

# IMPACT DESIGN HUB

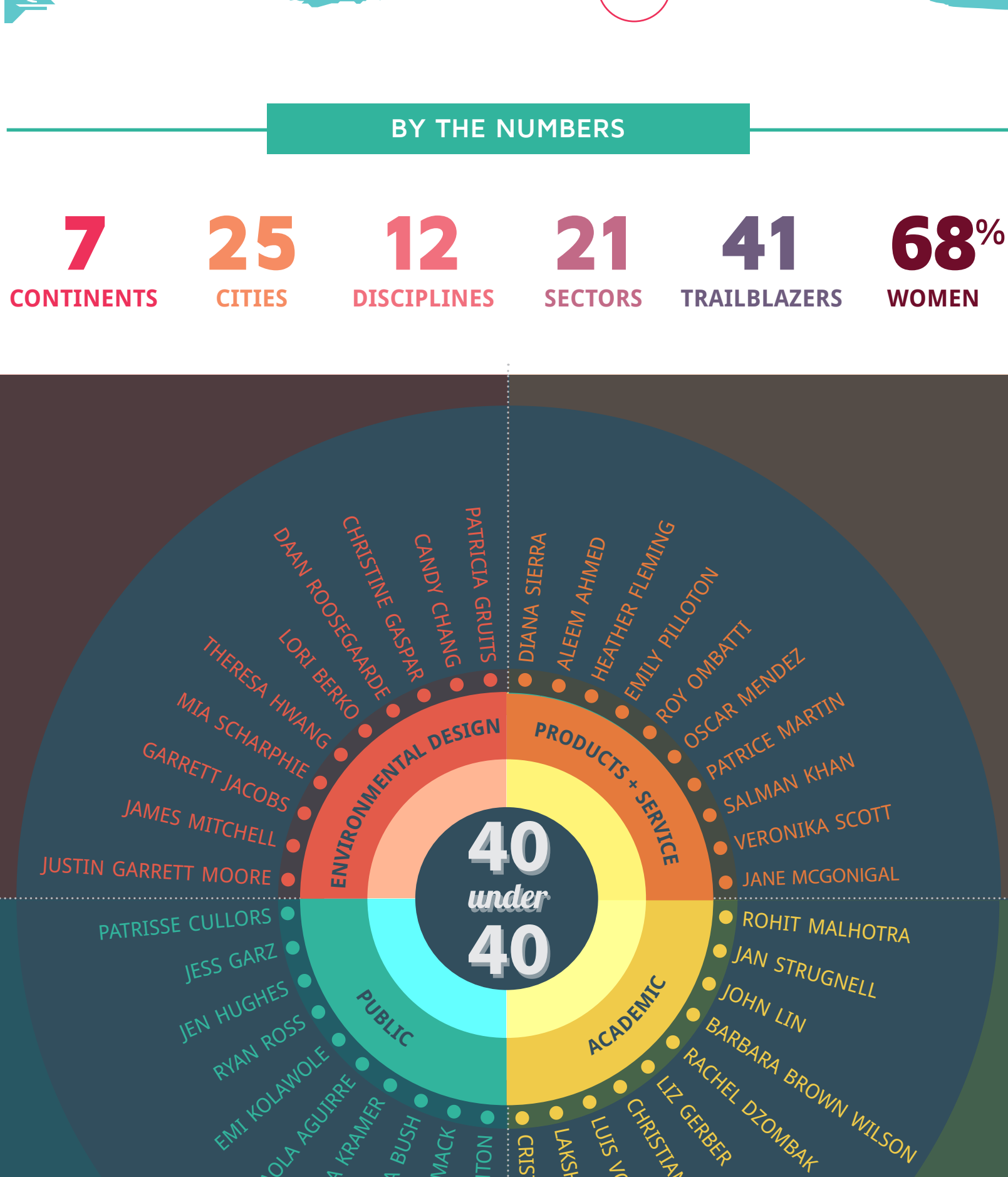
## 40 under 40

Impact Design Hub's "40 under 40" recognizes some of the brightest young minds at work designing for social good. Far from a definitive list, this cohort is a starting point for understanding the breadth and depth of where impact design stands today, and it represents living indicators of where the field is heading tomorrow.

