technovation

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - – It was a long road to travel from Lagos, Nigeria for winning Team Charis for the annual international Technovation competition. The 2015 competition for girls to develop apps that solve community problems was plagued last year with Visa entrances into the United States. Three of the six final teams were from outside of the United States and almost did not make the final portion of the competition because of a computer glitch in the US Visa system. Team Charis was the last to arrive and just in time to complete their pitch and meet the judges.

What is Technovation? And what does it have to do with creating a community or art? The following is the official answer from Technovations website.

"Technovation is the global technology entrepreneurship program for girls. Participants work with professional mentors to research, design, build, and launch mobile apps that solve real problems in their communities over the course of three months. It is free to participate and $20k in awards is distributed to two winning teams at the end of each season."

"Technovation is made possible through the generous support of its year round program sponsors, which include Adobe, Verizon, Intel, Oracle, CA Technologies, and Google. These sponsors make it possible for Technovation to impact thousands of girls across the globe for free."

A Netflix documentary titled, *CodeGirl* follows the competition from around the globe to showcase the story of app development from these girls, their coaches and the competition.

Apps have become a vital part of our lives and our community. Sometimes it seems as though our young people are disconnected from reality when connected to a mobile device. This competition gives greater insight to the power of introducing a concept in taking better care of our communities through app creation.

A recent survey from Stack Overflow on the gender breakdown of APP developers indicated that 92.1 percent of the respondents identified as male; only 5.8 percent identified as female. (The remaining respondents either chose "other" or declined to answer.) The survey was conducted online in February using ads placed on Stack Overflow, and included respondents from 157 countries.

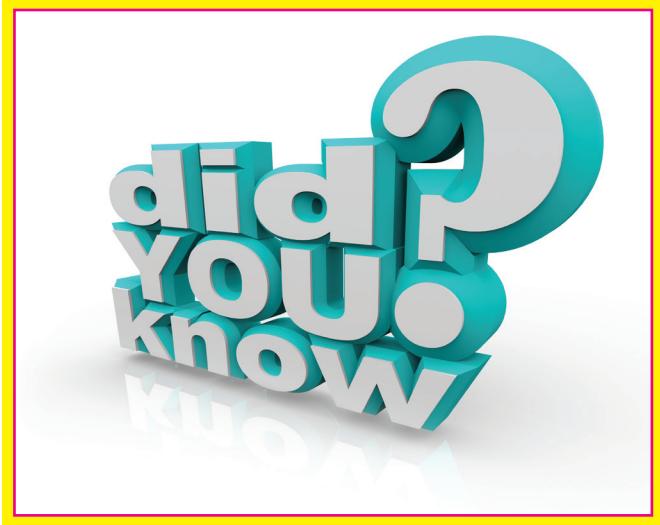
The girls were required to develop a full functioning app, create a business plan and deliver a pitch to win the competition. Examples of the finalist apps were: pairing the disabled with job opportunities, helping people with disabilities to shop and count money, praise amongst peers, and teenage drunk driving prevention.

So where is the art in all of this? Well it is in the User Interface of the app. It is the familiar part of what a user encounters when they open an app and it is what makes it appealing for its usage.

One team created an app for young girls to conserve water. It was created in a game format to help younger children learn water conservation. It was filled with artistic graphics to make it visually appealing for younger users.

The winners "Team Charis", created an app for mobile garbage pick up. Trash is a big problem in the part of Nigeria that they come from.

TEAM CHARIS



The Technovation winners receive the following in each division:

Primary School Division – Girls who are 14 years old and younger.

For 2016, four teams will be invited to present at World Pitch in San Francisco. One team will win $10,000 in seed funding to help them launch their app.

Secondary School Division – Girls who are 14 -19 years of age.

For 2016, six teams will be invited to present at World Pitch in San Francisco. One team will win $10,000 in seed funding to help them launch their app

It is not too late to submit for the 2016 competition. The deadline is April 21, 2016 and entry information can be found at http://www.technovationchallenge.org.

Artists of all ages have a message to share in helping eradicate this epidemic that is affecting our community. Broward County has the highest AIDS Rates in the USA!

ART ON AIDS/HIV

From The Centers for Disease Control

"Blacks/African Americans have the most severe burden of HIV of all racial/ethnic groups in the United States. Compared with other races and ethnicities, African Americans account for a higher proportion of new HIV diagnoses, those living with HIV, and those ever diagnosed with AIDS.

The Numbers - HIV and AIDS Diagnoses

In 2014, 44% (19,540) of estimated new HIV diagnoses in the United States were among African Americans, who comprise 12% of the US population.

Among all African Americans diagnosed with HIV in 2014, an estimated 73% (14,305) were men and 26% (5,128) were women.

Among all women diagnosed with HIV in 2014, an estimated 62% (5,128) were African American, 18% (1,483) were white, and 16% (1,350) were Hispanic/Latina.

Women accounted for 25% (5,168) of the estimated 20,792 AIDS diagnoses among adults and adolescents in 2014 and represent 20% (246,372) of the estimated 1,210,835 cumulative AIDS diagnoses in the United States from the beginning of the epidemic through the end of 2014."