

Community workshops and design crits

Overview

On **Tuesdays 2:00 PM ET**, the inclusive design community gathers together to learn and discuss various topics in the form of a workshop or a design critique.

- Workshops provide the inclusive design community an opportunity for engaging with a broader community to spur our creative processes with topics that may align with our projects, be lateral with, or challenge our ideas by providing alternative perspectives. It also provides the opportunity to make connections with the work of those in the broader community.
- Design critique (or more informally a "crit") is an opportunity for us to come together as a small group and examine and discuss a creative artifact - a design wireframe, a persona, a newly-implemented UI or software component, etc. These design crits are informal, constructive, specific, and respectful. It's a forum where anyone from the community can bring their designs and receive feedback. For more information, refer to "Design Crits - Additional Information" below.

Check out the [Meetings page](#) for more reoccurring events.

Check out the [Collaborate page](#) for more ways to get involved!

Note about dates and times: In order to be flexible, occasionally the date and times of the meetings will change. Please note these changes in the Upcoming schedule below.

To join the conversation please join us remotely at [this Zoom web conference room](#).

In-person meetings have been suspended due to closures related to COVID-19.

Creative Commons and Community Conduct

Contributions to community workshops and design crits are done under [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#). This includes audio and video recordings, notes, and artifacts taken during these meetings.

Community workshops and design crits follow the [Fluid and Inclusive Design Community Code of Conduct](#). Attendees of these meetings are expected to understand and respect the guidance in the Code of Conduct.

Upcoming

Topic	Meeting format	Facilitator	Date	Time	Links / Notes	Coordinator
IDRC Website visual design	Design Crit	Uttara, Cheryl	TBD	2 - 3pm ET		Jonathan Hung
Community Meeting: Ontario Digital Service	Workshop	Spencer Daniels	TBD	2 - 3:30pm ET		Philip Tchernavskij

Past

Workshops from previous years can be seen on the [Previous Community Workshop Topics](#) page. Video recordings may not have captions. If you would like to contribute to captioning any of the videos, please reach out to us through the [fluid-work mailing list](#).

Topic	Meeting format	Facilitator	Date	Time	Links / Notes	
IDRC Website Visual Design	Design Crit	Uttara, Cheryl	Oct 20	3 - 4pm ET		Jonathan Hung
Community contributor guide for web projects	Crit	Jon, Ned	September 29, 2020	2 - 3pm ET	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Floeproject.org• Infusion• Pressbooks• Project Governance Options• Open Source Guide	Jonathan Hung
IDRC Website co-design workshop	Workshop	Cheryl & Uttara	Sept. 15, 2020	2 - 3: 30pm ET		Philip Tchernavskij
Community Meeting: Care for the Future (AMC Plenary screening)	Workshop	Cheryl Li	Sept. 1, 2020	2 - 3: 30pm ET	Video recording of the Care for the Future AMC Plenary (Youtube)	Philip Tchernavskij

IDRC Website	Crit	Cheryl Li	Aug. 18, 2020	2 - 3: 30pm ET		Jonathan Hung
GSoC 2020: Controller Input Project	Crit	Tony Atkins	Aug. 11, 2020	10 - 11am ET	Presentation slides (Google Slides) Zoom video recording Zoom chat transcript Video demo of plugin (Youtube) Github repo	
Accessible Survey tools	Workshop	David, Gloria	Aug. 4, 2020	2 - 3: 30pm ET	Agenda and notes (Google Doc)	
Fable Introduction	Workshop	Abid	Tuesday May 26 (2 - 3pm ET)		Video Recording	
DEEP 2020 - brainstorming	Workshop	Gloria, Vera	May 19		Transcript Google Doc Slides	
Problems Machine Learning can Solve	Workshop	Ted	April 1		Video Recording Slides Google Doc	
MyL3	Workshop	Sepideh, Dana, and Philip	March 25		Video Recording Google Doc (Floe) Preference Exploration and Self-Assessment (MyL3)	
Designing and Programming with Multiplicity	Workshop	Philip Tchernavskij	March 18		Meeting Notes	
Skills Development: Remote collaboration strategies	Workshop	Justin	March 11		Notes (Google Doc)	
Assessment Process	Workshop	Lorna Lo	February 26		Video	
Skills Development: Accessible web design, implementation, and validation tools and techniques	Workshop	Jon Hung	February 19		Video Audio Notes (Google doc)	
Making OCAD You - Passport	Workshop	IDRC	February 12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local only Special time (2 - 3pm) 	
Discussion about Irisbond	Workshop	Eduardo Jauregui	February 5		Irisbond	
Kindle Accessibility	Workshop	JoAnna Hunt	January 28		Special date and time (10am ET)	
Machine Learning: What it can and can't do	Workshop	Ted Thompson	January 22		Meeting Notes Slides Video Recording	
Google Summer of Code 2020 planning & brainstorming	Workshop		January 8		Google Summer of Code 2020 with the Fluid Project	