These 40 young leaders — through the combination of creativity, courage, and compassion — are blazing new possibilities for design in the 21st century.

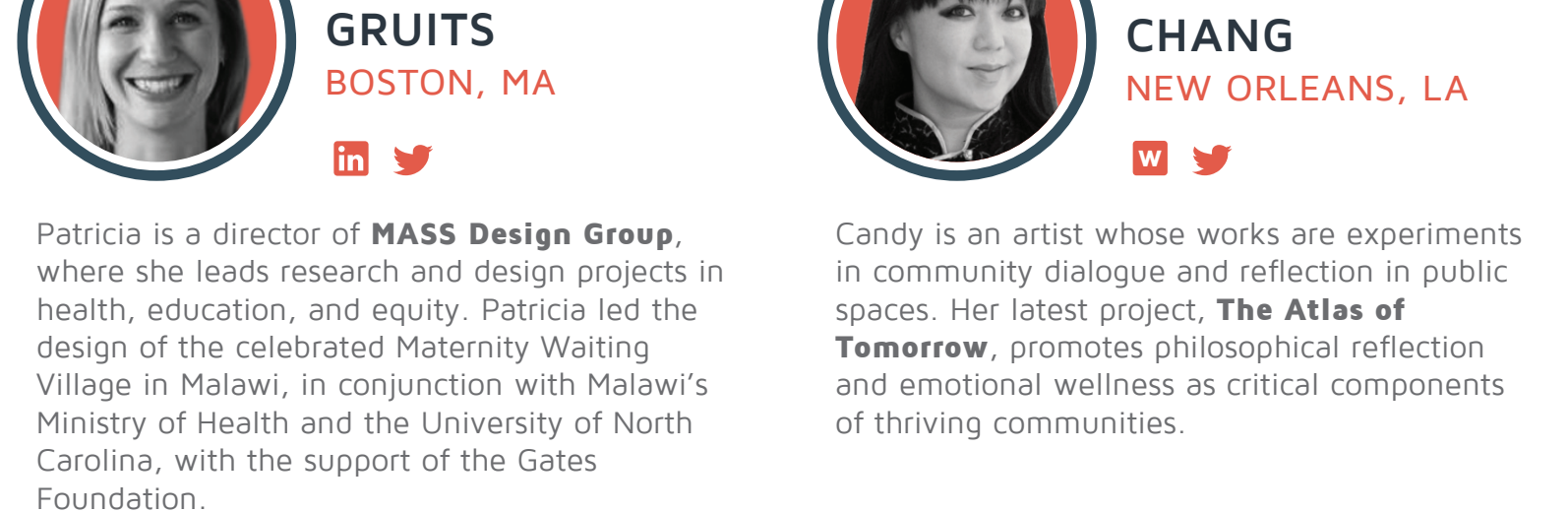
**A more dignified and equitable society is possible if we nurture and support these leaders who apply the simple idea that everyone deserves good design.**

### IMPACT DESIGNERS BY LOCATION



### BY THE NUMBERS

**7** CONTINENTS    **25** CITIES    **12** DISCIPLINES    **21** SECTORS    **41** TRAILBLAZERS    **68%** WOMEN



### ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

**PATRICIA GRUITS**  
BOSTON, MA

Patricia is a director of **MASS Design Group**, where she leads research and design projects in health, education, and equity. Patricia led the design of the celebrated Maternity Waiting Village in Malawi, in conjunction with Malawi's Ministry of Health and the University of North Carolina, with the support of the Gates Foundation.

**CANDY CHANG**  
NEW ORLEANS, LA

Candy is an artist whose works are experiments in community dialogue and reflection in public spaces. Her latest project, **The Atlas of Tomorrow**, promotes philosophical reflection and emotional wellness as critical components of thriving communities.

**CHRISTINE GASPAR**  
BROOKLYN, NY

Christine is the executive director of the **Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP)**, leading efforts to demystify how cities work so that more people get a chance to have their voices heard. She is a facilitator, communicator, designer and architect.

