

# Innovation Fair Lagos

## A White Paper on Building a Statewide Public School Innovation Pipeline

**Version:** v2.0 (Statewide Scope)

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### Executive Summary

Lagos State is home to one of the largest populations of public secondary school students in Africa. Within these schools exists a vast, largely untapped pool of creative, technical, and problem-solving talent. What has been missing is not ability, but **a structured, inclusive system that reaches every public secondary school and identifies innovation early.**

**Innovation Fair Lagos (IFL)** is a statewide initiative designed to reach **all public secondary schools across Lagos State**, providing students with access to structured innovation challenges, mentorship, technical exposure, and pathways into Nigeria's future technology ecosystem.

This white paper presents the full vision, rationale, governance model, execution framework, and long-term plan for Innovation Fair Lagos as a **statewide innovation infrastructure**, not a limited or selective program.

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## 1. The Problem

### 1.1 Fragmented Access to Innovation

Across Lagos State, public secondary schools vary widely in location, size, and access to opportunity. While innovation potential exists in every school, access to mentorship, resources, and exposure is uneven and often concentrated in a small subset of institutions.

As a result: - Many high-potential students are never identified - Innovation exposure begins too late in the education lifecycle - Public school talent remains invisible to industry and policy

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### 1.2 The Cost of Exclusion

When innovation pathways do not intentionally reach all schools: - Talent discovery becomes selective and inequitable - Public education systems are underutilized - Long-term national competitiveness is weakened

Lagos State cannot afford an innovation strategy that excludes the majority of its students.

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## 2. Why Innovation Fair Lagos Exists

Innovation Fair Lagos exists to establish a **statewide, inclusive innovation discovery and development system** for public secondary schools.

The initiative is built on three principles: 1. Innovation potential exists in **every public school** 2. Early, structured exposure changes student trajectories 3. Statewide inclusion strengthens long-term economic and technological outcomes

IFL is not designed as a one-off event or a selective competition. It is designed as a **repeatable, institutional program** capable of reaching all public secondary schools over time.

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## 3. Core Objectives

Innovation Fair Lagos aims to:

- Reach **every public secondary school** in Lagos State
- Identify high-potential students early
- Provide structured mentorship and guidance
- Enable students to build functional, problem-solving prototypes
- Align innovation challenges with Nigeria's development priorities
- Create a sustainable, scalable innovation pipeline

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## 4. Statewide School Coverage Strategy

### 4.1 Scope of Coverage

Innovation Fair Lagos is designed to engage:

- **All public junior and senior secondary schools** in Lagos State
- Across **all Local Government Areas**
- Without exclusion based on geography, school size, or socioeconomic context

The official list of Lagos State public secondary schools defines the **coverage baseline** for the initiative.

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### 4.2 Operational Model for Reaching All Schools

Statewide coverage is achieved through a **phased, LGA-based engagement model** that ensures every school is reached in a structured and accountable manner.

Key elements include:

- Central coordination through education authorities
- Standardized school engagement protocols
- Uniform application and participation processes
- Consistent mentorship and evaluation frameworks

This approach balances scale with quality and accountability.

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## 5. Program Structure

### 5.1 Annual Program Cycle

Innovation Fair Lagos operates on a recurring annual cycle, allowing systematic engagement with all schools over time.

**Phase A – Planning & Alignment** - Statewide scheduling and coordination - Team and mentor preparation

**Phase B – Announcement & Applications** - Program announcement distributed to all public secondary schools - Applications open to students statewide

**Phase C – Selection & Onboarding** - Transparent selection using standardized criteria - Team formation and mentor matching

**Phase D – Build Sprint & Mentorship** - Structured build period - Central provision of resources and internet access - Weekly progress tracking

**Phase E – Review & Filtering** - Performance-based continuation - Removal of inactive teams

**Phase F – Demo & Documentation** - Showcase of outcomes - Statewide documentation of impact

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## 6. Accountability and Governance

Innovation Fair Lagos operates under a strict accountability framework: - No cash disbursement to students - Centralized procurement of all materials - Clear reporting lines - Weekly performance tracking - Documented decision-making

This structure ensures transparency and institutional confidence.

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## 7. Organisational Structure

The initiative is managed by a central Head Team supported by volunteers and mentors.

**Head Team Roles:** - Program Director - Operations Lead - Mentor & Talent Lead - Partnerships & External Relations Lead - Finance & Accountability Lead - Communications & Documentation Lead

All volunteers operate under defined leads using a formal onboarding and performance framework.

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## 8. Partnerships and Collaboration

Innovation Fair Lagos collaborates with: - Education and government institutions - Media organizations - Corporate and CSR partners - Technology and infrastructure providers

Partnerships focus on alignment, expertise, visibility, and resources rather than unstructured funding.

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## **9. Expected Outcomes**

Through statewide execution, Innovation Fair Lagos will:

- Reach students across all public secondary schools
- Identify and nurture high-potential innovators
- Produce student-built prototypes addressing real challenges
- Generate data and insights to inform education and innovation policy

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## **10. Long-Term Vision**

Innovation Fair Lagos is designed to become:

- A permanent statewide innovation pipeline
- A feeder into higher education, startups, and national programs
- A model replicable across other Nigerian states

The initiative demonstrates that **public school innovation is not rare—it requires structure, access, and intentional inclusion.**

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## **11. Conclusion**

Innovation Fair Lagos represents a shift from selective innovation exposure to **statewide innovation infrastructure**.

By committing to reach every public secondary school, the initiative positions Lagos State to unlock its full youth innovation potential and build a stronger technological future.

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**Innovation Fair Lagos is designed for statewide coverage and long-term institutional adoption.**