Simonson

Drop-in to make sewn inflatables! Learn to use a sewing machine (we'll teach you)! We'll display our creations at 99F.

Tree of Culture

E14 3rd Floor Atrium // Hosted by Rachel Smith, Philipp Schmidt & the Culture Working Group

Inspired by the Japanese tradition of Tanabata and Tanzaku, we invite everyone to attach their wishes, ideas, & dreams for an inclusive Media Lab culture, like leaves on a tree. At the end of the festival, the notes will be propagated back into the community, in the form of plant clippings, to help our shared culture take root and grow across the entire building.

Breed the Ganimals: Exploring AI generated animals under the sea

E14 3rd Floor Atrium // Hosted by Océane Boulais, Ziv Epstein & Matt Groh

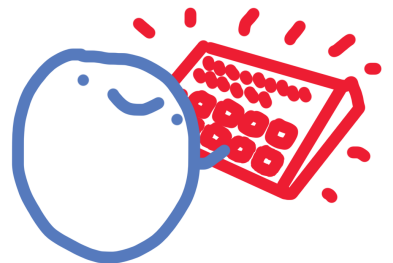
Breed your own AI generated animals using deep generative models, then make buttons out of your favorite creations for future remixing! Along the way, we will learn how these generative models work, and explore how AI art can be used for conservation efforts. **This session will be held from 12-4pm.**

~ 10:30am–12:00pm Workshops ~

Program your own drum machine with Chuck

E14-240 // Hosted by Aarón Montoya-Moraga & Manaswi Mishra

Bring your computer (also maybe headphones) and let's learn how to create rhythmical sound patterns with code. We will use the free and open-source programming language Chuck to manipulate samples and distribute our sounds across ~time ~. No previous musical or coding experience required.



How To: Auxiliary Jam Sesh

E14-514b // Hosted by Avery Normandin

FOR THOSE ABOUT TO ROCK—please join this ~*hardcore jam sesh*~ in which we'll play songs by artists like Michelle Branch on a suite of seemingly useless instruments (think recorders, kazoos, egg shakers, tambourines). No prior musical experience required; only fiery passion, a willingness to embarrass yourself, and a positive attitude. Perhaps some glam rock attire, as well. Vocalists and choreographers are especially encouraged to lend their talents.

Learn to row/erg

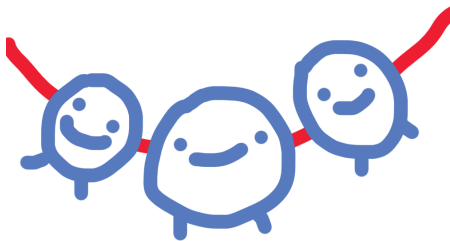
E14-244 // Hosted by Sarah Beckmann

Come learn the basic mechanics of the rowing stroke on an ergometer (erg) machine, or on-land rower. While this might not be as fun as rowing in a boat on the water, athletes use this machine to train and gain more fitness. Being an experienced rower, I will be available to answer general questions about the sport, as well as highlight elements of its unique culture. Note: participants should ideally not be wearing baggy clothing/dresses/skirts if they want to try it, but feel free to attend if you want to listen/learn!

Beautiful Symmetry: Exploring Mathematics Through Coloring

E14 3rd Floor Atrium // Hosted by Alex Berke

Come relax by coloring patterns // Come complete small symmetry puzzles // Come learn about the mathematics of symmetry by transforming infinitely repeating patterns with color. These patterns are the “wallpaper group patterns”. They mesmerized artist M.C. Escher and mathematicians, and now they’re going to draw you in. The “coloring challenges” for this session are from Beautiful Symmetry: A Coloring Book About Math, which will be published by the MIT Press this March. You can start playing with them now via the free interactive web version of the book that brings the pattern symmetries to life in animation: <http://beautifulsymmetry.onl>



Make your own Jewelry, Part 1

E14-393 // Hosted by Guadalupe Babio & Alexandra Rieger

Hands-on workshop to design and create your own jewelry and accessories from initial sketches to final product. We'll be using acrylic, wood, or any material combined with 3D printing and other equipment from the machine shop. Technologies, creativity, and materials from research groups are encouraged.

This is a two-part session. Part 2 happens at 3:30-5:00pm. You may attend both or either!

Stick Figures Are Your Friend

E14 5th Floor Kitchen Workshop Area // Hosted by Shannon Johnson

Ever heard of a thaumatrope or flipbook animation? Remember the days of hand-drawn cartoons? Come make a short, animated cartoon with just a pencil, paper, and string to let your stick figures [come to life](#)! No drawing skills required.

