

New Edition

Organismo 2026

Open Call

Organismo | Art in Applied Critical Ecologies is an **experimental applied research** program developed by TBA21-Academy and Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza. It weaves together **situated investigation, critical theory, and speculative practices** through a series of applied case studies developed in alliance with **cultural, academic, and civic entities**. Organismo operates on the hypothesis that the work of artists reinvigorating interdisciplinary projects can operate as a form of infrastructural activism, going beyond critical reflection to **activate tangible processes of ecological reparation**.

To this end, Organismo proposes **testing with methodologies and entanglements, collaborative practices and configuration of actors** across governance frameworks, types of knowledges, and communities in order to generate **prototypes that effectively intervene in reality and its material conditions**.

Organismo 2026 is structured around five **case studies** and a **transversal study module**. For the development of the cases, **five interdisciplinary working cells** will be formed based on researchers selected through this international open call. Each case study will address specific contexts and themes and will be shaped by various institutions with the capacity to influence the issues at stake.

Over the course of six months, the selected researchers will engage in a **hybrid program** that combines **weekly online sessions** with **three short on-site residencies**. Throughout the process, the group of researchers will be joined by an expanded network of experts, local agents, civic organizations, and other affiliated entities who will contribute to shaping and guiding the initiative. The objective will be to activate situated research and collective creation processes in order to develop **experimental prototypes** that respond to the specific challenges posed by each case study.

This collaborative endeavour is designed not only to imagine alternatives but also to enable future action and achieve effective impact. By working with entities rooted in the territories at stake, the program lays the groundwork for the potential implementation of the proposals beyond the duration of the program's edition.

Organismo is rooted in the long-standing commitment of **TBA21-Academy**—the unorthodox research and advocacy arm of TBA21—to promote artistic experimentation and collective work as forces capable of catalyzing the systemic transformations needed to inhabit the planet otherwise. In partnership with **Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza**, Organismo assembles a transdisciplinary ecosystem of cultural agents, researchers, public bodies, and local communities to prototype infrastructural responses to the entangled urgencies of our time.

The entities collaborating on the 2026 edition of Organismo are **BC3 Basque Centre for Climate Change**, **Caja Negra Editora**, **Casa Planas**, **Centro de Arte Fundación María José Jové**, **CRIGUST - Geografías Críticas de la Urbanización, Sostenibilidad y Turistificación de la Universidad de las Islas Baleares**, **FECYT | Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology**, **Fundación Montescola**, **Fundación RIA**, **Hangar, centre de producció i recerca artística**, **La Casa de la Arquitectura**, **Observatorio Complutense de la Desinformación**, **RAICEX Network of Associations of Spanish Researchers and Scientists Abroad** and **Retina**.

01 Case Studies

The case studies form the backbone of the Organismo program, serving as focal nodes around which the working cells and the transversal study module are organized. They are conceived as **gateways into situated forms of knowledge**, engaging directly with **local contexts and communities** while addressing the complexities of contemporary ecological challenges.

By activating networks rooted in specific territories while also fostering remote forms of experiential learning, the case studies ensure that the processes developed remain grounded yet open to broader exchanges. Each case is proposed in conversation with a **network of entities** —academic, civic, cultural, or private—that **are already engaged with the issues and territories at stake**.

Organismo 2026 proposes the following five case studies:

01 The End of the Real

Building Tools to Navigate Reality in the Absence of a Common Truth

→ facilitated by Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza with Observatorio Complutense de la Desinformación and Retina; lead by Domestic Data Streamers –pulso–

This case study explores how technological systems manufacture contested truths, proposing 'reality forensics' as a collective toolkit to uncover the aesthetic infrastructures of persuasion and navigate environments where perception is weaponized and reality itself has become a landscape of conflict.

[more info →](#)

03 Last Resorts

How Climate Imaginaries Come to Matter

→ facilitated by the BC3-Basque Centre for Climate Change with Spanish Office of Foresight and Strategy; lead by Gary Zhexi Zhang and Jacob Bolton –pulso–

This case study investigates how climate imaginaries shape the politics of preparedness, tracing how forecasts, risks, and insurance schemes in the Iberian Peninsula turn speculative futures into present economic realities while questioning whose futures are being secured and whose are left behind.

