Press Release

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE HACKATHON

01-02 October 2022

Sponsored by :

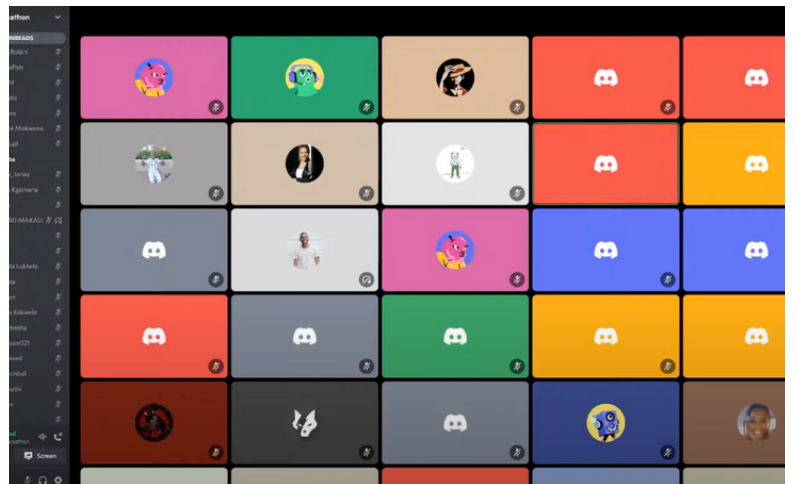**HERITAGE HACKATHON WINNING TEAM: CRAZY CODE ERRS**

Empire Partner Foundation

- EPF and their partner SALGA (South African Local Government Association) joined hands in hosting a Heritage Hackathon. This is after hosting a successful Youth Month Hackathon (also in partnership with SALGA) in June 2021 to tackle youth unemployment in South Africa.

- Through the support from SALGA, the Heritage Hackathon was hosted Virtually through the Discord platform

- **Hackathon challenge focus:**

How can we use technology to improve the contribution of Arts and Culture to create sustainable jobs, improve incomes and open new market opportunity to enable potential arts and culture participants to engage the local municipalities in growing this sector of the economy?
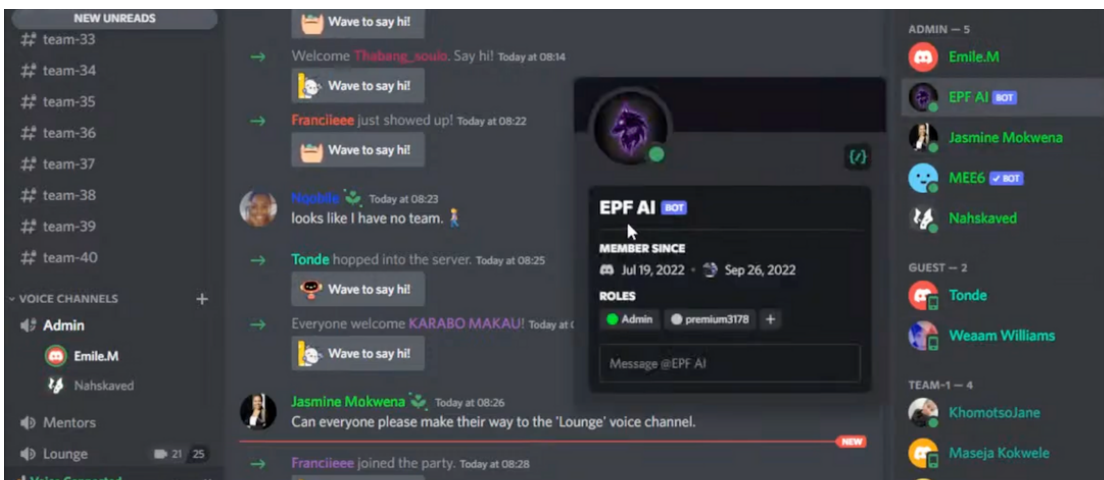
- Over 164 young digital innovators from across South Africa in various STEM and business fields applied to develop tech solutions to solve the challenge.