Carbon Offsets Pilot Program Recap + Brainstorming

E14-493 // Hosted by Caroline Jaffe, Juliana Cherston & Craig Ferguson

Air travel is a huge contributor to global climate change, and we want to do something about it! We ran a 6-month carbon offsets pilot program at the Lab last year in which we asked the community to log their Lab-sponsored air travel so that we could offset the carbon footprint of that travel. In this session, we plan to briefly cover the concept of carbon offsets, present the results of the pilot, and discuss the format of the program with the community. Come help us decide which offsets project our pilot should fund, and help us imagine the future of carbon offsets at the Lab and beyond!

DJ 101 by DJ Kongo!

E15-335 // Hosted by David Sun Kong (aka DJ Kongo) & Philip Tan

Learn how to DJ! The Media Lab's very own DJ Kongo will show you the technical basics of how to DJ and discuss the philosophy of how to bring a dance floor to life and engage with the collective consciousness of a party. Participants will then have the chance to DJ at 99F later that evening! Please bring a laptop with MP3 music that you would like to play!

Latin Dancing@ML

E15-341 // Hosted by Camilo Rojas & Judith Amores

Would you like to relax, workout, have fun, while meeting new colleagues and learning a new skill? Come learn how we dance in Latin America! The class will be tailored for beginners, but advanced dancers are also welcome. No need to bring a partner.



fads, panics, and wisdom

E15-384 // Hosted by Alex 'Sandy' Pentland

How does social interaction cause us to go off-track? Why do social networks help some people succeed? How can we make wiser decisions? Come and find out.

Save a Life with Disco!

E14 3rd Floor Atrium // Hosted by Kristy Johnson

Learn hands-only CPR! This session takes 5 minutes and could save someone's life. More than 325,000 cardiac arrests occur outside of hospitals each year in the U.S., and immediate CPR—even just with your hands—can double or triple the chances of survival! Stayin' Alive by the BeeGees is the right tempo for compressions. Drop in and see it for yourself: Disco saves lives!

Modernizing Navajo Foods with Traditional Food Science and Cultural Narrative

E14 5th Floor Kitchen // Hosted by Nonabah Lane

The session will include: preparation, cooking, and tasting of blue corn mush, blue corn pancakes, and Navajo tea.

What is YellowBox? **Registration Required ([link](#))**

YellowBox (meet in E15-443) // Hosted by Canan Dagdeviren & Conformable Decoders

Learn about our cleanroom, YellowBox! We'll take a small group inside for a tour, including how to gown up, use appropriate PPE, and show our main tools/equipment.

~ 12:00pm All Lab Lunch in Atrium ~

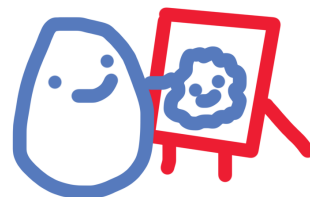
Hosted by Facilities // Please note this will be the First Friday Lunch for February!

~ 1:30pm–3:00pm Workshops ~

Grab a Brush, Find Your Muse, and Paint **Registration Required ([link](#))**

E14 3rd Floor Atrium // Hosted by Media Lab HR

Join us to explore acrylic painting by following an instructor to produce a landscape painting!



Learn Like a Baby

E14-244 // Hosted by Jim Gray, Ed.D. ("World's Tallest Preschool Teacher")

Infants are not "blank slates": they understand essential aspects of the physical, social, linguistic, and mathematical world. Join us to investigate how babies learn by exploring objects (bubbles, balloons, puzzles) and social interactions (modeling & imitation, a foreign language) in new and unfamiliar ways. Come play, think, and discuss relevance to life and your work.

Discover Your Career Values

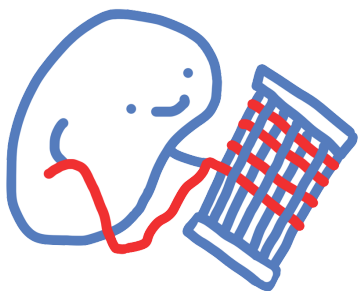
E15-466 // Hosted by Lily Zhang

It's always handy to know what your career values are! Career values go beyond the actual work you do—they're more about what you get out of it. At this workshop, I'll talk about what career values are, do an activity to help you figure out your own, and discuss next steps about how to better incorporate your values into your work.

Espresso 101

E14 3rd Floor Atrium Kitchen // Hosted by David Simon of Black Magic Coffee Co.

You probably all know Dave as the "espresso guy" from ML Member Meetings. Well here's your chance to pick his brain about pulling the perfect espresso: selecting beans, grinding, tamping, milk steaming techniques, and much more!



