

AMSTERDAM

Once renowned for its shipbuilding and repair activities, the Amsterdam Noord neighborhood is currently undergoing a swift and remarkable transformation into a focal point for circular initiatives and innovation. Despite its industrial origins, the area maintains a noteworthy 7.6% green space share, sustaining a population density of 1,778 individuals per square kilometer. This blend fosters a diverse community and accommodates various industries.

Certain sections of the neighborhood, such as Buiksloterham and the NDSM-werf, carry a heritage status that effectively bridges the gap between its industrial history and aspirations for a sustainable future. Buiksloterham, positioned as one of the last industrially utilized zones in Noord, serves not only as an inner-city production center but also plays a pivotal role in closing the loop on urban waste streams through remanufacturing, recovery, and recycling practices.

However, the increasing demand for housing in the broader Amsterdam region has prompted the conversion of the remaining industrial land into residential use. This transition presents the neighborhood with significant challenges, including the termination of rental contracts for small businesses and artisans in the area.

City Population size	M	Productive focus	Woodwork, digital technology
Population density	Amsterdam Noord: 1,777.8 people/km2	Partners	Hout-en Meubileringscollege (HMC), Waag Futurelab, Pakhuis de Zwijger
Pilot scale	City	Website	Cartography web



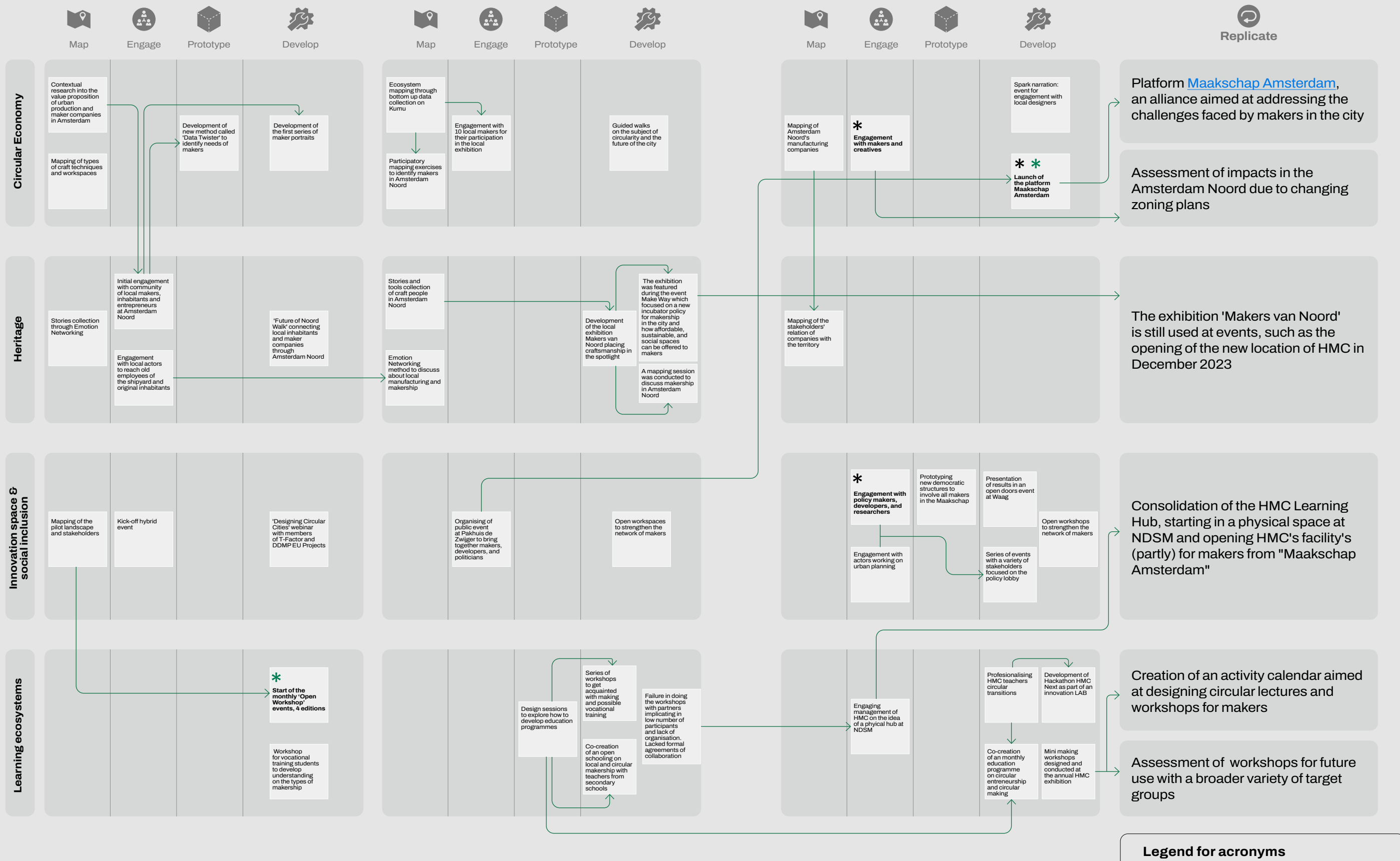
Figure 12. Map of the Amsterdam pilot area by Metabolic Institute.