**MIA SCHARPHIE**  
BOSTON, MA

Mia is a social designer, researcher and entrepreneur. She has co-founded several collaborative, including her practice **Creative Agency**, the Build Yourself workshop series, and, most recently, the Proactive Practices case study initiative with colleagues Gilad Meron and Nick McClintock.

**LORI BERKO**  
CHICAGO, IL

Lori is the chief operations officer of the **University of Chicago's Place Lab** where she helps realize the vision of the community engaged think tank. Lori directs the Place Lab team to document and demonstrate urban ethical redevelopment strategies initiated through arts and culture.

**THERESA HWANG**  
LOS ANGELES, CA

Theresa founded and directs the **Department of Places**, a participatory architecture and design practice that brings communities together to strengthen the neighborhoods they live in. A former **Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellow**, Theresa is in pursuit of digitified design to affordable housing. She is a socially-minded architect, educator and writer.

**DAAN ROOSEGAARDE**  
THE NETHERLANDS / CHINA

Daan is a futurist, artist, and innovator. His social design lab, **Studio Roosegaarde**, works at the intersection of people, technology, and space to build a better future. He is based in the Netherlands and maintains a pop-up studio in Shanghai, China.

**GARRETT JACOBS**  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Garrett is a facilitator, mentor, and architect helping others understand how they can respond to and improve their environments. He leads the **Open Architecture Collaborative** to support a global network of architects learning, designing, and building for the public good.

**JAMES MITCHELL**  
NAIROBI, KENYA

James is the founding director of **Orkidstudio**, which benefits communities worldwide through innovative architecture, construction, and social enterprise. James leads the setup of projects and on-site construction management, spending most of his time working directly with the communities Orkidstudio builds with.

**JUSTIN GARRETT MOORE**  
NEW YORK, NY

Justin is an urban servant who splits his work three ways, as a public servant, educator, and social entrepreneur. As executive director of the **New York City Public Design Commission**, he leads innovation and advocacy for public design and social justice.

### PRODUCTS + SERVICE

**DIANA SIERRA**  
NEW YORK, NY

Diana is a champion of inclusive design. The social enterprise she co-founded and leads, **Be Girl**, designs extremely affordable, aspirational, and high performance products that support women and girls' autonomy and generates opportunities to radically improve their quality of life.

**ALEEM AHMED**  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Aleem is the founder and CEO of **Love Grain**, a food company paving the way for fair and dignified food chain practices. Aleem followed his family roots back to Ethiopia, where he founded the social enterprise that helps local farmers connect to world markets.

**HEATHER FLEMING**  
DENVER, CO

Heather is a product designer and founding CEO of **Catapult Design**, making design accessible to communities across the globe. Her team partners with disadvantaged communities to co-create products and provide services, mentorship, training, and resource development to improve their quality of life.

**EMILY PILLOTON**  
BERKELEY, CA

Emily is the founder and executive director of **Project H Design**, focused now on youth skills development through immersive education in design and making. She believes that empowered youth can bring innovation and positive change to our communities.

**ROY OMBATTI**  
NAIROBI, KENYA

Roy embodies the maker. He founded the startup **African Born 3D Printing**, which builds 3D printers from recycled electronics. Roy puts those printers to work to make custom products for people in need, addressing actual local needs and challenges.

**OSCAR MENDEZ**  
BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Oscar is a social and environmental entrepreneur. He is the founder and CEO of **Conceptos Plásticos**, a company that creates affordable and safe building materials out of recycled plastics, which are used to build new homes for those who most need them.

**PATRICE MARTIN**  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Patrice, an industrial designer by training, is the co-lead and creative director of **IDEO.org**. She has led the organization's "Design Kit" offerings, which have trained hundreds of thousands of people in human-centered design. Patrice is optimistic about our collective ability to solve problems and passionate about helping people believe that there are solutions.

**SALMAN KHAN**  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Sal is the founder and CEO of **Khan Academy**. Through the creative use of video technology, software design, and alliance building, Khan Academy empowers students all over the globe. He and his team are on a mission to provide a world-class education to anyone, anywhere.

