



Adventures of the Valparaíso

The new pirate economy manifesto

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HOW ARE WE REINVENTING THE WORD 'PIRATE'?

Throughout history pirates have been the revolutionaries, the progressives, the explorers. They challenged established authority, sailed away from mainstream society, creating an alternative culture and socio-economic structure⁽¹⁾. In fact, pirates were some of the first people to adopt a limited democracy with a system of checks and balances similar to the ones used today in the United States and many other countries⁽²⁾.

We are here to revamp
the spirit of piracy!



As pirates of the Adventures of the Valparaíso, we don't loot, raid, or wreck. We are here to **TEACH**, to **SHARE**, to **LOVE**, and to connect people within and outside our community. Our mission is to empower individuals, to build a creative floating marketplace of **COLLABORATION**, **TRUST**, and **SUSTAINABILITY** that is not solely based on monetary values.

The New Pirate Economy is about challenging the current mainstream consumer culture, while providing a new alternative way of thinking about trade and economics. To us, that is the real essence of piracy:

THE COURAGE TO BRANCH OUT FROM ESTABLISHED
SOCIETAL NORMS TO EXPLORE AND CREATE
PROGRESSIVE, AND EXCITING PATHWAYS.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governance_in_18th-century_piracy

² Leeson, Peter T. "An-arrghchy: The Law and Economics of Pirate Organization." *Journal of Political Economy* 115, no. 6 (2007): 1049–1094. pg 1066. University of Chicago

WHO ARE WE?

Since 2013, our Foundation has involved more than 500 volunteers to help us transform a century old ship into an educational playground for new ideas and concepts on sustainability and creative fair trade alternatives.

The success of this endeavour has strengthened our belief in a sustainable people-centric marketplace and the importance of **EDUCATION, TRADE, ARTISTIC UPCYCLING, AND TECHNOLOGY.**



We are now determined, to equip a larger, seaworthy ship and crew for an international journey of art, connection, and fair trade.

WE WILL BRING OUR MESSAGE OF SUSTAINABILITY
AND THE NEW PIRATE ECONOMY FOR A
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

WHAT IS THE NEW PIRATE ECONOMY?

The core of the New Pirate Economy is about creating a **sustainable floating marketplace** built to inspire genuine connections between people, promote the creative reuse of commodities, and to provide a bold alternative to mainstream consumer culture.



Vrijland Festival 2016



Early stage of the Building up

As collaborative communities and sharing platforms like Airbnb, Etsy, and Kickstarter become more and more popular, it is apparent that future trends are shifting towards a new economic model where money will no longer serves as the sole motivator behind trades.



The rise of the Facebook age in the past ten years has created a paradigm shift, not just in the way that people connect with one another, but also what people value most. They are engaged in each other's stories, like and share every moment of the day and expand their social circles outside of their local communities. It has become easier to be more aware of social problems and issues that do not directly impact our personal lives.

By taking into account potential future value and including stories as one of the three things we trade for, we build connections between items that can normally not be exchanged easily inside the current monetary framework due to **value conflict**.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO?

Trust is the currency of our new pirate economy!

- Our transactions are never about making profit, but about building connections between people from all walks of life.
- We want to show people that what they have to share doesn't have to be solely validated through monetary worth.



We believe that it is possible for transactions to be personalised, to have a humane aspect. To quote David Graeber, professor at London School of Economics, “if you’re trading with someone you care about, you’ll inevitably also care about them enough to take her individual needs, desires, and situation into account. Even if you do swap one thing for another, you are likely to frame the matter as a gift.” We believe in this described part of the gift economy, where both parties trust and care about the well being of the other.



“It’s about empowering people to make meaningful connections,
connections enabling us to rediscover a humanness that we’ve
lost along the way.”



-Rachel Botsman, author of What's Mine is Yours -

THREE IMPORTANTS CONCEPTS FOR US

1. Sustainable floating marketplace

We make use of items which may be considered invaluable to some. In our marketplace, the value of artistically upcycled items is primarily based on the **TIME** and **ENERGY** put in by the artist, not on the original raw materials. This way, we emphasize the importance of **UPCYCLING** and **CREATIVELY** reusing commodities to minimize waste.

2. Value conflict

Everything has value, but sometimes it can be difficult to determine the exact worth of an item. When we are establishing a trade, we not only take into account the monetary worth of a product, but also its potential and hidden values. We name **STORIES** as one of the three major groups we trade for, thus recognizing its equal importance to **GOODS** and **SKILLS**. This way, the more abstract values of human **EXPERIENCE**, **TIME**, and **CREATIVITY** are given proper and clear worth.

