





# ARS ELECTRONICA 2022 DIGITAL COMMUNITIES

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**TEIA** is best described as a global, artist-run space; it provides room for experimentation with an emphasis on the arts, and its decentralized nature empowers the voices of all users. In many ways, it's quite different from the more well-known, purely commercial NFT marketplaces operating on other blockchains.

A symbol for **Teia's** commitment to fluidity, inclusivity, and equity is the current rotation system for user-designed logos, to which anyone can contribute.

**Teia** is and always will be a work-in-progress.

**Teia** is a digital community build on Tezos blockchain *"a pioneering layer 1 Proof-of-Stake blockchain, has always been recognized as an energy-efficient alternative to more traditional Proof of Work blockchains".* The total annual carbon footprint of the Tezos blockchain is equivalent to the average energy footprint of 17 global citizens." (From Tezos official page, <https://tezos.com/carbon/> <https://tezos.com>)



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**TEIA** is an open, digital platform for ideas and creative works. Teia is an artwork made of artworks; a place where artists and collectors come together as equals in order to emancipate and democratize art.

We want to elevate art, no matter how known or unknown the artist. We want to protect our art. We want to fill the blank canvas that is **TEIA**.

**TEIA** is a self-sustaining organization managed by the community for the community.

**TEIA** is built and improved by its participants. We believe that we as a collective can be bigger than the sum of our members. We strive to improve **TEIA** in a decentralised manner. That means we can build and evolve everything at once; everything follows chaotic growth. This infinite process might at times look disorganized from the outside looking in, but it isn't: the community organizes itself; chaos creates beauty.



# The birth of TEIA

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**Teia** (teia.art) is a community effort by a worldwide group of former Hic et Nunc users & contributors to evolve the former Hic et Nunc project into a community owned and controlled NFT marketplace. We want to create an inclusive environment for those of all backgrounds and identities.

Our mission to reach true decentralization and equity includes something that no other marketplace has: a community-decided allotment to guarantee marginalized communities are included in governance. We understand that now is the time to take a novel, genuine approach to equitable governance and acknowledging the needs of our most underrepresented communities in a concrete way. Leaders within these groups are being nominated by the community and will be included in the weaving of the new **Teia DAO**.

**TEIA** is both an open-source project and an open, self-governed community.



# Before TEIA there was HIC ET NUNC

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When Hic et Nunc (hicetnunc.xyz; HEN) hit the NFT space in March 2021, it sparked a revolution for digital artists across the globe. Built on the incredibly energy-efficient Tezos blockchain, the Brazilian-based platform not only provided an easy and cheap way for artists to experiment with NFT distribution, but it also established an ethical framework by focusing on global equity, environmental concerns, and inclusion.

With a trade volume of 10.9 million Tezos (approx. \$50 million) in less than a year, the HEN marketplace quickly became a significant player in the NFT field, despite the lack of wider media attention. The artists, developers, and collectors on the platform were not only users, but developed into a social and artistic global community where young and upcoming creators moved side-by-side with renowned veteran digital artists.

On November 11, 2021, Hic et Nunc was shut down without notice. The community that had formed around HEN resurrected the site; using the open-source code to create the fork temporarily known as (and accessible at) hicetnunc.art. Our community also began a rebranding process that eventually settled on the name “Teia” for our community and our version of HEN.

Note: hicetnunc.xyz reappeared unexpectedly on January 25th, 2022. Teia remains a community-owned project, separate from the original platform, but with the intention of maintaining cross compatibility wherever possible.



# Voting system on Teia Community

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We believe that, together, we can create tools and applications respecting the community's needs and wishes. The process of forming a real DAO (Decentralized Autonomous Organization) will take a long time and we want to be able to vote on pressing decisions transparently and on-chain.

**In the end, we are all building the future of the TEIA ecosystem together.**

The current voting system takes place "on chain", and everybody with a **TEIA** account (wallet) has the right to vote. Votes cast on the website are recorded on the blockchain, and a script tallies and displays the votes on the website after the voting period ends. These results can be independently verified by the voters using the unchangeable blockchain data.

Currently, all major proposals and questions are discussed at the **TEIA** discord and the community 'discourse' forum before being put up for a vote. Whoever wants to submit a proposal can access the TEIA Discord Channel where the proposal will be discussed by the entire community and taken to vote.