**VERONIKA SCOTT**  
DETROIT, MI

Veronika is helping to lift up Detroit through the organization she founded, **The Empowerment Place**. The concept was born out of college class where she designed a coat for homeless people that converts into a sleeping bag, and now employs people from shelters to make the coats.

**JANE MCGONIGAL**  
PHILADELPHIA, PA

Jane is a humanitarian game designer, author, futurist and educator. She is the director of game research and development at **The Institute for the Future**. Her alternate reality games are designed to solve real problems and improve the lives of real people, including **SuperBetter** and **EVOKE**.

### ACADEMIC

**RACHEL DZOMBAK**  
BERKELEY, CA

Rachel is a systems thinker, engineer, and designer. She is part of a pioneering interdisciplinary certificate in **Development Engineering at UC Berkeley** which focuses on technology interventions designed to improve human and economic development within complex, low-resource settings. Rachel's PhD research applies this discipline to manufacturing practices in developing countries.

**LAKSHMI RAMARAJAN**  
BOSTON, MA

Lakshmi is an assistant professor at **Harvard Business School**, within its organizational behavior unit, and has conducted research on the design field. Her work examines the consequences of identities in organizations and how individuals manage and understand their identities.

**LUIS VON AHN**  
PITTSBURGH, PA

Luis builds systems that combine humans and computers to solve large-scale problems that neither can solve alone. He is an associate professor of computer science at **Carnegie Mellon University**. Two of his keynote projects are **reCaptcha**, helping to digitize millions of books per year, and **Duolingo**, translating the web while teaching languages.

**CHRISTIAN BENIMANA**  
KIGALI, RWANDA

Christian is the founding director of the **African Design Centre**, a first-of-its-kind initiative, being led by **MASS Design Group**. The field-based apprenticeship program cultivates local talent and is seeding a new generation of human-centered designers from across the African continent.

**LIZ GERBER**  
EVANSTON, IL

Liz is an associate professor of design at **Northwestern University** who believes in the power of networks and collective innovation. In 2009, she founded **Design for America** with three students; today DfA has grown to include over 1,200 student and mentors, all focused on using design for social good.

**CRISTINA GARMENDIA**  
NEWARK, NJ

Cristina is a policy wonk, civic technologist, and impact advocate. She is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the **Center for Law, Inequality, and Metropolitan Equity at Rutgers University**, where she leads research on place-based inequality, bringing to bear her unique background in real estate, government innovation, and impact assessment.

**BARBARA BROWN WILSON**  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

Barbara's work focuses on the ethics, theory, and practice of sustainable community design and development. In addition to being an assistant professor at the **University of Virginia**, she co-founded the **Design Futures Leadership Forum** to expand and elevate the teaching of public interest design nationally.

**JOHN LIN**  
HONG KONG

John is an associate professor at the **University of Hong Kong** and architect practicing at the periphery. Together with his co-founder and partner Joshua Bolchover, John co-directs the research and design platform, **Rural Urban Framework**, which is dedicated to developing sustainable prototypes for rapidly urbanizing areas.

**JAN STRUGNELL**  
AUSTRALIA

Jan is an evolutionary molecular biologist and associate professor at **James Cook University**. She led a collective **Wikipedia** project to author biographies of leading female Antarctic researchers to inspire girls around the world to pursue science careers.

**ROHIT MALHOTRA**  
ATLANTA, GA

Rohit believes that government and community need to be reunited. Through the **Center for Civic Innovation**, Rohit and his team are pushing Atlanta to be a smart, equitable and engaged city by investing in community-driven ideas, supporting social enterprises, and engaging people in dialogue and action.

### PUBLIC

**PATRISSE CULLORS**  
LOS ANGELES, CA

Patrisse is an artist, organizer, and freedom fighter. She is the co-founder of an international movement initiated by the hashtag **#BlackLivesMatter**. She tirelessly promotes law enforcement accountability across the world while focusing on addressing trauma and building on the resilience and health of the communities most affected.

**JESS GARZ**  
NEW YORK, NY

Jess focuses on the intersection, and tension, between the pragmatic and poetic aspects of cultural work. Her current work with **Surdna Foundation** supports artists, architects, and designers working towards imagining, and creating, more just and sustainable communities.