Vision

The vision of the Fab City Hub in Amsterdam Noord was centered around furthering circularity for local makers. The goal was to integrate the area's industrial heritage into urban renewal by establishing affordable workshops with a long-term perspective.



Figure 13. Amsterdam Pilot Key Performance Indicators



SPRINT 1: M8-M14

'Making acquaintance': Getting to know the pilot area, its dynamics and its old and new residents.

SPRINT 2: M19-M25

'Pop-up': Focusing on getting together the practical elements needed to prototype and try out the first ideas of the maker collective.

SPRINT 3: M30-M36

Sprint 3: "Take Root": Launching Maakschap Amsterdam - A maker collective focusing on the organisational sustainability of the hub.

Legend for acronyms

NDSM: Nederlandsche Dok en Scheepsbouw Maatschappij, a former shipyard and neighbourhood in the Amsterdam-Noord area

* Trigger moment for policy recommendation

* Tool development and application

OPEN WORKSHOP

An event format to connect makers and places



Photo by Amsterdam pilot

Offline
Setting

Makerspaces
Target

Event
Format

What is it about?

The Open Workshop is an event format that has been designed and implemented by the CENTRINNO Pilot team in Amsterdam. It consists of organising a series of monthly events, each hosted at a different makerspace location. In addition to supporting the identification of better design for local hubs, it can also be used as a tool to engage and involve new communities. If repeated regularly, it helps to better know and understand local communities' needs and the type of productive and creative spaces that are available in different neighbourhoods.

Story behind

The Open Workshops' goal is to give voice to pressing issues regarding maker communities, enabling partnerships among makers and fostering stronger connection and knowledge sharing. Through the different editions, a better understanding of makerspaces' conditions and needs were identified in order to design a local model of Fab City Hub (FCHs).

Key steps

- Finding a makerspace
- Choosing a topic of interests for the maker community
- Sending invitations to the target audience
- Making good communication assets and sharing it online and offline
- Bringing food and drinks and supporting the maker to prepare the space
- Thanking everyone for coming, and opening the invitation for the next to host.

Recommendations for future applications

- Assuring a constant physical presence of the local team in the neighbourhood can help to give visibility to their works and actions
- Better understanding makers' and makerspaces' conditions and needs allows to design a local model of FCHs that will respond to this need
- Monthly events of the maker community, where is given voice to pressing issues regarding maker communities are voiced, help to enable partnerships among makers, foster stronger connections and knowledge sharing among them

MAAKSCHAP AMSTERDAM PLATFORM AND ONLINE MANIFESTO

Empowering makers through community engagement and policy advocacy



Photo by Amsterdam pilot

Hybrid
Setting

Makerspaces
Target

Platform
Format

What is it about?

