

**INNOVATE  
DURBAN**



**INNOVATORS**

**GOVERNMENT**

**ACADEMIA | TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS**

**CORPORATES | BUSINESS**

**INNOVATION SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS**

Join the  
**REVOLUTION**



## OUR CEO

**CEO:** Aurelia Albert

**Programme Lead:** Amy Benn

**Business Development Lead:**  
Susanne Ramsunder

**Project Administrator:** Lindelwa Cele

**Project Coordinator:** Sakhiwo Rewu

**Finance and Events Coordinator:** Nosipho Radebe

**Administrator:** Zanele Masango



## OUR BOARD

FROM LEFT:

**PROFESSOR DERESH RAMJUGERNATH:**  
Chairperson of the Board (*Deputy Vice Chancellor: UKZN*)  
**MS PALESA PHILI:** CEO (*Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry*)  
**MR RICHARD GEVERS:** Founder and CEO (*Open Cities Lab*)  
**DR ANITHA RAMSURAN:** Acting GM Inclusive Innovation,  
Youth and Skills (*Technology Innovation Agency*)  
**CHARLOTTE MASHABA:** Regional Manager UKZN  
(*Regional Office of Technology Transfer*)

# 151

innovators supported  
across sectors

# 27

partners and  
a reach of **771**  
people on our  
growing database

## IMPACT MILESTONES FOR 2018/2019

# 90%

black  
beneficiaries

# 30%

black women  
beneficiaries

# 95%

youth  
beneficiaries

# 4

Businesses  
established

# 2

Prototypes  
developed  
Innovations  
commercialized

## WHY SUPPORT OR PARTNER WITH US?

### Public Benefit Organisation

Non Profit Company • Level 1 BBBEE  
Company • Key driver of Innovation in  
Durban • Established partnership Network

**Invest** your Corporate Social Investment  
Spend with a Non-profit Company and  
Public Benefit Organisation and receive  
tax benefits

**Maximise** on your Socio – Economic  
Development and Enterprise Development  
spend (with a Level 1 BBBEE organisation)  
through our programmes targeting youth  
and unemployment

**Contribute** and benefit from access to  
the Innovation Ecosystem through our  
research projects and platforms

**Leverage** your brand and increase your  
network through our established  
partner network

**Participate** in promoting interest,  
investment and growth in  
KwaZulu Natal

**Largest** innovation stakeholder forum  
membership in KwaZulu Natal

# WHO DO WE SUPPORT AND HOW?

## INNOVATE DURBAN

### WHO WE SUPPORT

Innovators • Government  
Academia • Corporates / businesses  
Innovation Support Organisations

### INNOVATION SUPPORT

Youth Innovation Challenge  
Start Up Support Programme  
Innovator Support Programme  
Innovator Support Fund  
Pitching Den  
Open Exchange

PROGRAMME AREA 1

### CAPACITY BUILDING & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Digital Literacy • Future Skills  
Design Thinking Workshops  
and Sprints

PROGRAMME AREA 2

### RESEARCH

Innovation Publication  
Ecosystem Map • Funding Map  
Thought leadership • Trends  
Innovation Toolkit  
Events Calendar

PROGRAMME AREA 3

### PLATFORMS

Physical: Innovation Co-Lab  
Virtual: Innovation Portal  
Innovation Festival Durban  
and other events

## STAKEHOLDER FORUM

Innovate Durban was initiated and founded by the City through the Innovate Durban Stakeholder Forum. As such, the Stakeholder Forum has been in existence since 2013, hosting quarterly meetings and serves as an advisory committee to the Board of Directors of Innovate Durban.

Members of the forum include stakeholders from academia, public sector departments, Innovate Durban partners and funders, relevant business chambers and coalitions, relevant incubators and accelerators, funders, investors, venture capitalists, and development agencies related to innovation, as well as research and technical centres or hubs.

The Stakeholder Forum is the largest innovation stakeholder network in KwaZulu Natal.

# YOUTH INNOVATION CHALLENGE



PROGRAMME AREA 1  
INNOVATION SUPPORT

**The Youth Innovation Challenge** is the Annual Flagship Programme of Innovate Durban which is held in partnership with local businesses and government sectors.