**YTASHA WOMACK**  
CHICAGO, IL

Ytasha, a hip-hop journalist at heart, is also an author, filmmaker, dancer, and innovator. She creates and produces projects that explore culture, lifestyle and intersectionality. She has written several books including, **Post Black: How a New Generation is Redefining African American Identity**.

**JEN HUGHES**  
WASHINGTON, DC

Jen oversees the **National Endowment for the Arts'** creative placemaking grant program. Her Town, as well as its partnership role in two leadership initiatives—the Mayors' Institute on City Design and Citizens' Institute on Rural Design. She utilizes arts and culture to build a sense of community, foster citizenship, and create economic and social opportunities.

**EMI KOLAWOLE**  
WASHINGTON, DC

Emi launched **Design** to apply human-centered design to media, policy, personal development, and leadership. A multi-media master with a passion for storytelling and innovation, Emi works with partners to grow their creative capacity, formulate stronger communications strategies, and develop their younger staff into tomorrow's leaders.

**CHELSEA CLINTON**  
NEW YORK, NY

Chelsea is an energetic and dedicated advocate for global health infrastructure, increased gender equality, and climate change response. As vice-chair of the **Clinton Foundation**, she works to drive the vision and programmatic work of the organization, focusing on education and youth empowerment.

**PAOLA AGUIRRE**  
CHICAGO, IL

Paola is a civic convener, researcher, and educator. She is the founder of **Borderless Studio**, an urban design consultancy based in Chicago. Paola is a strong believer in the power of collaboration, and her work usually concentrates on challenges among institutional, public, and private design practices.

**BARBARA BUSH**  
NEW YORK, NY

Barbara is the co-founder and CEO of **Global Health Corps**, which has placed over 700 young leaders on the front lines of health equity in Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia, and the United States. The organization is uniquely developing a cadre of creative, effective, and compassionate change-makers.

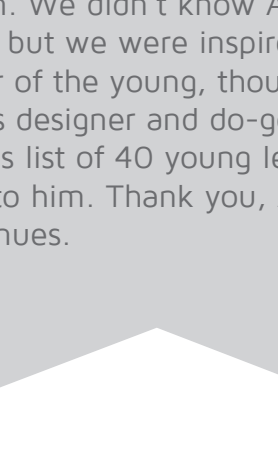
**SASHA KRAMER**  
PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

Sasha, an ecologist and human rights advocate, is the founder of **SOIL (Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods)**, which promotes dignity, health, and sustainable livelihoods through the transformation of human waste into compost.

**RYAN ROSS**  
WASHINGTON, DC

Ryan believes in applying innovative ways of thinking to solve social problems. As program director for the **Halcyon Incubator**, Ryan supports the development of social entrepreneurs with big, game-changing ideas to tackle some of the world's most wicked problems.

### IN MEMORY OF



#### AARON SWARTZ

This November, Aaron Swartz would have turned 30. As a teenager he used his computer programming genius to help design fundamental architecture of the web. When he entered adulthood, he shifted his focus to advocacy for political reform, free thinking, and equity of information. We didn't know Aaron personally, but we were inspired by his life, so in honor of the young, thoughtful, and courageous designer and do-gooder that he was, this list of 40 young leaders is dedicated to him. Thank you, Aaron—your work continues.

### THANK YOU

This campaign would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors, **CanonDesign** and **Rightsize Facility**. Our team would also like to thank our partner and sponsor **Autodesk Foundation**, for your belief in, and support of, our team and mission.

Special thanks to the very talented Megan Jett, [www.meganjett.com](http://www.meganjett.com), for the graphic design of this Infographic.

Finally, we give major props and sincere appreciation to John Cary, [www.johncary.us](http://www.johncary.us), for your guidance, inspiration, and dedication to our team—but more importantly—for your service to this movement and society at large.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

We have honored a few nominees on our list who have just turned 40 with the "Under 40" designation as they are still completing their 40th year on Earth. In most instances the geographical representation shows where our nominees are working today, not necessarily where they are originally from.