Keanu Weaves!

E14-493 || Hosted by Susan Williams

This will be a weaving and knitting workshop taking our old clothes and upcycling them into new items! Bring in an old item of clothing or scraps of fabric, to be cut into strips, and then we will do simple weaving and knitting techniques to create scarves, coasters, bath mats, etc. (Extra materials will also be supplied.) No prior knowledge necessary. There will also be a full scale cut out of our dear friend Keanu Reeves. Participants will be encouraged to take photos with Mr. Reeves and their finished goods at the end of the workshop!

The textile arts of Batik-patterning and dyeing **Registration Required ([link](#))******

E14-251 (Shop) || Hosted by Irmandy Wicaksono and Alice Hong

Batik is a wax-resist dyeing technique that originated in Java, Indonesia and is recognized on UNESCO's list of the *Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity*. In this session, we will learn about history, fabrication techniques, and examples of Batik materials, fabrics, and clothing. After that, we will work with cotton and silk fabrics, applying hot wax and paste resists using a traditional, handwriting "tjanting" method. Finally, we will cold-dye the patterned fabric and then re-apply wax or paste resists before adding more paint or dye. In the end, you will develop several fabric swatches with your own Batik design and colors that you can bring home with you. **This is a 3.5 hour session, from 1:30-5:00pm.**

Improv 101

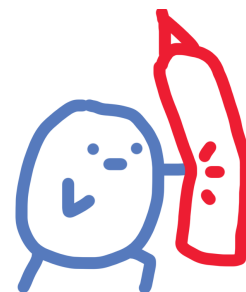
E14-240 || Hosted by Dan Goodwin, Matt Groh & Kristin Hall

Learn the basics of improv. We'll have fun making stuff up and being ridiculous while playing games. Improvisational Theatre is a great form of social play and no experience is required!

A Very Very Elementary Introduction to Self-Defense

E15-341 || Hosted by Alex Hong

Punch some bags, learn some skills, do some spin kicks. You decide the direction of this class. Please plan to bring athletic clothing and a banana.



Juggling!

E14 5th Floor Kitchen Workshop Area || Hosted by Jiri Zemanek and Brian Jordan

Make your own juggling balls and then learn how to juggle. Or if you already know how to juggle, come anyway.

DJ History and Technology: Digital Audio

E15-335 || Hosted by Philip Tan

Part of an ongoing CMS/W IAP series on the evolution of music, technologies, and practices of the modern dancefloor DJ. We will take a look back at the roles played by the vinyl record, the mixer, and the sound system in the DJ booth for over five decades of dance music. Then we will discuss how digital microprocessors, sampling, online distribution and USB changed the craft in both practical and philosophical ways. *Note:* the IAP session continues after 3pm with an hour of house and techno music, which fueled those changes in technology, inspired creativity, and reimagined the dance floor. Philip Tan will demonstrate techniques that DJs invented to weave different songs into a night of entertainment. Festival of Learning participants of this session are welcome but not obliged to stay for this hour.



~ 3:00pm Tea & Snack Break ~

Snackz & Tea

E14 3rd Floor Atrium || Hosted by *~ the FoL Team ~* & the TeaMasterz

~ 3:30pm–5:00pm Workshops ~

Make your own Jewelry, Part 2

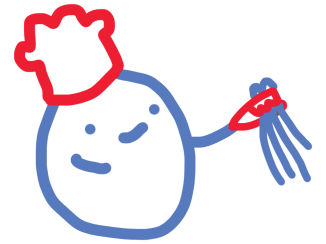
E14-393 || Hosted by Guadalupe Babio & Alexandra Rieger

Hands-on workshop to design and create your own jewelry and accessories from initial sketches to final product. We'll be using acrylic, wood, or any material combined with 3D printing and other equipment from the machine shop. Technologies, creativity, and materials from research groups are encouraged. **This is a two-part session. Part 1 happens at 10:30am-12pm. You may attend both or either!**

Pasta Making

E14 5th Floor Kitchen || Hosted by Mitch Resnick

Start with just flour and eggs, and end up with delicious pasta! Mix, knead, flatten, cut, boil, and eat! I started making my own pasta a year ago, and I love it. I'm still just a beginner, but I'm excited to share the experience with others.



Seeing sound with your eyes

E14 5th Floor Kitchen Workshop Area || Hosted by Caitlin Morris

Visualize sound waves in physical matter! We'll do experiments around the phenomenon of Cymatics, visualizing frequency patterns in various materials like sand and liquid. The full pipeline will include: using software or machinery to generate audio tones, using tactile transducers to turn (almost) any surface into a speaker, experimenting with quantity/volume of material, and finding the sounds that create beautiful visual patterns in the material.