[more info →](#)

05 Florestania

Communal Governance Systems for Territorial Reparation

→ facilitated by Centro de Arte Fundación María José Jové with Fundación RIA and Fundación Montescola; lead by Paulo Tavares –pulso–

This case study draws on the Amazonian notion of Florestania—forest citizenship—to explore communal governance systems in Galicia, where collective land practices and ecological knowledge converge to repair extractive legacies and reimagine new territorial entanglements of coexistence and care.

[more info →](#)

02 Planetary Theatre of Tourism

Beyond the Performative Regimes of Unproductivity

→ facilitated by Casa Planas and Casa de la Arquitectura with Universidad de las Islas Baleares; lead by Grandeza Studio –pulso–

This case study examines tourism as a planetary performance sustained by extractive infrastructures, taking Mallorca as a stage to expose its hidden logics and to prototype post-touristic paradigms of radical unproductivity, ecological repair, and alternative forms of hospitality.

[more info →](#)

04 Premium Stuff

Storage Ecologies and the Cronologistics of Conservation

→ facilitated by TBA21 with Hangar, centre de producció i recerca artística; lead by Andrea Muniáin –pulso–

This case study examines storage as a spatio-political apparatus of accumulation and control, using art collections to expose the hidden logics of conservation regimes while prototyping alternative archiving, circulating and value-making practices that resist extractive logics.

[more info →](#)

Depending on their geographic context, thematic focus, available resources, and the involvement of local actors, each case study will evolve the given starting protocols and unfold through distinct processes, experimenting with particular approaches and operational dynamics, as well as mobilizing tailored compositions of agents adapted and liaised to their specific local conditions.

02 Working Cells

The working cells are the core collaborative units of Organismo. One of the central motivations of Organismo is to experiment with **alternative configurations of actors** capable of overcoming the limitations of anachronistic hierarchies and preconfigured design protocols. In this way, the working cells are conceived as the **minimal yet dynamic building assemblies** of the program, enabling the **adaptation to the specific needs and contexts** of each case study and the **collective formulation of their own protocols**.

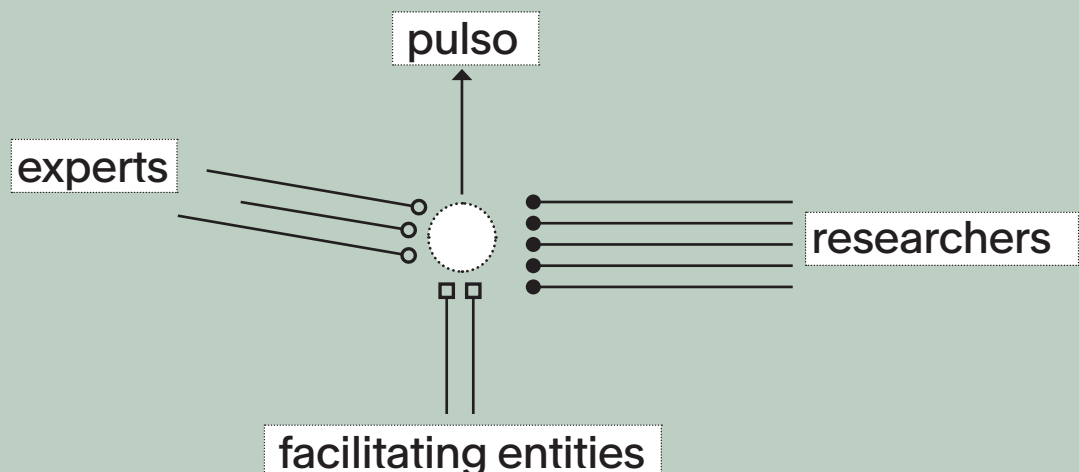
- **Researchers**, up to **eight** participants selected through this international open call who will take part in the research and prototyping processes.
- **Pulso**, or artistic agent, setting the initial approach to the challenge posed by the case study and shaping its methodological framework, dynamics, and theoretical orientation
- **Facilitating entities**, institutions, groups, or organizations that propose, enable, or provide the conditions for the case study to unfold.
- **Guest experts**, practitioners or professionals with relevant knowledge or experience related to the themes explored, who can contribute with specific expertise to the process from different perspectives.
- **Case coordinator**, a TBA21 profile assigned to each case study as the agent responsible for coordinating, supporting, and articulating the connections and dependencies for the proper development of the case.

