



STUDIO Y COHORT ONE

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

DEVELOPING TALENT • GROWING VENTURES • OPENING MARKETS



JAMES ARRON

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PROJECT: THE DUPONT

AT STUDIO Y, JAMES ARRON ESTABLISHED TWO SHARED LIVING HOMES, SEEKING TO CREATE LIVING LABORATORIES, SOLVING FOR THE CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH URBAN DENSITY, ISOLATION AND HIGH HOUSING COSTS. COLLECTIVELY, THE PROJECT HAS HOUSED 14 PEOPLE, HOSTED DOZENS MORE GUESTS, HOSTED A VARIETY OF COMMUNITY EVENTS AND HELPED INCUBATE AN EMERGING CITY-WIDE COLIVING NETWORK.



ABID VIRANI

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LEARNING: SYSTEMS

“I LEARNED HOW SYSTEMS WORK BY WATCHING STUDIO Y EVOLVE. I LEARNED PROTOTYPING BY WATCHING HOW QUICKLY THE PROGRAM WAS CHANGING. I LEARNED INNOVATION BY SEEING THE WAY FEEDBACK RESULTED IN IMMEDIATE ACTION. I WILL TAKE THESE LEARNINGS WITH ME IN ALL OF THE PROJECTS I PURSUE,” – ABID VIRANI



SCOTT BAKER



PROJECT: STUDENT NUTRITION

AT STUDIO Y, SCOTT BAKER AND ROSS CURTNER WORKED IN TANDEM WITH THE MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES ON THE STUDENT NUTRITION PROJECT. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH OVER 40 STAKEHOLDERS AND SYSTEMS ACTORS FROM A VARIETY OF SECTORS, THE STUDIO Y DUO PRESENTED THE MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNLOCKING SYSTEMS INNOVATIONS WITHIN THE PROVINCE-WIDE STUDENT NUTRITION PROGRAM.



KAY DYSON TAM

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PROJECT: CLEAN COOK STOVES

AT STUDIO Y, KAY DYSON TAM WAS A RESEARCHER ON THE CLEAN COOK STOVE PROJECT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO'S GLOBAL INNOVATION GROUP. THE PROJECT TOOK THE TEAM TO SOUTH EAST INDIA WHERE THEY INVESTIGATED MARKETING, DISTRIBUTION AND ADOPTION MODELS OF CLEAN COOK STOVES TO THE WORLD'S MOST IMPOVERISHED.



JORDAN BOWDEN

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PROJECT: TACTILE MAPS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

DURING STUDIO Y, JORDAN BOWDEN DEVELOPED AFFORDABLE METHODS FOR PRODUCTION OF TACTILE MAPS. USING HIS EXPERIENCE WITH 3D PRINTING, LASER-CUTTING, AND DESIGN, JORDAN BEGAN PRODUCING TACTILE MAPS THAT FACILITATE WAYFINDING THROUGH BUILDINGS FOR PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS.



IDIL BURALE

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LEARNING: CHANGE STARTS WITH THE SELF

AT STUDIO Y, I LEARNED THAT CHANGE STARTS WITH SELF. WHEN WE CHANGE THE WAY WE SEE/ INTERACT WITH THE WORLD, ONLY THEN WILL THE WORLD CHANGE. GIVEN THAT WE CREATE THE WORLD WITH OUR THOUGHTS, THE SYSTEMS IN WHICH WE SEEK TO CHANGE OUTSIDE OF OURSELVES, HAVE THEIR ROOTS IN THE PERSONAL. THEREFORE, CHANGING THE WORLD IS A COLLECTIVE EXERCISE OF CONSISTENTLY CHANGING THE MICRO-SYSTEMIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH SELF/OTHER/INSTITUTION.” - IDIL BURALE



LAURA SUEN

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LEARNING: PASSION FOR EDUCATION