# The importance of being TEIA & its logo

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The first community vote implemented on the blockchain was aimed at finding a new name. This vote resulted in the name “Teia”, meaning ‘net’ or ‘web’ in Portuguese, and thus referencing the Brazilian roots of the (hic et nunc) platform.

The word **TEIA** comes from the Latin words ‘*tela*’ (*web/ loom*) and ‘*texere*’ (*to knit, weave*). In Latin, these words referred both literally to fabric and its texture, as well as figuratively to the plot in poetry and literature. **TEIA** is the perfect word for encompassing our community, as we join through the digital web to weave our collective stories.

One symbol for **Teia's** commitment to fluidity, inclusivity, and equity is the current rotation system for user-designed logos, to which everyone can contribute. The title slide and the header image of this document feature many of the submitted logos.

After opening the call for **TEIA's** logo and receiving more than one hundred proposals, it was decided to show them in random rotation while the logo voting process was discussed. After two days of rotation, the community agreed unanimously to maintain the rotating logo indefinitely. This fluid identity perfectly represents the spirit of **TEIA** and serves to showcase the many artistic styles of our members.



# TeiaArt

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In the spirit of decentralization and community, we have created the **@TeiaArt** Twitter account to highlight works on the teia.art platform. Wanting to give all members of the community a chance to be curators, we created a volunteer form for guest curators to apply. This was met with overwhelming enthusiasm; we received nearly 100 volunteers in a few days.

These community members, following the order in which they registered online, will present their curatorial project, in a 4-day cycle.

Due to the overwhelming demand, applications for guest curators are temporarily paused, but will be reopened after we work through more of our queue. At that time, anyone who is part of the **TEIA** community is invited to attend.

In the meantime, we are exploring other ways to center creators and increase visibility for artists in traditionally underrepresented groups. In this way we help the process of diversification and inclusion, two pillars of the **TEIA** Manifesto.





# Governance

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Below, a DAO definition:

*“**Decentralized autonomous organization (DAO)** governance is coordinated using tokens or NFTs that grant voting powers. Admission to a DAO is limited to people who have a confirmed ownership of these governance tokens in a cryptocurrency wallet, and membership may be exchanged. Governance is conducted through a series of proposals that members vote on through the blockchain, and the possession of more governance tokens often translates to greater voting power. Contributions from members towards the organizational goals of a DAO can sometimes be tracked and internally compensated.”*

(From Wikipedia, DAO Governance. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decentralized\\_autonomous\\_organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decentralized_autonomous_organization))

**TEIA** philosophy adds and expands this definition in its Manifesto:

We believe in shared ownership on the platform, no one should have exclusive rights over others.

The fundamental principles that shape the community are the same as those for its governance: **Inclusivity, Respect, Community/Solidarity, Decentralization, Simplicity, Accessibility, Sustainability and Creativity.**



# Governance

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Teia's DAO is under construction, a process in which the whole community is invited to participate. We anticipate a long development phase in order to respect the main points of the Manifesto, such as recognizing diversity and facilitating inclusion. We anticipate that once created, the Teia DAO will continue to morph and improve, in order to respect the evolution of the platform and all of the communities to be represented.

The decision-making process of TEIA is horizontal and will take into account the needs and policies decided by all the groups represented. These groups will also have some economic autonomy in decision-making. Until the DAO is formally created, a multisig wallet with ~15 rotating people has control of the platform's funds (with a quorum required to complete transactions). This group does not have decision-making power, and only exists to implement the will of the community.

In the current phase, contributions to Teia are made entirely by volunteers. Anyone who wants to contribute can fill out our volunteer form and participate. In many cases the contribution starts directly by participating in discussions in Discord channels, community forum, and Notion board. All who abide by our code of conduct are welcome to join us in building Teia.



# Manifesto, our Constitution

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## §1 Inclusivity

- We believe in a community for all users and all art forms.
  - Inclusive for everyone, no matter your race, ethnicity, religion, class, culture, national background and citizenship status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, or mental or physical disability, neurotype, health related issues, income level, mental health status or trauma
  - Inclusive for all participants, no matter the social/economic status.
  - Inclusive for all art forms and mediums including but not limited to: digital, analog, graphics, vr, video, audio, music, fiber, physical and the ones to come.
- We want to reach a parity in voice and contribution between people from all communities and sorts of privileges and locations. This needs to be reached through concrete action and leveraging power

## §2 Respect

- 2.1 We believe in a community that respects one another's dignity, ideas, thoughts and art.
- 2.3 We respect our community and value each person's contribution.
- 2.4 We understand that this is, and always will be, a work in progress and we are empathetic and patient with this process.