Each working cell begins with a shared initial structure, composed of a constellation of agents, bringing together complementary roles and perspectives according to a proposed set of initial connections.

As the process progresses, each working cell will self-organize and autonomously evolve its structure, organizational dynamics, and methodological process in response to territorial needs, available resources, and established agreements among the members of each case. A willingness to listen, adaptability, initiative, openness to the unexpected, and the ability to navigate uncertainty are essential qualities for anyone applying to the program.

Organismo embraces a model of choral authorship, as a way to activate the inherent potential of collective processes to generate plural alternative responses. **Each working cell will collaboratively devise one prototype.** All members of the cell will be considered co-authors of the proposal, and any work, material, or content conceived, produced, or created within the framework of the Organismo program will be subjected to the **Creative Commons license CC BY-NC-SA 4.0**.

The selection process will aim to ensure the most relevant and appropriate initial composition of agents, taking into account the complementation of profiles and specific requirements of each case.



03 Pulsos and Experts

Organismo brings together a network of agents and experts who will participate with varying levels of involvement in the development of the case studies alongside the selected group of researchers. These collaborators do not assume the role of faculty or instructors, but rather act as peers who support the proper development of each proposal. Each case study engages a distinct network of agents, while others have a transversal role, contributing to the Transversal Study Module. Some of the confirmed profiles include:



Jorge Valiente Oriol



Amaia Sanchez Velazco



Gary Zhexi Zhang



Jacop Bolton



Andrea Muniáin



Pau Aleikum García



Marta Handenawer



Paulo Tavares



Keller Easterling



Chus Martínez



Imani Jacqueline Brown



Patricia Reed



Ben Ditto



Aslak Aamot Helm



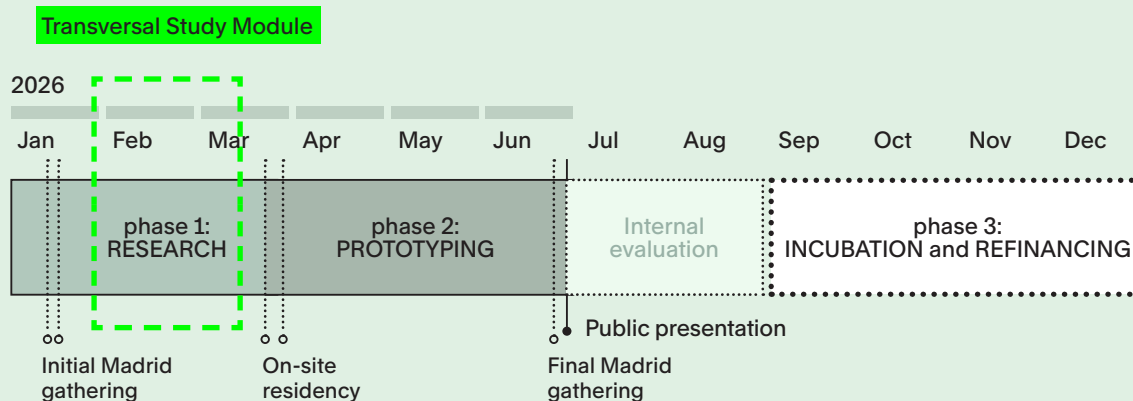
Fernando Domínguez Rubio



Skye Arundhati Thomas

04 Phases and calendar

Organismo program unfolds in **two primary phases**, running from January to June 2026, with an **optional third phase** that will be activated depending on the progress and needs of each case study. The program follows a non-exclusive commitment model of approximately **5 hours per week**, with the intention of making it accessible to different personal circumstances. The week will be distributed in two online sessions of 1.5 hours each in addition to autonomous working time.



