

Tinker with a View: Share your story with code and cardboard using OctoStudio

Join us for an exploration in storytelling, crafting, and coding at the FabLearn conference. In this hands-on workshop we will tinker with cardboard and a new creative tool, the OctoStudio coding app, to share “windows into our world” — tangible, interactive animated narratives. Developed by the Lifelong Kindergarten group at MIT Media Lab, OctoStudio is a free mobile coding app designed to support learners creating interactive projects using images and sounds from the world around them.

Participants are encouraged to install the free app OctoStudio on their mobile phones or tablets. (Note: OctoStudio will be available for free starting October 6 in the App Store (iOS) and Google Play store (Android) phones and tablets.)

In the workshop, we'll start by brainstorming, "What do you see or imagine outside your window?" Choose and combine simple everyday materials, photos, drawings, and sounds, using coding blocks in OctoStudio to make your interactive scene come to life. Together, we will contribute to a collaborative, interactive cardboard environment that embeds and connects our diverse windows/stories. In the process, we'll explore how to combine physical crafting with coding in meaningful ways. After experiencing this activity as learners, we will discuss facilitation approaches and ways to adapt this creative learning activity for diverse learning contexts.

Schedule:

1. “Tinker with a view” invitation and starting points (10 mins)
2. Exploring and creating (45 mins)
3. Sharing creations and reflecting on process (15 mins)
4. Group discussion of ways to facilitate and adapt this workshop for diverse contexts (30 mins)

Our computational tinkering approach encourages a wider variety of ways to dive into computing. We emphasize a more social, hands-on, and interdisciplinary approach, making it a playful and inclusive alternative to traditional computing teachings.

Ready to imagine, tinker, and connect? Join us at FabLearn!