### §3 Community/Solidarity

- 3.1 We are an egalitarian community. Our community is not about rank, status, or popularity. It's about contributing, building together, fostering connections, encouraging community interactions, providing support, and growing together.
- 3.2 The community must ensure the freedom of the individual, but this freedom ends where it endangers the well-being of the community (s. COC)
- 3.3 We want to
  - 3.3.1 Avoid displaying indications of rank, status, or popularity
  - 3.3.2 Build what benefits the whole community, not just a select few.
  - 3.3.3 Create systems that are inclusive to the community as a whole.
  - 3.3.4 Avoid systems that could be exclusive in any shape or form.
  - 3.3.5 Protect the community and their intellectual property from threats.



# Manifesto, our Constitution

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## §4 Decentralization

We believe in shared ownership on the platform, no one should have exclusive rights over others.

- 4.1 We believe in a platform that radically dismantles and democratizes the established art market and methods of distribution.
- 4.2 Teia should remain open source. We aim to create open solutions and look for ways to limit gatekeeping and share knowledge wherever possible.
- 4.3 We want to build a transparent platform that facilitates a rich ecosystem and integrates with the world around it. We encourage third party additions/tools for the Teia core as long they stay true to the spirit of Teia
- 4.4 We want to build a platform where important decisions are voted on in an open and fair process before being implemented. We want to
  - vi. 4.6.1 Encourage and secure open and free discussions around community voting.
  - vii. 4.6.2 Give all users equal rights in this voting process and distribute the votes equally to users that contribute to its development
  - viii. 4.6.3 Encourage and help all members to participate in community votes
  - ix. The community should respect and encourage all opinions, even if they are against the consensus. The individual should respect consensus reached by the community in the same way.



# Manifesto, our Constitution

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## §5 Simplicity and accessibility

- 5.1 Teia should aim to be as accessible as possible. The creation of an account should be simple and fast and possible anonymously and without providing any personal information. Teia should not store or collect personal information about its members.
- 5.2 We want to provide a simple and easy-to-use platform for all users, including those with accessibility needs.
- 5.3 We want to help those without access to the platform to get the ability to participate. (i.e. via donations for people who can't afford to mint)
- 5.4 We believe in providing access to useful tools for all members of the community

## §6 Sustainability

We believe in sustainability. With technology evolving, we as a community need to evolve too and build towards a more viable future. We shall be mindful of the consequences of our actions and evaluate our decisions with that in mind, always pursuing the least destructive path.

- 6.1 Things that may look responsible now may be problematic for us and everyone in the future. Lifecycle impacts must be considered.
- 6.2 With that in mind, we should always be open to the possibility of changing the technological foundations of Teia in order to ensure it stays sustainable, transparent and accessible to everyone.
- 6.3 The community should ensure the security of all the data needed for the platform. This includes but is not limited to the data stored on blockchains. The mediafiles of objekts should be stored in a decentralised and transparent way.