Phase 1: Research (January – March 2026)

This phase is driven to facilitate the immersion in the methodological proposals, initial parameters and agreements, expectations and transversal framework of Organismo, as well as the specific introduction to each case study. It is structured into:

Estimate dedication: 25 hours of online sessions, 18 hours of autonomous work, 3 days of in-person gathering

Initial gathering (January 2026)

The program begins with a group residency in Madrid, hosted at Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza on January 28, 29, and 30, 2026. This gathering serves as the foundational moment of Organismo 2026, bringing together most of the actors forming each case study to establish a shared framework, align expectations, and initiate the collaborative dynamics of the program.

Organismo will cover all costs associated with the program of activities during the residency. Participation in this residency is mandatory. Travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs must be covered by each participant. Organismo will only provide an allowance for travel and accommodation expenses for scholarship recipients, in accordance with its internal travel policy (see the Terms and Conditions document for further details).

Transversal Study Module (February – March 2026)

This module consists of **7 online sessions** conceived to set the overarching conceptual framework of Organismo 2026. Each session brings together the artistic pulsos leading the case studies in dialogue with invited guest experts. These exchanges set the tone for the entire program, fostering meaningful conversation and a shared understanding among all participants—including those enrolled in both the FULL and STUDIO modalities.

- S1 – Keller Easterling
- S2 – Andrea Muniáin feat Fernando Domínguez Rubio
- S3 – Gary Zhexi Zhang feat Aslak Aamot Helm and Jacob Bolton
- S4 – Grandeza Studio feat Patricia Reed
- S5 – Domestic Data Streamers feat Ben Ditto
- S6 – Paulo Tavares feat Imani Jacqueline Brown
- S7 – Chus Martínez

Case Study sessions

Each case study will follow its own dedicated program of weekly sessions. This block is to immerse into the specific challenges of each case and an introduce the methodology, tools, and approaches proposed by each pulso. Their purpose is to foster collaborative research, discussion, and the gradual development of working materials that will later feed the prototyping.

These sessions will take place online weekly, lasting 1.5 hours. They are scheduled for Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays from 18:00 to 19:30 CET and are exclusively aimed at case study working cells. The scheduling of these sessions will be flexible, with the option of rescheduling based on the preferences of the members involved in the case, if there is consensus within the group. Attendance is mandatory, as these sessions constitute the backbone of the collective work within each working cell.

Phase 2: Prototyping (March – June 2026)

During this phase, each working cell advances its research toward prototypes to respond to the challenges posed by its case study. The working cells enter a stage of collective decision-making, in accordance with the objectives and agreements established among all members. Each case study will produce a single collective proposal, resulting from the collaborative work of the multiple actors involved.

The approach, operative structure, and methodological proposal for each case study will be set in motion by the pulso and further developed through collective consensus. These online sessions will combine guidance from the pulso, contributions from guest experts, and inputs from representatives of the facilitating entities. In addition, Organismo will introduce cross-working cell dynamics aimed at exploring the interrelations between the case studies.

On-site gathering in case study location

The Prototyping phase begins with a residency in a location associated with the case study, together with the pulso and/or invited agents whose practice and context inform the approaches proposed for the case study. This residency will take place in Spain and will last between 5 and 7 days. Participation is mandatory.

Estimate dedication: 30 hours of online sessions, 18 hours of autonomous work, 8–10 days of in-person gathering.

These sessions will take place online twice a week, lasting 1.5 hours, and are initially scheduled for Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 18:00 to 19:30h CET. As in the Research Phase, there is the possibility of rescheduling by consensus of the group and attendance to the sessions is mandatory.

Organismo will cover all costs associated with the activities, visits, and events that take place during the residency. Each residency will follow a specific agenda designed according to the specific needs of the case study, and may include site visits to relevant sites, lectures, and encounters with local agents and experts. Travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs must be covered by each participant. Organismo will only cover travel and accommodation expenses for scholarship recipients, in accordance with its internal travel policy.

Final Gathering and Public Presentation (June 2026)

This residency will be hosted by Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza and brings together all researchers to consolidate the work carried out by each working cell and prepare the public presentation of their collective proposals. The public presentation marks the culmination of the initial two phases of the program and provides an opportunity to share the proposals with a broader audience and representatives of the cultural, scientific, and civic entities.

