

Introducing the Future Economy Lab

A New Approach To Building Economies

The Future Economy Lab is a global research and design lab focused on innovating how we create financial mechanisms and strategies that support the growth of inclusive and resilient economies. It does this through a participatory process by engaging diverse local stakeholders, including investors, governments, entrepreneurs and community members in collaborative research and design. Today, the economies that form the backbone of our communities are too often burdened by biases and policies that unequally benefit some groups while excluding others. Foundational to the work of Future Economy Lab is the belief that economies can generate more than financial returns for a select few. Economies of the future will protect and preserve the planet, benefit people from all cultures and communities, and incentivize innovation to create economies that are more resilient and sustainable.

The Process



Building Future Economies

Ultimately the impact of this work

- Transitions economies **away from over-valuing short-term financial returns** in lieu of social and environmental returns
- Develops financial mechanisms that create opportunities for members of **marginalized communities to grow businesses.**
- Engages networks of diverse stakeholders to support and sustainably **grow new and/or emerging economies.**
- Contributes to financial sustainability of innovation ecosystems that are **diverse and inclusive.**
- Strengthens the pipeline of new businesses by **nurturing the ecosystem** that supports entrepreneurs, thereby helping to de risk investment opportunities for investors.

OUR LABS

ASIA

In Development



Building on SecondMuse's extensive networks and regional expertise through the Frontier Labs suite of programming and The Incubation Network, we will run a series of labs to address capital needs of gender-smart, climate focused, small and medium sized enterprises. Each lab will focus on a unique challenge, such as how to scale nature-based solutions or support informal workers.

ABUNDANTLY INVESTING IN GIRLS, FEMMES, AND GENDER EXPANSIVE YOUTH OF COLOR

Ongoing



Alongside girls, femmes, and gender expansive youth of Color from across the US and its territories, we are co-designing a financial mechanism(s) and strategies that will increase investments to these young people and their communities and that are designed with and not only for them.

COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP

Ongoing



While engaging capital providers, entrepreneurs, academics, philanthropies, and legal advisors across varying industries and organizational life stages, this lab is co-designing a financial mechanism(s) that unlocks greater access to capital and technical support while both reducing barriers and influencing existing systems towards supporting collectively-owned organizations.

SMALL BUSINESS

Ongoing



By collaborating with small business owners, lenders, and investors to understand the barriers to mortgage lending and opportunities to overcome them, we aim to co-create a financial instrument(s) for mobilizing financial capital and other resources into small business owners so that they can purchase property.

CANADIAN CLIMATE

Complete



We engaged over 50 organizations in research and design which resulted in the Core Climate Fund, a \$50 million climate-focused early stage venture fund, paired with an ecosystem program to support the development and growth of climate innovations and entrepreneurs, while promoting equity, diversity and inclusion across the climate economy.

NEW YORK CLIMATE

Complete



In this lab we sought to identify what mechanism create a sustainable ecosystem around early stage climate technology innovation and innovators. We engaged a diverse group of investors as well as a large entrepreneurial community in partnership with our Venture for Climate Tech program.

EDUCATION

Complete

SUPPORTED BY:



We identified 14 building blocks for transforming public education investment equitably and sustainably and used these principles to design two preliminary interventions. We discovered in our process that additional venture capital was not needed but instead more diverse types of capital that support BIPOC founders and students.