- The winning team for this Hackathon wasCrazy Code Errs. They will have an opportunity to join the EPF Incubation Hub where they will receive support to become tech-preneurs. The top 3 teams won a shared prize of R30 000.
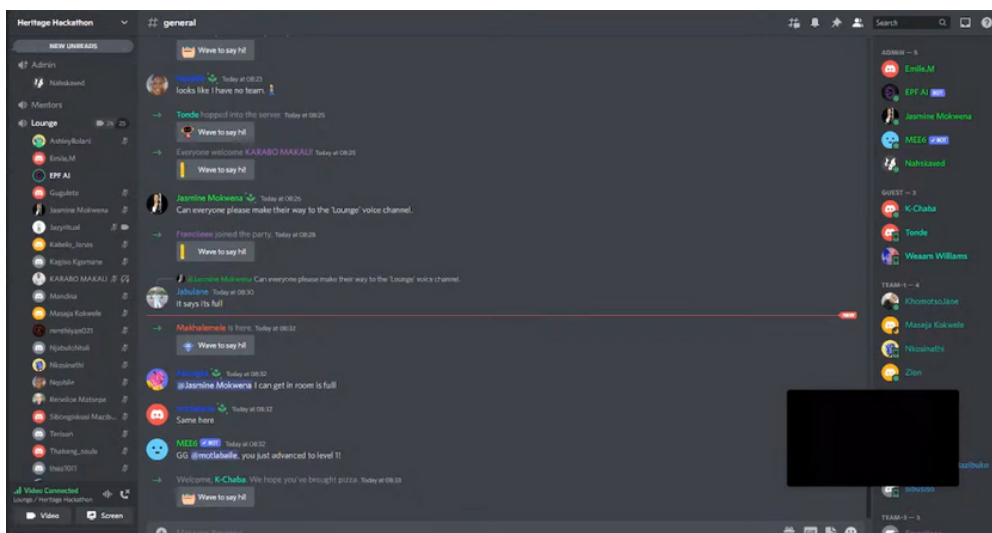
FAST FACTS

- 24 HOSTED HACKATHONS
- 2 UPCOMING HACKATHONS IN 2022
- 2500+ TOTAL DIGITAL INNOVATORS
- ITWEB NEWS COVERAGE
- 252+ SOLUTIONS DEVELOPED
- 20+ NEW PARTNERSHIPS SECURED
- 56 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
- 50 INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES CREATED
- 20+ BURSARIES PROVIDED
- 24 WINNING TEAMS WITHIN OUR INCUBATION HUB
- OVER 5 MILLION RAND IN CASH PRIZES AWARDED

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- Their solution was to create a platform for artists, musicians, creatives just to name a few for them not only to express themselves but actually share their craft too. This would encourage participation in the ecosystem platform thus having various activities and rewards.

- Their Team Leader, Karabo Maloka, comments : The hackathon was amazing. I got to work with people I had never met or seen before which was an experience on its own. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to be part of the hackathon, not to mention my phenomenal fellow team members. Moving forward, with the opportunity for the Techno hub, the mentorship itself would provide a stepping stone to creating greatness. The expectations I have, would be to be able to network and exceptional guidance (mentorship) when it comes to working on our solution.

2022/10/02

- Congratulations to South African teams 'discomfort 101 ' and 'Unitech' who placed 2nd and 3rd respectively.

- Mikhial Mariemuthu, EPF's Manager had this to say: Working with SALGA in hosting this virtual hackathon is always an exciting. Their expertise and guidance in assisting EPF in empowering the youth to build innovative solutions that will empower artists, musicians and other creatives within the space.

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EMPIRE PARTNER FOUNDATION
THE HUB OF TECH AND CREATIVE ARTS

Special thanks to:

- EPF Tech Fund for sponsoring the Hackathon.
- ITWeb, Tech Financials, for covering our Hackathon story.
- EPF's university partners that assist in inviting students to register to participate: WeThinkCode. Hyperion Dev. Durban University of Technology (DUT). University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal (UKZN). Jobox and their university partners.
- Our partners at Polygon for their assistance in mentoring the participants in web3 development
- Kutlwano Chaba and to the rest of the SALGA team for their ongoing support.

PROUD SUPPORTERS