“STUDIO Y GAVE ME TIME TO REFLECT ON WHO I AM, WHERE I COME FROM, WHAT I'M PASSIONATE ABOUT, AND WHERE I WANT TO BE. THROUGH DOING SCIENCE TALKS AT LOCAL SCHOOLS, WRITING SCIENCE BLOGS AND BRINGING THE COHORT ON A TOUR OF SNOLAB IN SUDBUDY, I REDISCOVERED WHY I STUDIED SCIENCE IN THE FIRST PLACE: I LOVE LEARNING AND TEACHING. THIS CULMINATED IN FINALLY REALIZING MY DREAM OF BECOMING OF SCIENCE JOURNALIST WHEN I JOINED THE IFLSCIENCE TEAM, THE LARGEST SCIENCE SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS SITE.” - LAURA SUEN



ALEX SPROULE



LEARNING: PERSPECTIVE

“AT STUDIO Y, I DEEPENED MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND OPERATIONS THAT MAKE UP OUR SOCIETY’S KEY SYSTEMS. I HAVE LEFT WITH A MUCH STRONGER SENSE OF HOW I CAN APPLY MY SKILLS AND INTERESTS TO OUR WORLD’S PROBLEMS, WHICH IS AN EMPOWERING FEELING. I AM ENDLESSLY GRATEFUL FOR THE THIRTY-ONE OTHER PEOPLE WITH WHOM I SHARED THE FIRST RUN OF THIS PROGRAM – THEY ARE AMAZING.” - ALEX SPROULE



ASAD CHISHTI

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PROJECT: CHAIRS AND TABLES

AT STUDIO Y, ASAD CHISHTI AND HIS CO-FOUNDER, JONATHAN REED LAUNCHED CHAIRS AND TABLES, A PLATFORM DEDICATED TO SHOWCASING THE STORIES ASSOCIATED WITH COMPLEX THEMES SUCH AS HAPPINESS AND HOME. DURING STUDIO Y, CHISHTI WROTE 17,494 WORDS, VISITED 13 CITIES, RECORDED 131 MOMENTS (THROUGH PHOTOS) AND BEGAN A PODCAST.



BRIANNA SMRKE



PROJECT: OPEN FUTURES

AT STUDIO Y, BRIANNA SMRKE LED A TEAM OF STUDIO Y FELLOWS IN AN IDEATION PROCESS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF CANADA. UPON FURTHER COLLABORATION, THE TEAM COMPILED THEIR INSIGHTS INTO A VISION OF AN "OPEN SOURCE FUTURE."



ROSS CURTNER

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PROJECT: ADJACENT POSSIBILITIES

DURING STUDIO Y, ROSS CURTNER AND SCOTT BAKER LAUNCHED ADJACENT POSSIBILITIES, AN INITIATIVE THAT BRINGS TOGETHER DIVERSE SECTORS TO CREATIVELY SHOWCASE SOLUTIONS TO COMPLEX PROBLEMS. IN THEIR FIRST ITERATION IN *ART+ENERGY* THE DUO CONNECTED ARTISTS WITH CLEANTECH ENTREPRENEURS AND CURATED AN EXHIBITION ON THE HUMAN CAPACITY TO ADDRESS CLIMATE DISRUPTION. ADJACENT POSSIBILITIES IS CURRENTLY DEVELOPING FUTURE PROJECTS ON WATER, BUILDINGS AND CITIES.



KELSEY RIDEOUT



PROJECT: POETRY

AT STUDIO Y, KELSEY RIDEOUT AND ANIQUE JORDAN HAD THEIR POETRY PUBLISHED IN OCHUN, AN ANTHOLOGY OF POETRY BY SORPLUSI INSTITUTE BOOKS. IN ADDITION TO PUBLISHING THEIR WORK, THE TWO PERFORMED COUNTLESS TIMES FOR LIVE AUDIENCES ACROSS ONTARIO.



ANIQUE JORDAN

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PROJECT: ASHOKA EMERGING INNOVATOR AWARD

AT STUDIO Y, ANIQUE JORDAN AND JAMES AARON WERE TWO OF A GROUP OF 45 INNOVATORS RECOGNIZED AS FUTURE LEADERS OF SOCIAL CHANGE ACROSS NORTH AMERICA. THE INNOVATORS, REPRESENTING ORGANIZATIONS FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, AND MEXICO, ATTENDED THE 2014 AMERICAN EXPRESS EMERGING INNOVATORS LEADERSHIP BOOT CAMP IN TORONTO, ON.