# Manifesto, our Constitution

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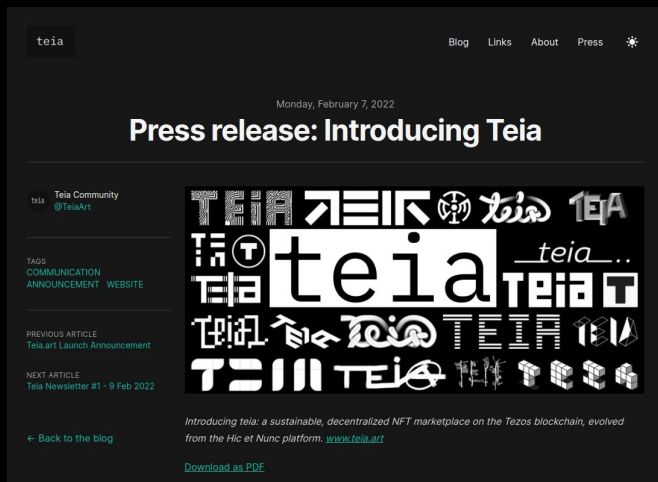
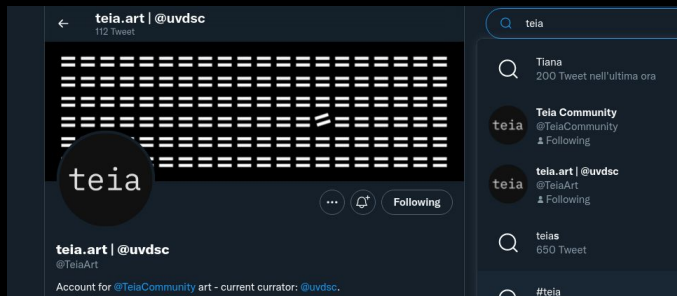
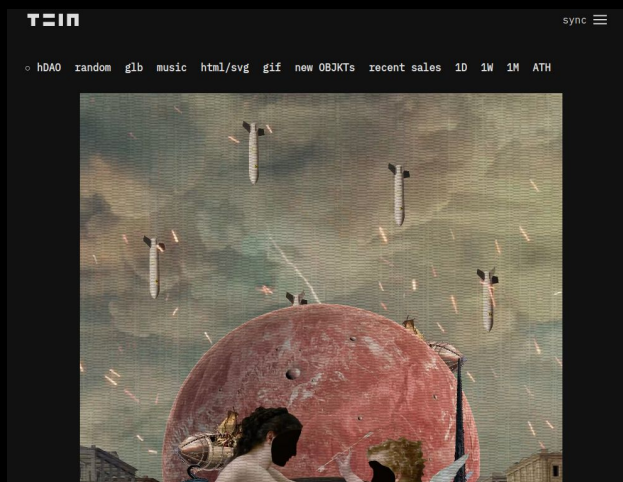
## §7 Creativity

- 7.1 Creativity has no borders. We want to encourage and organize events that bring the global community together and create bonds and collaborations between us and contribute to shaping the future of art as whole.
- 7.2 We want to encourage and help the development of new forms and shapes of art through collaborations between the users.
- 7.3 We believe in providing an open and supportive space for all artists and collectors to express themselves freely and without limitations.
- 7.4 Creativity needs freedom, we want to make sure there are as few restrictions as possible in place to make Teia a place of creativity without limitations



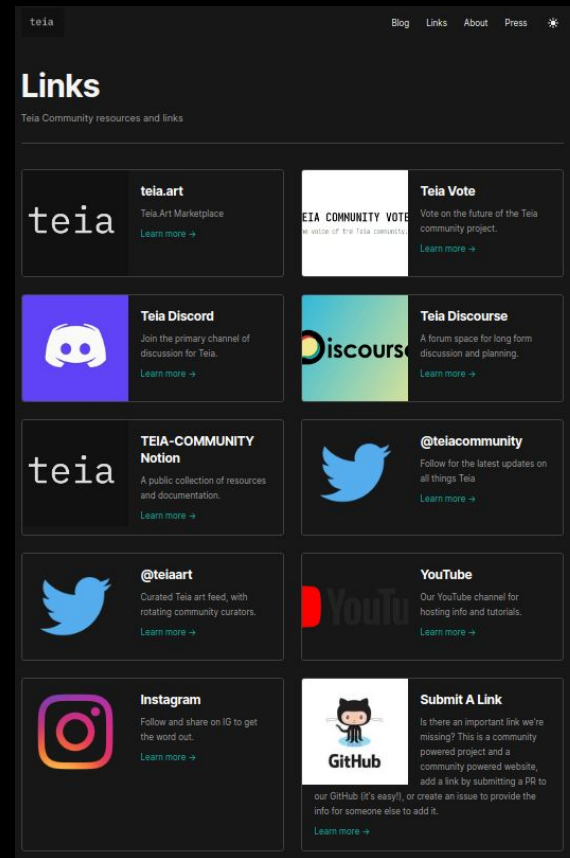
# Screenshots

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Screenshots: the splash page of teia.art, user options, twitter, blog, press and links page