Introduction to Theremin Playing

E14-240 || Hosted by Xiao Xiao

Invented in 1920 by a Russian physicist, the theremin is one of the world's first electronic musical instruments and is unique for being played without any physical touch. Changes to the surrounding electrical field from the movements of a player's body are detected by a pair of antennas, which respectively modulate the pitch and volume of the output sound. I started teaching myself to play the theremin in 2017 as an experiment on learning in a sparsely charted territory. In this session, I will share my tips and tricks, as well as reflections on higher level learning theories. Ever wanted to try a theremin? This is your chance!

Draw some loopy South Indian floor patterns!

E14-514b || Hosted by Aruna Sankaranarayanan

Come and draw some kolams—loopy Indian floor patterns inspired by the Fibonacci series! Kolams are an integral part of South Indian culture. Invented by female intuition, intricate floor patterns are drawn every morning in front of every house. The larger the pattern, the more festive a time for the house. Often inspired by geometric and mandala patterns, kolams can be diverse and of many different kinds. In this workshop, we will learn to draw the Fibonacci “sikku” kolam, by understanding the elegant mathematics behind this pattern. These kolams are recursive as well, and once the algorithm is broken down, you can draw a kolam of any grid size, covering as big a floor as you want to.



Building Organic Balloon Sculptures!

E14 3rd Floor Atrium || Hosted by Sarah Vitak

Come learn the basics of balloon twisting! And then choose your own balloon organics adventure and participate in helping make: balloon mushrooms, giant balloon neurons, or an 'organic' arch to decorate the FoL 99F party!

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament

E14 3rd Floor Atrium // Hosted by Justin Christensen

Everyone is here! Whether you've never played or have mastered the entire 80 character roster, come join us as we test our skills in the #1 fighting game of all time! Learn to play or prove you're the best Smash player at the Media Lab! Fill out this form if you are interested: <https://forms.gle/VFvpcHmXmaVnK1fW8>

Code of Conduct

E14-493 // Hosted by the Culture Working Group

Join us for a co-creation exercise around the values that matter most to you as a member of the Media Lab community. This is the start of a larger process to engage with all members of the ML community (faculty! staff! students! researchers!) as we begin to design a code of conduct that will help shape the way we move forward as a lab.

Love Thy Self: Guided Meditation + Yin Yoga

E15-341 // Hosted by Océane Boulais

Wash up on the shore of relaxation as we explore our meditative minds eye in a guided session (30m) followed by a calming yin yoga session (50m). We'll have mats + cushions to borrow, but feel free to BYOM and blanket if you get chilly.

Students & Staff Need Easy, Honest Art

E14 5th Floor Kitchen Workshop Area // Hosted by Sneha Makini

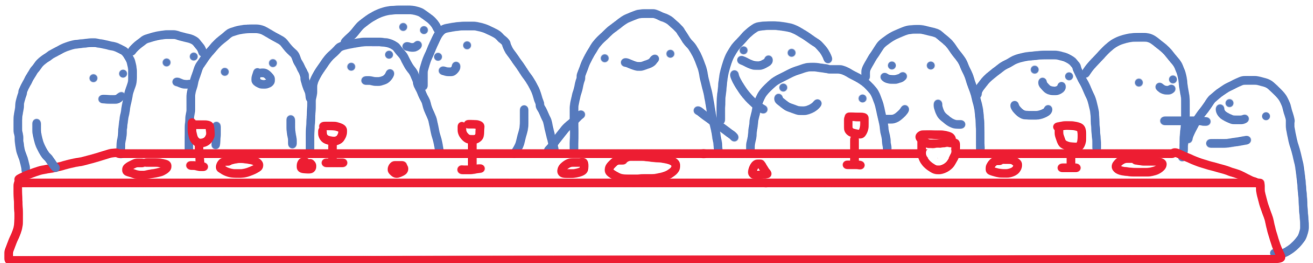
If you've never held a paintbrush before, come in to learn some simple watercoloring techniques! Or simply de-stress by playing with colors and water!

~ 5:30pm Closing Ceremony & Feast on 6th floor ~

FEAST!

*6th Floor of E14 // Hosted by *~ the FoL Team ~**

Join us for a communal feast! We'll be doing the cooking.



~ 8:00pm ~

99F Set-Up

6th Floor of E14 // Hosted by 99F Crew

Your participation is critical to making this event a success! So lend a hand, please :) The party starts at 9:00pm.