Organismo will provide a shared workspace and a modest production budget to support the preparation and presentation of the proposals. Participation in this residency and public presentation is mandatory. Travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs must be covered by each participant. Organismo will only cover travel and accommodation expenses for scholarship recipients, in accordance with its internal travel policy.

Online Repository and Publication

The collectively developed research and proposals by the researchers across the different case studies will be compiled in digital repositories. These online sites will be collected and publicly accessible at the official program website and will be disseminated

by associated communication channels. In addition, opportunities for both digital and print publication will be explored in collaboration with TBA21, Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, and the institutions involved in each case study.

Phase 3: Incubation and Refinancing (September – December 2026)

This is an optional stage that will only be activated for those proposals that prove to be relevant, viable, pertinent, and transformative. The prototypes presented in June will be internally evaluated jointly with the entities and actors involved in each case study in order to determine their potential for further development.

Proposals selected for implementation will receive additional financial support depending on the specific needs and requirements of each project. New agreements will be established among all parties and authors, specifying the level of involvement and commitments required, which

will have to be agreed upon at the beginning of this phase. The implementation timeline will depend on the particular conditions of each project and partnerships supporting it, but will generally unfold from autumn 2026 onward.

Participants who continue into Phase 3 will not be required to pay a new enrollment fee. In fact, once the available resources have been distributed across the different types of expenses associated with this stage, **participants will receive a financial allocation** proportionate to their level of involvement.

05 Enrollment modalities and fees

Organismo is a non-profit initiative, meaning that neither TBA21, the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, nor any of the participating institutions receive any profit from the enrollment fees. All funds are directly reinvested into the program to support its activities and potential future extensions. Admission into the program requires full participation in all mandatory activities and proactive engagement in the collaborative work proposal. All researchers will receive official accreditation for their participation upon completion of the program. Applicants may apply under two modalities:

FULL Enrollment

Participation under the FULL Enrollment modality entails full engagement with Organismo's program. **Selected participants will join one of the five case studies and actively take part in all components of the initiative**—contributing to collective creation processes through **weekly online sessions**, the **Transversal Study Module**, and **on-site residencies** in Madrid and in the case study locations. Participation under this modality requires an **estimated weekly dedication** of around **5 hours**, consisting of approximately 3 hours of online meetings and 2 hours of independent work. This estimate does not include the three in-person residencies.

FULL Enrollment also provides continuous mentoring from the Organismo team, access to multiple avenues for publication and dissemination through the program and collaborator's platforms in addition to the opportunity to activate Phase 3 and additional funding to continue the development of the projects.

To preserve the quality and depth of the experience, FULL Enrollment is limited to a **maximum of 40 researchers (between 6 and 8 per case study)**, who will be officially accredited as Organismo Researchers within TBA21-Academy. This distinction acknowledges their active role as part of the Academy's wider ecosystem of artists, researchers, and practitioners engaged in applied critical ecologies.

The fee for the FULL Enrollment is €670. This fee covers participation in all program activities, not covering travel and accommodation expenses related to the three on-site residencies, which must be covered by each participant.

STUDIO Enrollment

Organismo offers a reduced enrollment modality for those who may not have the availability to engage fully with the program or who prefer a more transversal engagement with its themes and contents, without taking part in the development of the prototypes.

Participants in this modality will have **access only to the Transversal Study Module** during the research phase (Feb–March), as well as the opportunity to receive continued guidance from the Organismo team and access to TBA21's publication and dissemination platforms. This modality does not include participation in the in-person residencies nor assignment to a specific case study.

The fee for the STUDIO enrollment is €350.

06 Scholarships

Organismo is committed to accessibility and, to this end, aims to ensure the participation of talented and motivated candidates who would not otherwise be able to take part due to financial reasons through the provision of scholarships. To this end, **up to 30% of the available places** may be allocated to scholarships, which apply to both enrollment modalities.

For FULL Enrollment, between two and three scholarships will be awarded per case study, provided by TBA21, the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, and the partner entities supporting each case. These scholarships will fully cover the enrollment fee as well as provide a travel allowance and accommodation expenses for the 3 on-site

residencies, in accordance with the travel policies that will be made available to participants at the start of the program. Scholarship recipients, known as *sustratos*, will be required to commit to a set of responsibilities contributing to the coordination and impact evaluation tasks within their assigned case study. The **weekly overtime** demanded for scholarship recipients will be **two hours per week**, in addition to the minimum of **five hours estimated for the proper monitoring of the initiative**.