Maakschap Amsterdam is an alliance of makers aimed at sharing knowledge and collectively advocating for better maker policies. It organises events such as the Open Workshop (informal gatherings at various workshops in Amsterdam), roundtable discussions, and focuses on circular craftsmanship.

Story behind

The Amsterdam pilot launched [a website](#) with a manifesto to advocate for makership in the city. To ensure this tool met the needs of makers, the Amsterdam pilot prioritised getting to know the community as well as possible and finding out what drives it and to determine common needs, which were later illustrated within the manifesto.

Key steps

- Prioritize understanding the needs and motivations of the maker community.
- Illustrate common needs within a manifesto based on insights gathered during participatory research
- Emphasize and share the importance of the alliance being led by makers through different events' format.
- Use the manifesto as a centering point from which to discuss and address the needs, challenges and opportunities of the maker community.

Recommendations for future applications

- Creating a Manifesto gives more visibility for makers in the city to both the general public and policy makers
- Possibility of engaging the local policy makers can keep the topic of makership and makerspaces on the local agenda
- Creating alliances with diverse stakeholders can help to improve knowledge sharing, explore lobby activities, and create educational programmes
- The alliance needs to follow a bottom-down approach and be led by makers themselves, so the strategy becomes more effective and inclusive and consistent.
- Create spaces for sharing of knowledge and tools can lead to a higher support between makers

ADVOCATING FOR AFFORDABLE MAKER WORKSPACES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF URBAN MANUFACTURING IN AMSTERDAM

Recommendations

- Developing policies that incentivize the repurposing of existing spaces into affordable workshops or studios for makers and craftspeople.
- Creating guidelines that facilitate the adaptive and flexible reuse of underutilized or vacant buildings to accommodate maker spaces.
- Establishing mechanisms for community involvement in shaping policies that directly impact the maker community.
- Promoting partnerships between public, private, and nonprofit sectors to create a supportive ecosystem for local manufacturers.
- Developing funding opportunities, mentorship programs, and networking events that strengthen the connections between makers and various industries.

Practical case

In Amsterdam Noord, the CENTRINNO local pilot sparked a new initiative—an alliance geared towards sharing knowledge and unified advocacy for improved bottom up policies. Maatschap Amsterdam serves as a pivotal platform fostering collaboration among makers, influencing policy, and addressing key challenges in the city. These challenges encompass a scarcity of affordable workspaces, evolving functions of existing workshops, and the necessity for clear policies ensuring enabling conditions for innovative business models and spaces for local makers.

Despite its high aspirations, the Amsterdam pilot concentrated on mobilizing a broad network of makers and organizations to bolster the platform's foundation. While a mission statement was established, the challenge of crystallizing a definitive future plan emerged. Diverse opinions and input from new contributors raised queries about ownership and direction. To address this, the pilot team advocates community-led decisions, assuming a role as unifying facilitators. Transparent meetings with members were planned to collectively shape the platform's future, redefining the team's role as organizers while empowering the community to steer goals and missions.

In its practical functionality, the platform operates through three core strategies: primarily, it facilitates gatherings to unite makers, establishing a robust network crucial for advocating city-wide. Secondly, it fosters an educational environment for mutual learning among makers, organizing workshops centered around circular practices. Lastly, it engages in dialogues and lobbying efforts with the city, orchestrating events and roundtable discussions to highlight the gravity of makers' circumstances to policymakers. This last strategy connects to the acknowledgment of city councillors, representing diverse political affiliations, about the urgency for innovative solutions recognizing the societal significance of crafts.

Circular Economy

Heritage
Vocational Training

Innovation Spaces

Social Inclusion

Related key concepts

Heritage value and innovation

Policy-making mindsets

Contingency and macro trends

Spatial Planning and Urban Development Frameworks

Regulation

Funding

Knowledge and Capacities

Areas of influence