Grigri Pixel 2019
Call for citizens' initiatives from the continent of Africa

We hereby open this call for citizens' initiatives of creative experimentation of African origin, to participate in the international workshop which will be held in Medialab Prado from 14 to 27 October 2019, within the framework of the fourth edition of the Grigri Pixel programme.

You can send your proposal in up to 30 June 2019.

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1. WHAT IS GRIGRI PIXEL?

Grigri Pixel is a programme that is promoted by Grigri Cultural Projects with the support of Medialab Prado and **ACERCA Programme of Spanish Cooperation** whose purpose is to explore the practices of cultural cooperation and citizenship between Africa and Europe through the manufacture of grigris or magic objects intended to re-enchant urban spaces through artistic and digital production practices of a collaborative and experimental nature, from both continents. We understand magic to be practices that are yet to be built, collective processes that are difficult to measure and quantify, learning that arises on the boundary of the unexpected and is able to change us by changing our most immediate environment.

This programme proposes spaces of collective creation in response to the need for other stories and other modes of intervening in the city from the experience of invited and often overlooked initiatives from the continent of Africa, just 14.4 km from our own continent.

The aim of Grigri Pixel is to connect and link these experiences of creating cities, between Europe and Africa in order to raise common questions capable of visualizing synergies, points of encounter or differences in the practices and processes of re-enchantment for living together within the city.

In this way, this initiative seeks to build alliances with spaces, projects and local communities in the cities taking part, with which it cooperates in the collective construction of *grigris*, protective objects that materialize and symbolize the creative potential of the group in the city in the face of processes that are homogenising and commodifying their common spaces.

Grigri Pixel seeks to weave a network of contemporary and transformative urban initiatives and practices that facilitate the exchange and learning of different knowledge and strategies in the creation of common urban spaces for a diverse and multicultural citizenship.

2. GRIGRI PIXEL MADRID 2019

We launch this call for public initiatives from the continent of Africa, to **participate in the international workshop** that is to take place from 14 to 27 October in Madrid, within the framework of the **fourth edition of Grigri Pixel** which will address the theme of **hospitality**.

Grigri Pixel first began in February/March 2016, in Medialab Prado, and that first edition had a sequel that same year in Dakar during the Afropixel festival. In October 2017, the second edition of Grigri Pixel was held in Medialab Prado (Madrid), in collaboration with the Neighbourhood Space of Arganzuela. The initiative was also invited to Barcelona in 2017, where work took place in collusion with HANGAR and the Taula Eix Pere IV - both entities are located in the neighbourhood of Poblenou. The third edition of Grigri Pixel, which took place from **14 to 27 October 2018** in Medialab Prado, focused on the **Right to the City**, designing, building and activating objects and actions that formed part of a festive intervention, somewhat akin to a pilgrimage, on the Paseo del Prado.

The fourth edition of Grigri Pixel will take place in 2019 with a programme that revolves around the theme of hospitality and has two main objectives: on the one hand, to reflect on the power that arises in a territory when it is capable of opening itself up, **facilitating encounters and giving rise to that which is apparently different,** foreign and strange; and on the other hand, to highlight how these processes are able **to mutually enrich the people who participate in them, broadening their horizons and common imaginaries**.

Through a **multiple collaboration at local level between Medialab Prado, SERCADE (The Reception Centre for Migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa) and the Neighbourhood Association of the Barrio de Las Letras (Literary Quarter),** we propose a programme of activities that will be carried out together with anyone who wants to take part either occasionally or continuously, designed to **bring together knowledge and experiences with the aim of elaborating and sharing narratives, imaginaries and points of view on the idea of "we"** in the city of Madrid.

The programme will include a first phase that will take place between May and June 2019. **Three sessions and a colloquy will be held between Marina Garcés and Felwine Sarr,** between Medialab Prado and SERCADE in Madrid and, also, **a collaborative design and production workshop will be held in Niamey (Niger)** with the support of the Spanish Embassy.

The aim of these preliminary activities is to outline a framework for reflection and common action that will serve as the basis for the **intensive two-week workshop that will take place during the month of October in Medialab Prado.** This workshop will welcome representatives of initiatives of African origin, selected through this call, and local and international participants, for the **collective design and construction of a grigri that convenes and celebrates an open, plural and diverse idea of "we", as "neighbours" who live in the same territory, through its staging and activation in a public space in the Barrio de las Letras (Literary Quarter)**.

This programme is curated by **Susana Moliner**, a cultural promoter from Madrid who has worked for years with artists and communities in different countries in West Africa, together

with **David Pérez**, an architect who specialises in collective design processes; **Blanca Callén,** an independent researcher; and **Yago Torroja,** an electronic engineer and professor at the Polytechnic University of Madrid.

GRIGRI PIXEL MADRID 2019 will be developed through the following phases:

Phase 1: Call for African initiatives: 25 May to 30 June 2019.

The call is open to **anyone who is participating in public, cultural and artistic initiatives on the African continent**. This initiative, group or space should be related to **transformative, collaborative and artistic practices, particularly aimed at implementing programmes and actions to activate hospitality in the city and in its common urban spaces**.

These practices may have to do with intervention and action in urban spaces, the establishment of forms and methodologies of collaborative organization, the development of artistic, cultural, design or digital manufacturing practices that reflect on collective creation, or work on recovering or updating artisan crafts.