Participants in the STUDIO Enrollment modality will also be eligible for scholarships covering the full enrollment fee.

07 Commitment

Organismo is designed to follow a **hybrid and inclusive format** throughout the program, in order to remain compatible with other commitments of the researchers, as well as their diverse personal circumstances. Given the collective feature of the initiative, participation in every meeting proposed is mandatory to avoid disrupting the collective creative process.

- The case study meetings may be scheduled at different times depending on the availability of the members of the working cell, provided that consensus is reached among the parties involved. The in-person gathering at the specific site is proposed to be approximately 1 week in length and to be held during the second half of March 2026, unless otherwise agreed upon, according to the availability of the actors involved.
- The program requires an estimated weekly dedication of around 5 hours, consisting of approximately 3 hours of online meetings and 2 hours of independent work. This estimate does not include the three in-person residencies.
- The main working language of the program will be English, although Spanish will be essential as the language that enables communication within the local context. Proficiency in Spanish will be positively valued during the selection process.

A **public program** of Organismo will be articulated in five sessions between January and June 2026, open to the wider public, in order to create spaces for exchange with an expanded audience. These gatherings will take place on Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 18:30 to 20:00h CET, at the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza and other venues across Madrid. Attendance in person is not required and recording of the sessions will be available for FULL Enrollment researchers.

08 How to apply

This program is aimed at people of full age from any background or disciplinary field, with experiences or interests related to the themes proposed by this year's case studies.

To apply, you must complete the online form no later than **November 9, 2025, at 23:59 CET**. It can be accessed through the APPLY button at

www.tba21.org/organismo

You will be requested to respond to questions regarding

- Background
- Motivation

If applying to FULL enrollment, you will also be asked about:

- Case Study
- Skills
- Collective processes

If applying for a grant under either FULL or STUDIO Enrollment, you will have to respond to the specific question associated with this aim.

Additionally, you may share a **presentation video** of up to 2 minutes and/or a **dossier of selected work** up to 5 pages.

about Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza

Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza (MNTB) houses in the Palacio de Villahermosa one of the most important collections of paintings in the world, with a thousand works of art assembled over seven decades by the Thyssen-Bornemisza family. Since its opening to the public in 1992, MNTB has been fulfilling its mission to transmit knowledge, educate and socially integrate through its collection, an extensive program of exhibitions and the programming of a wide variety of activities. Its daily work is based on values such as excellence, sustainability, innovation, integrity, involvement, trust, teamwork and avant-garde spirit. It also emphasizes the dissemination of its collections with programs aimed at involving all kinds of audiences in a universal cultural project, based on the firm belief in the capacity of art to enrich people and to enhance creativity and critical thinking, improving their quality of life.

MNTB, on the other hand, carries out extensive work in the field of sustainability. Both in its exhibitions and activities and in its internal management, it responds to the challenges of the climate emergency, firmly advancing in sustainability and social responsibility in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) included in the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

museothyssen.org →

about TBA21-Academy

TBA21 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary is a leading international art and advocacy foundation. Established in 2002 by philanthropist and art patron Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza, the foundation stewards the TBA21 Collection and its outreach activities, which encompass exhibitions, educational programs, and public engagement activities. TBA21, headquartered in Madrid, works in association with the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza.

TBA21-Academy is the unorthodox research and advocacy branch of TBA21, dedicated to rethinking and redesigning the future of the Earth's hydrosphere and its wider ecologies. For over a decade, it has functioned as an incubator for transdisciplinary inquiry and artistic production at the intersections of art, science, technology, and policy. Operating across Venice, Madrid, and global oceanic contexts, the Academy cultivates collective practices and long-term collaborations that connect citizen action, ecological advocacy, and experimental knowledge production to activate processes of ecological reparation. Among its key initiatives are Ocean Space in Venice, The Current, Organismo, Ocean-Archive, OCEAN/UNI, and Bauhaus of the Seas Sails.

tba21.org/academy →