Suggested Future topics

Topic	Facilitator
Agile development: planning	Michelle
Teacher to talk about education plans (EP)	Guest?
Students with learning disabilities to talk about their experiences	Guest?
People working with students on mindfulness and mental health	Guest?

Talk to people who teach children to program	Lighthouse Labs?
Someone from able gamers to talk about how people with various disabilities interact with games	Guest?
People working with young adults with autism	Guest?
Rose? How people engage in social connections and relationships	Guest?
Empathy Toy	
Engage with OCAD students to talk about their projects and/or areas of study. (MDes and others)	Guest?
Music Therapy	Theresa
Someone who has developed software for older adults	Guest?
Someone who works with brain sensing tech	Muse?
Someone to talk about entrepreneurship and marketing (how to reach people to use our software and services e.g. P4A, Outside-in, hack-a-thons, etc.)	Guest?
Latest A11y models and principles to follow, and language to use (e.g. things that the MDes students are taught)	Jutta?
Accessibility in the Toronto Public Library	Guest?
Case Studies of User Creativity in Computing (Monthly) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minecraft (led by: Michelle and other) • Sound Shapes (Shaw Han???) • IFTT (Jon) • etc 	
Skills Development workshops (Monthly?) Below are some examples of topics that could be covered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refreshers (e.g. using ARIA) • best practices • using new features (e.g. new CSS, HTML, JS) • new frameworks • new tools • design techniques • etc. 	

Offsite Visit: Location	Topic	Contact
Mozilla		Yura Zenevich
STEAMLabs		
Underground Hack Lab?		
Bloorview Research Institute		
IDI Partners (e.g. UofT, Ryerson, etc)		
KidsLearningCode/GirlsLearningCode	Teaching children to program	

Challenges / Hack Session / Workshop	Facilitator

Design Crits - Additional Information

A critique (or more informally a "crit") is an opportunity for us to come together as a small group and examine and discuss a creative artifact - a design wireframe, a persona, a newly-implemented UI or software component, etc.

These design crits are informal, constructive, specific, and respectful. It's a forum where anyone from the community can bring their designs and receive feedback.

The idea is to focus on tangibles, not on abstract plans:

- What have we designed or built?
- why is it like this, what are its strengths, and how can we make it better?

Since these meetings are participant driven, there will be occasions when the crit will not meet. Meetings will be announced in the schedule above, and to the relevant mailing lists (i.e. inclusive design community list, and fluid-work).

Why do Critiques?

Techniques like UX Walkthroughs, [Inclusive Design Mapping Tool \("Petals & Flowers"\)](#), or User States and Contexts will help us concretely assess and discuss an artifact from different perspectives. It's based on the idea that creative work gets stronger when it is discussed amongst peers and diverse ideas are considered.

Crits help us to:

- amplify the strengths of a design
- suggest alternative trajectories
- reflect on our work through the lenses of different users
- identify areas of confusion
- focus on tangible artifacts, not just abstract ideas or goals

Design crits are intentionally informal and casual

We try to keep design crits very informal and casual on purpose. This makes it easier for participants to share designs (requiring less time preparing formal presentations), and opens up more time for organic conversations. A formal presentation of your project or design is not required, and we encourage a more conversational approach.

Presenting at Design Crits

Design crits are a great opportunity to discuss designs, refine ideas, ask questions, and get feedback. To get the most out of a design crit:

- Come prepared with specific design issues to share - this will help focus the discussion on the topics that will help you.
- Try not cover too much or expect to have every question addressed.
- Design crits are intended to be 1 hour in length to help keep the discussion productive and specific.
- If needed, another design crit can be scheduled to continue the discussion, or you can take advantage of the [Inclusive Design Community mailing list](#) to reach a broader audience.