Only one person may apply per group or space, by filling this form you will find **in this link. https://www.medialab-prado.es/convocatorias/grigri-pixel-2019-convocatoria-dirigida-iniciativas-ciudadanas-del-continente**

In total, a maximum of five people will be selected.

The organization will look after the travel of those selected from their place of origin to Madrid, as well as their accommodation and living expenses for the duration of the workshop that will be held in Medialab Prado from 15 to 28 October 2019. Each person will receive a fee of 500 euros for their participation in the workshop.

Phase 2: Call for local collaborators: from 4 to 23 September 2019.

Once the African initiatives have been selected, the resolution of the call will be published in the Medialab Prado and Grigri Pixel websites and the call for local collaborators will be opened.

Phase 3: Design, production and activation workshop: from 14 to 27 October 2019.

The workshop will last for two weeks. The working sessions will be held at Medialab Prado from 4 to 8pm. In the mornings, the Medialab Prado space will be available for those participants who want to work there. Throughout the workshop, several visits and parallel activities will be scheduled.

Prior to the workshop, the Grigri Pixel mediation and coordination team will work in a collaborative and remote way with the four people selected, to design and define the sessions and activities that will make up the workshop.

3. WHAT TYPE OF INITIATIVES CAN APPLY?

The call goes out to **organisations or groups that have a proven track record in the field of collaborative and free culture and in the promotion and generation of citizen collaboration and innovation networks in their local environment.**

Initiatives applying for the call must fill in the form below and attach a document (maximum 1200 words) providing a concrete proposal that will serve as a starting point from which to design the workshop, in dialogue with the team of mentors and the other African initiatives that have been selected. This document must include the following information:

- What practices and experiences facilitate hospitality and welcome in your city?
- In what way, from the initiative to which you belong, are you trying to create spaces for "neighbourhood" meetings and relationships between people of different origins?
- What local learning and experiences, in your city, do you think might be applicable and could contribute to making Madrid a more hospitable city?
- If you had to propose an action and/or object to materialize any of these concepts (hospitality, the idea of "us", the common identity of "neighbours"...) Which one or ones would you choose? If you need to incorporate an image, attach it to the attached file box.

4. HOW ARE THE INITIATIVES GOING TO BE SELECTED?

Selection Committee

The selection committee consists of the Grigri Pixel team and a representative from Medialab Prado.

Assessment of the initiatives

The initiatives will be selected on the basis of the characteristics of the initiative in which the person presenting his or her candidacy is collaborating, and the actual proposal presented. In this way, the committee will assess:

With regard to the initiative:
- Specific objectives with a focus on social change.
- Benefits generated in the communities involved.
- Relationship with the needs of the territory.

With regard to the proposal submitted:
- Originality and degree of innovation of the proposal.
- Consistency between the proposal and the theme of this edition (hospitality).
- Optimization of resources, recycling or recirculation of materials and zero waste.
- Use or development of open source tools and licenses that provide free access to the processes and results.
- Recovery of collective memory and traditional knowledge.

Another criterion that the Committee will take into account, will be that of geographical diversity and the heterogeneous nature of the means and fields of work in the selection of the initiatives as a whole.

Date and place of publication of the selection of ideas: 5 June 2019 on the Medialab Prado website.

5. HOW WILL THE DESIGN AND PRODUCTION WORKSHOP BE RUN?

The design and production workshop will take place **between 14 and 27 October 2019** and will be hosted by Medialab Prado.

Teamwork will be encouraged during the workshop: the active and proactive participation of all those involved will be sought from the early stages of conception and design to the manufacture and activation of the grigris. To this end, the Grigri Pixel team will propose different **organizational dynamics to facilitate a collective involvement.**

No specific technical knowledge is required to participate in the workshop. The workshop will be organized in an inclusive way to incorporate the various skills of the participants.

In addition to the production workshop, a **programme of parallel activities** will be unfurled during these two weeks, featuring lectures, presentations, seminars or micro-workshops open to the general public, that serve to complement, strengthen, expand and disseminate the project.

The workshop will be held in both English and French and/or Spanish.

6. WHAT COMMITMENTS MUST THE PARTICIPANTS MAKE?

The participants undertake to:

- Participate in telematic meetings in order to collaborate with the mediation and coordination team in defining and designing the workshop.
- Attend and take active part in the workshop during the two weeks, and in the related activities.
- Take care of the materials, the space and the atmosphere during the development of the workshop, facilitating collaborative work dynamics.
- Participate in public presentations and the sharing of the developed work, both during the course of the workshop and on the final day of celebration.

The Grigri Pixel organisation shall place a digital platform at the disposal of the working groups, as an open repository in which to store the projects, the documentation and the resulting prototypes, in order to encourage the creation of networks and promote a shared space that ensures their dissemination and allows their replicability.

7. AUTHORSHIP AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The participants in the call whose projects (texts, photos, or videos) are selected must license the works under a license that allows Medialab Prado to publish them in any physical or digital format with the maximum legally permitted territorial and temporal scope, allowing them to be transformed to facilitate the dissemination or distribution of the works.

Once the works have been selected and within the course of the activity, the author is required to allow any other participants in the convened activity to use their work as a basis for other derivative works.

8. CONTACT

For any general doubts or queries, please write to: grigripixel@gmail.com

More information on the Grigri Pixel website
https://www.medialab-prado.es/programas/grigri-pixel-madrid-2019