SHANE DABOR



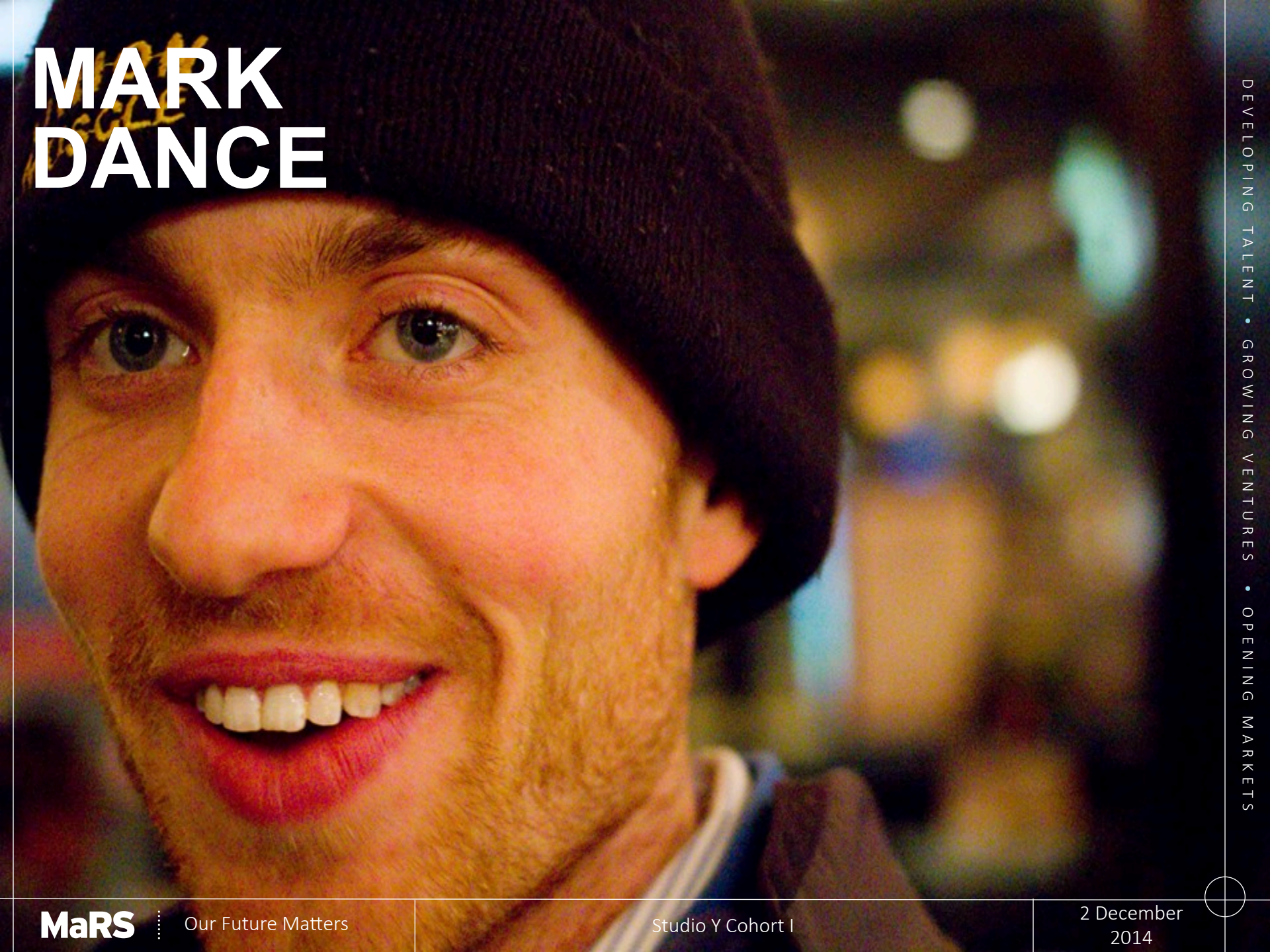
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PROJECT: GLOBAL EDUCATION PLATFORM

DURING HIS TIME AT STUDIO Y, SHANE DABOR WORKED AS PART OF A SMALL TEAM PROFILING BASE OF THE PYRAMID EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE UN SPECIAL ENVOY FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION. THIS INITIATIVE WAS PART OF THE TECHNOLOGY AND DELIVERY WORKING GROUP FOR THE PROJECT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF TORONTO-BASED, *PURPOSE CAPITAL*.