3. Trust is the currency of our new pirate economy!

Trust is the foundation of all genuine human interactions, whether it is forming a **CONNECTION**, **MAKING A TRADE**, or **LEARNING SOMETHING NEW**. By putting our trust in the participants and showing them that we care, we initiate interactions that are firmly founded on mutual confidence. This way, we ensure that the values exchanged through our trade are equivalent and reciprocal, that our message of sustainability is not just heard but ingrained, and that our culture of creativity is inclusive and progressively driven. Through transparent communication and the shared experience of our workshops, programs, and floating marketplace, we invite, empower, and unite our audience, our community, and our partners towards actively making a difference for the greater good.



EVER LOST YOUR FRIENDS AT A FESTIVAL ?

At the **Valparaiso Trade Tent** you can rent a friend for any time for a trade! They will wear an alarm clock with rope around their neck and they can walk with you for 15 minutes to be your best friend.

You can hug them, talk to them, dance and even drink with them!
When the alarm rings they walk autonomously back to the Trade tent and they they wait to be traded again.

OUR WEBSITE AND MOBILE APP

Here on the Valparaíso, we are proud to call ourselves digital nomads. We are dedicated to using technology in our favor to promote our vision of community, sustainability, and fair trade alternatives. By maximizing technology, we both increase the project's transparency and exhibit a socio-economic model that is more relevant to the Facebook age, bringing together and connecting people from all over the world. As part of our effort, we will be creating an online database and interactive mobile app of trade profiles, they will showcase the connections between the trade and the people behind the trade. The profiles will be assigned unique serial numbers and will contain descriptions of the items traded, along with location tracking. This way, our participants will be able to see where their donated goods go, what it was traded for, and the stories behind each trade.

THE PIRATE APP



OUR CURRENT HOME-BASE ACTIVITIES

For the majority of year the Valparaíso stays at our home-base in the Netherlands. Because of this, we know that the bulk of our impact happens in our local communities. Although this means we are not sailing the seven seas, we still practice and promote our philosophy of the New Pirate Economy right here in our local community.

At home we trade for three things:

1. Goods

- Donations of functional everyday items come from our local sponsors and communities and are used for trading aboard our floating marketplace.

Every donated good is given a description and serial number registered in our interactive database so that our participants can track the story and journey of their donated goods online and see what they're traded for!

- We partner with local second hand shops and organizations like Taste Before You Waste to source out necessities for our events, workshops, volunteer programs, etc.
- At festivals we hold trade tents where participants can come with items they no longer need and trade for something that they want.

2. Money

- Our creations from artistic upcycling will be listed on our online webshop, and can be purchased by those interested in our artworks or in the project.

100% of the money made from our online shop goes into our mission and project.

- Money donations are made through our website and 100% of the donated money goes into our mission and project.

Donations can be exchanged for future trips with us, artworks upcycled from goods we traded for, or a memento from our trip abroad!

3. Skills

- Volunteers from all over the world can trade their involvement for the Valparaíso community experience, new knowledge, and new skills.

HOW?

Small tasks that we need to complete and current mini-projects onboard are listed and updated on our website under the Get Involved Button and on our Facebook page.

The Valparaíso community and marketplace serve as a progressive and collaborative playground for the exchange of new ideas, experiences, and skillsets.



CATFARM

With the same values as the Valparaiso we built up this community in France.

Here we are building a sculpture to let the visitors know that they are on the right path to the Catfarm.



BREST MARITIME 2016

This festival in France we got invited to make traditional stained glass for the organisation and to let the people know what the New Pirate Economy is.



OUR FUTURE ACTIVITIES ABROAD

In 2019 we will be setting our first major journey down Western Europe, to West Africa, and places beyond, taking our floating marketplace with us and spreading our vision of the New Pirate Economy as we travel.

Abroad, we will trade donated goods and our skills for three things:

1. Stories

- At the core of the Adventures of the Valparaíso is the community we form and the connections we build within it. Stories and experiences are what makes each of us who we are, and sharing them is what bonds us in this journey of combined human consciousness.

Stories are recorded, labelled with a serial number, and will be playable on our website, facebook and

We will make a documentary of our entire story.



2. Goods

- Abroad, we will be trading our skills and donated goods from our sponsors for sailing necessities and mementos from communities we encounter.

Our trade abroad will be cash-free.

All transactions will be recorded in our online database, so that the participants from both our homebase community and abroad can track the journey of their goods across the globe.

3. Skills

- During our journey we will meet lots of amazing people with unique skillsets that will be useful onboard.

We will trade the donated goods from our local community for the skills that we need.

GET INVOLVED!

adventuresofthevalparaiso.com/get-involved