The objective of the programme is to give the youth of Durban and surrounding areas an opportunity and platform to come up with practical innovative solutions to existing problems; that will be implemented to eradicate issues that hinder growth and development.

Sector; partner  
and challenge  
identification

Applications open to youth  
and road shows highlighting  
the YIC are undertaken

Candidates are shortlisted  
for participation in the YIC

Pre-YIC training is undertaken  
focusing on coding and  
app development

YIC workshops are run, including:  
Industry Exposure • Solution Development  
Design Thinking • Business and pitch  
training • Pitch presentations and judging

Winning teams are celebrated  
by Innovate Durban and partners  
at the awards evening

YIC winners are Integrated  
into the Start-up Support  
programme

# INNOVATOR SUPPORT

Innovator Support is open to any innovators on an ongoing basis and support is determined on needs of the innovator.

## START – UP SUPPORT PROGRAMME

**The Start – Up Programme** is a 12-month accelerated mentorship programme providing business and technical skills in early stage innovation.

### PHASES

1

**Ideation and Solution Development:** Lean canvas development, Design Thinking, Market viability assessments and prototyping support

2

**Establishment:** Financial management training, Intellectual Property and business registration support, business plan development, pitching/investor readiness (public and private) training

3

**Commercialisation:** Pitch events and meetups with funders and Minimum Viable Product development

## INNOVATOR SUPPORT FUND

**The Innovator Support Fund** is a prototype and testing fund developed by Innovate Durban in 2019/20.

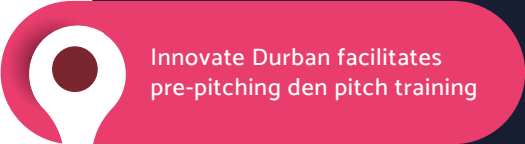
The fund is open to all innovators. Innovate Durban has also worked to develop prototyping partners who offer prototyping services to innovators at a reduced rate, as a way to maximise the benefit of the Innovator Support Fund.



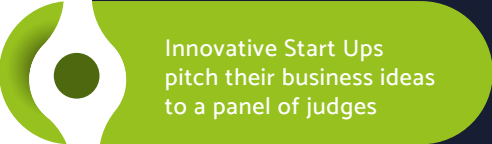
# THE PITCHING DEN

**The Pitching Den** event is hosted annually and allows innovators to market and pitch their business cases to investors and potential partners.

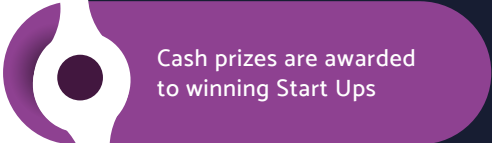
Prior to the event pitch training and guidance is offered to entrants ensuring consistency in the structure and delivery of content so that accurate assessment and merit can be awarded to each Pitch. Winners receive funding to further their idea and develop their business.



Innovate Durban facilitates pre-pitching den pitch training



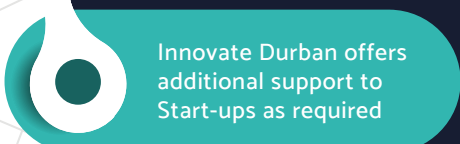
Innovative Start Ups pitch their business ideas to a panel of judges



Cash prizes are awarded to winning Start Ups



Opportunities for further funding and partnerships established through Pitching Den



Innovate Durban offers additional support to Start-ups as required

# CAPACITY BUILDING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



**Innovate Durban** believes in building capacity, skills and expertise in order to respond to our changing environment as well as to be engaged individuals in the Fourth Industrial Revolution and beyond.

The organisation currently runs Design Thinking Workshops and through our Innovation Co-Lab; our programme offerings includes a number of future and digital skills namely; digital literacy, coding, app development as well as robotics and drone training.

Engage with us to find out more about programmes, projects and events. We can customise programmes and capacity building to suit your organisation's needs.



PROGRAMME AREA 2  
CAPACITY BUILDING AND  
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT





# RESEARCH

**Innovate Durban** is passionate about research that is accessible and living and as such is engaged in a number of research projects to; map out the Innovation Ecosystem and bridge the data gap on the state of innovation and resources in KwaZulu Natal.