MARK DANCE

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PROJECT: JOURNALISM

AT STUDIO Y, MARK DANCE WROTE TWELVE PIECES PUBLISHED ON A VARIETY OF CANADA'S NATIONAL NEWS SITES. PIECES INCLUDED, "WHAT WOULD SIR JOHN A. SAY?" PUBLISHED IN MACLEAN'S, "AMONG THE MIGRANT WORKERS IN CANADA," PUBLISHED IN THE NATIONAL POST, AND "THIS IS WHAT NON-PARTISAN LOOKS LIKE," IN THE OTTAWA CITIZEN.



ANDREW PAWLUCH



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LEARNING: REFORMED PERSPECTIVE

“WITHOUT STUDIO [Y], MY TRAJECTORY WOULD HAVE STAGNATED AND MY AMBITIONS WOULD HAVE PREMATURELY OSSIFIED. I HAVE REALIZED A NEW, UNFORESEEN PARADIGM BY WHICH I CAN-- AND WILL-- ACHIEVE MY LONGSTANDING, UNDERLYING GOALS. STUDIO [Y] DOES NOT SIMPLY EDUCATE OR EQUIP SKILLS; IT REFORMS PERSPECTIVE.” – ANDREW PAWLUCH



ERIN EDGHILL



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LEARNING: LGBTQ SYSTEMS

“I SPENT MY TIME AT STUDIO Y IMMERSING MYSELF IN THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY IN TORONTO IN ORDER TO GAIN A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR SOCIAL SYSTEMS. STUDIO [Y] PROVIDED ME WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GROW AS A PERSON AND ALSO A PROFESSIONAL WITH WORKSHOPS RANGING FROM CREATIVE FACILITATION, TO SYSTEMS THINKING. THE SUPPORT OF THE PROGRAM I BECAME INVOLVED WITH *CULTURAL HOTSPOTS*' “FROM: SCARBOROUGH, WITH: LOVE”, AND “WE ARE LAWRENCE AVENUE EAST,” – ERIN EDGHILL



DAKOTA COLT- MESHAKÉ



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LEARNING: PUSHING LIMITS

“AT STUDIO Y, I LEARNED WHAT MY LIMITS WERE AND HOW TO PUSH PAST THEM. STUDIO Y GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRANCH OUT AND HELP DISCOVER MORE ABOUT MYSELF. IT GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AMAZING PEOPLE WHO I’M NOW LUCKY ENOUGH TO NOW CALL MY FRIENDS. LASTLY, STUDIO Y HELPED ME DISCOVER WHERE I’D LIKE TO GO WITH MY CAREER AND PROJECTS IN THE NEAT FUTURE,” – DAKOTA MESHAKÉ



EMILY FINNIE



PROJECT: SOCIAL INNOVATION RESEARCH

AT STUDIO Y, EMILY FINNIE WORKED WITH MATCH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FUND TO PREPARE A STRATEGY TO MONITOR AND EVALUATE WOMEN AND SOCIAL INNOVATION PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD – THE FIRST OF IT'S KIND IN CANADA. THROUGH THIS PROJECT, EMILY ALSO SUPPORTED THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AROUND WOMEN AND SOCIAL INNOVATION WITH MATCH'S COMMUNICATIONS TEAM.



