



Ignite Profile- United States Fab Lab Network (USFLN)

FAB9 Yokohama, Japan

August 2013



USFLN Mission & Vision

- The United States Fab Lab Network (USFLN) promotes responsible collaboration in digital fabrication. It evolved in November 2009 from the regional Midwest Fab Lab Network (MFLN, formed in December 2006).
- The mission of the USFLN, in the spirit of the MIT Fab Charter, is to support digital and personal fabrication in academics, business, and community outreach:
 - In **academics**, the USFLN encourages Fab Labs to engage students and teachers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines.
 - In **business**, it promotes invention, entrepreneurship, and skills needed for a 21st-century global economy.
 - In **community outreach**, it makes resources available to empower underserved and non-traditional populations.
- The USFLN fosters innovation and creativity that contributes to the nation's well-being. Membership is open to **ANY** person and any organization that follows the MIT Fab Charter.



U.S. Fab Lab Network 5 – Year Strategic Plan

Our Core Values:

Experimentation

We believe experimentation is the key to invention and overall economic sustainability for the U.S.

Hands-On Learning

We strongly value and support hands-on learning.

Open Access

People of all ages and backgrounds should have open access to space, equipment, and technology among people of all ages and backgrounds.

Collaboration

We believe collectively, we can do more than any one can accomplish alone.

Problem Solving

We believe all people can help solve real world problems.

Empowerment

We strive to empower businesses, entrepreneurs, and the general public.

Creativity

We believe that all people have creative talent.

Achievement

We believe Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education can be fun and attainable for all, not just engineers and scientists.

5 – Year Strategic Priorities

√ **Establish a Robust Clearinghouse of Information to Support Fab Lab Growth & Development**

√ **Develop Educational Support Materials**

√ **Strengthen Communication & Interaction Among Fab Labs**

√ **Cultivate Collaborative Projects**

√ **Increase Visibility at Local, Regional, & National Levels**

√ **Research & Document Impact of Fab Labs**

√ **Grow Resources & Strengthen Network Administration**



<http://usfln.org/>