explore galleries OBJKT (mint) collaborate manage assets friends about faq





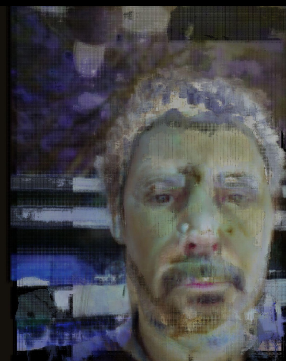


# Who prepared this submission

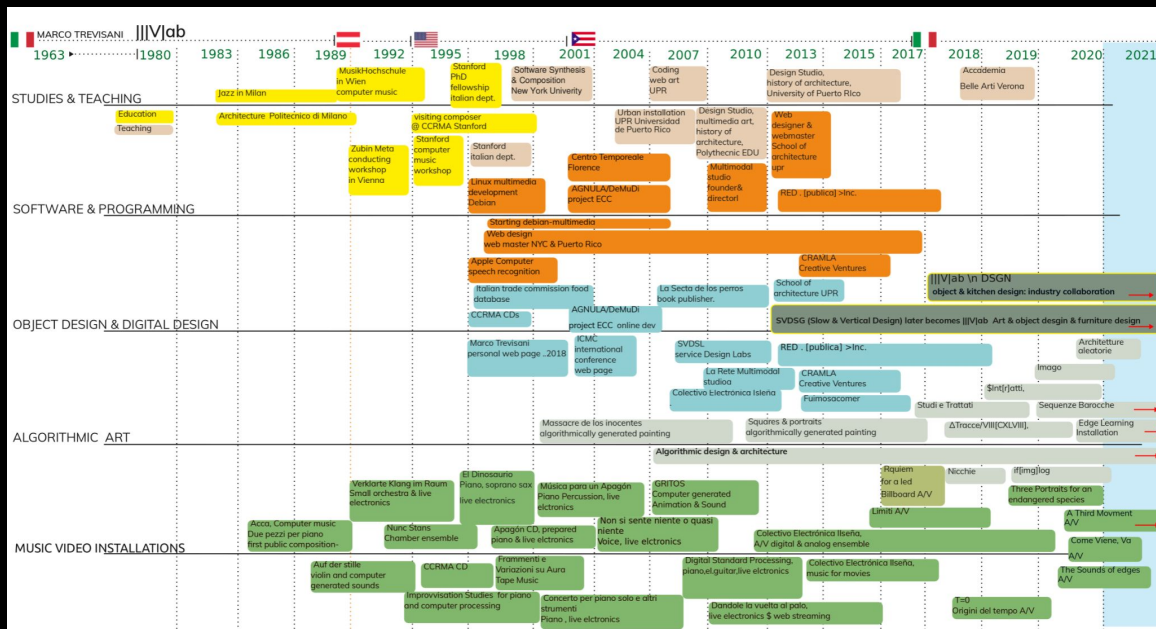
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this presentation has been conceived and graphically organized by @111v1ab by merging together existing documentation written by the TEIA community, especially by the PR team and the groups involved in building the whole structure. In particular it is worth mentioning the contribution of @MerchantCoppola, @Thebadlament, @TurbolentDeterminism

The graphic concept follows the graphic design of the TEIA web platform



@111v1ab - marco trevisani  
3v@111v1ab.xyz <http://111v1ab.xyz>  
CV: <http://111v1ab.xyz/bio.php>  
(and shown to the right)





# Important links

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Main site: <http://teia.art>

Blog, press releases and links page: <https://blog.teia.art/>

Teia Discord: <https://discord.gg/eu2fg8BX>

Main Twitter (announcements): <https://twitter.com/TeiaCommunity>

Teia Art (curated art): <https://twitter.com/teiaArt>

Code of Conduct & Terms & Conditions including Account restrictions/ Copyminting info:  
<https://github.com/teia-community/teia-ui/wiki/Core-Values-Code-of-Conduct-Terms-and-Conditions>

Teia wiki (on github): <https://github.com/teia-community/teia-ui/wiki>

Teia volunteers form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSenb-1FH3pyeQc1VME9Bv12Tc5WzMN6ZY0YoHQckIIMrhjxw/viewform>

Logo submission:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe27ZughzLlh44BQXjrXto4b9qRTAB9SX-d-YMTCUPYdD61Rg/viewform>