These projects rely on the support and collaboration of key role players to provide relevant data, key insights as well as funding to ensure the information remains updated and relevant to promote interest, investment and economic growth in KwaZulu Natal.

## FUNDING MAP

In partnership with the Human Scientific and Research Council and local innovators, the Funding Map was developed to map out various funding mechanisms available to support innovators across the country. It identified the gaps and highlighted where funding exists and how innovators can access funding. It also mapped out various funding mechanisms available to support innovators across the country

## ECOSYSTEM MAP

The Ecosystem Map is a research project undertaken in partnership with the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE). It highlights organisations working to support entrepreneurship and innovation in Durban. The research is condensed into a physical report as well as a digital snapshot, mapping where support is available and the type of support available.

## INNOVATION PUBLICATION

The Innovation Publication is an annual publication celebrating innovation in Durban and highlighting various innovation trends. While the publication is made available as a hard copy, Innovation indicators, highlighting various innovation trends are published on the Innovate Durban website. Above and beyond this, profiles of local, successful innovators are published on the Innovators dashboard.



# INNOVATION CO-LAB

## PROGRAMMES

Design Thinking training  
App development training  
Digital skills literacy • Hackathons  
Coding classes • Robotic classes  
Prototype Development support  
Youth Innovation Challenges  
Innovator Support Programme

**During 2019** and early 2020, Innovate Durban established the first township innovation center, known as The Innovation Co-Lab, in Cato Manor. The Innovation Co-Lab is aimed at providing access, for the local community, to innovation-related tools, information, and resources, and is designed to empower people to become more innovative in problem solving, create opportunities for new businesses, create jobs, and tackle social issues in their community.

**Co-Lab programmes, technology and facilities are as follows:**

## TECHNOLOGY

Drones • Robotics • Virtual reality  
Vinyl cutter and large format printer  
Artificial intelligence tools  
Laser cutting machines  
3D printers

## FACILITIES

Digital training studio  
Hot desks • Co-working space • Café

**Prototype development facilities, including:** Spray booth  
Laser cutting facilities  
3D printing facilities  
Assembly room



INNOVATE DURBAN  
PLATFORM

# EVENTS IF DURBAN

Over the years the Innovation Summit – which has now developed into the Innovation Festival Durban – has served as a platform on which innovation in eThekweni can be profiled and celebrated. Innovators can connect and collaborate with corporates, academia, government, and other stakeholders who in turn can profile their own innovation and connect with one another. It is a space where innovation experts can bring new ideas to the city, and where workshops and upskilling sessions can be held.

This festival, which targets up to 300 people, is aimed at being a premier gathering charting the way for the 4th Industrial Revolution. The programme will include keynote speakers, industry experts, panel debates, demonstrations, robotic and gaming workshops, as well as innovation across sectors from grassroots social innovation to ground-breaking firsts.



## INNOVATION PORTAL

**The Innovation Portal** is a digital mechanism for all Innovate Durban outputs. The main objective of the portal is to act as a brochure for the organisation, a knowledge repository for innovation in the city, a place where all innovation stakeholders can connect to each other, and to Innovate Durban.



# OUR OBJECTIVES



## CREATE

**CREATE** momentum for, and drive projects and programs in the city that innovatively tackle social, system and structure issues that hinder growth and perpetuate poverty.

# OUR VISION

Our vision is to be a leading innovation agency that transforms the region into a dynamic and inclusive innovation ecosystem.

## COLLABORATE

**COLLABORATE** with and connect stakeholders from all spheres to work together to 'disrupt' thinking and practice, and create new opportunities for active participation by all in growth and renewal.

# OUR MISSION

Innovate Durban will nurture, coordinate and facilitate an inclusive innovation ecosystem through utilising the 4th industrial revolution for economic growth and job creation, with a focus on industry, spatially excluded or marginalised persons, the public sector and SMMEs.

## CONNECT

**CONNECT** those in need with real opportunity, by providing, inter alia, practical tools and training, access to resources and support for self-improvement, business start-ups and community-building and upliftment.

## CELEBRATE

**CELEBRATE** the city of Durban, promote all that it has done and will do for its citizens, to attract, retain and support the business and investors needed to underpin growth and development.

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Centre, 240 Harry Gwala rd,  
Wiggins, 4091

[www.innovate.durban](http://www.innovate.durban)