MARTINA MARSIC

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LEARNING: SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

“STUDIO Y GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO TEST AN INNOVATIVE BUSINESS SOLUTION TO THE CHALLENGE OF SOURCING LOCAL AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD FOR FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS. STUDIO Y GUIDED ME IN USER RESEARCH, REFINING MY LEAN BUSINESS MODEL, RECRUITING TALENT TO MY TEAM AND ULTIMATELY RAISING CAPITAL TO BUILD A SIMPLE PROTOTYPE. WITH THIS EXPERIENCE IN TOW I JOINED GOOD EGGS, AN ORGANIZATION FOCUSED ON FOOD SYSTEM INNOVATION, AS AN OPERATIONS STRATEGY PROJECT MANAGER IN SAN FRANCISCO.”
– MARTINA MARSIC



FADUMA GURE



LEARNING: COMMUNITY IMPACT

“WITHOUT STUDIO Y I WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO GIVE BACK TO MY COMMUNITY AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE MY BEST SELF. DURING THE FELLOWSHIP I LEARNED TO BALANCE HUMILITY AND CONFIDENCE: THE COMBINATION NECESSARY TO INNOVATE AND BUILD THE FUTURE WITH AND FOR MY COMMUNITIES. WHEN YOU SPEND 8 MONTHS AT STUDIO Y YOU CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT LEARNING THAT THE WAY TO CREATE POSITIVE SOCIAL IMPACT IS TO THINK BIG AND ACT SMALL.” - FADUMA GURE



MELISSA KARGIANNAKIS



LEARNING: LIMITING FACTORS

“STUDIO Y TAUGHT ME A GREAT DEAL. MOST OF ALL, IT TAUGHT A LOT ABOUT MYSELF. I LEARNED JUST HOW SEVERE MY INABILITY TO APPROPRIATELY NAVIGATE VARYING PROFESSIONAL SITUATIONS WITH SOCIAL AGILITY IS. I LEARNED THAT COMMUNITY MATTERS TO ME AND MY DESIRE TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS CAN OVERRIDE MY GOALS FOR SUCCESS AND PERSONAL PROFESSIONAL PURSUITS. PERHAPS MOST POIGNANTLY STUDIO Y TAUGHT ME ABOUT EXCUSES AND BEING MY OWN LIMITING REAGENT.” - MELISSA KARGIANNAKIS



OREL RUIZ



PROJECT: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

DURING STUDIO Y, OREL RUIZ WAS SELECTED AS ONE OF THREE CANADIAN DELEGATES TO ATTEND THE UNITERRA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP SEMINAR IN LIMA, PERU. DURING AND FOLLOWING THE SEMINAR, OREL WILL COLLABORATE WITH OTHER YOUNG INNOVATORS FROM FOUR COUNTRIES TO PROPOSE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN GLOBAL SOUTH.



AARON HOHN



LEARNING: ROLE

“WITHOUT STUDIO Y, I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE TIME AND SPACE TO EXPLORE AREAS AND IDEAS THAT I FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT AND CONNECT WITH PEOPLE WITHIN THOSE AREAS. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO TAKE A STEP BACK FROM THEIR LIVES AND CAREERS TO ASSESS WHAT THEY'RE CREATING PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY AND DECIDE IF THAT'S THE IMPACT THEY WANT TO HAVE IN THE WORLD. STUDIO Y GAVE ME THAT OPPORTUNITY TO TURN A CRITICAL LENS ON MYSELF AND THE SYSTEMS AROUND ME AND BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT WHAT MY ROLE IS WITHIN IT.” – AARON HOHN



OMER ADAN- ISMAEL



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LEARNING: NOT ASKING PERMISSION

“WITHOUT STUDIO Y, I WOULD STILL BE PAINSTAKINGLY SEEKING PERMISSION, RATHER THAN TAKING RISKS AND WELCOMING THE UNKNOWNNS OF EXPERIMENTATION. AT STUDIO Y, I RECOGNIZED THAT THE EARLY ITERATIONS OF DESIGN ARE MORE FOR LEARNING THAN PROJECT DELIVERY. AT STUDIO Y, I LEARNED THE SKILLS AND HAD THE CONFIDENCE TO START THE PROJECTS THAT I WAS SILENTLY PASSIONATE ABOUT.” – OMER ADAN-ISMAEL

