PUBLIC INTEREST TECHNOLOGY

Who gets to make technology? #PublicInterestTech

Steffania Paola Costa di Albanez, developer, designer, and visual artist, calls for diversity among developers of technology to reflect the diversity of its end users.

Technology is transforming every area of our lives. But as it opens new avenues and shows us fresh possibilities, tech can also deepen existing inequalities. We believe in harnessing technology to serve justice and the public interest—and we see a wealth of opportunities to do so. That's why the Ford Foundation is working with a community of partners to develop a path for people to use their technology skills to change the world for the better: the professional field of public interest technology.

Transcript begins.

Steffania Paola Costa di Albanez: As a person who grew up in a very small city in Brazil, the internet was a very transformative experience in my life. Being able to chat and be together with people who think differently from how I think, that changes your perspective on the world, your way of being in the world, the things that are possible in your life. And there was also a space to tell my story in that place. That was very powerful in my life.

> [Steffania Paola Costa di Albanez, Ford-Mozilla Open Web Fellow, Derechos Digitales. A Latina woman with curly hair wearing a pink dress with purple accents and big circular earrings.]

My name is Steffania Paola. I am from Brazil and I am currently in Chile, in the Derechos Digitales organization as an Open Web Fellow. As a woman from the south of the world, the Global South, it is very obvious we need to have diverse experiences to develop anything in the world, not just technologies. Because people, they have different experiences. And that influences the way you develop things. So, if technologies are made by a white man in the North, that's going to be reflected clearly in the technologies when people go to use them. So, in that sense, diversity in all its forms—I'm not just talking about the need to have more women but also the need to have more black women, more trans women, more trans men. It has to be a place for all types of diversity, so there are different points of view on the same questions. We can fight for a more equal world, beginning with the way we develop technology.

> [Ford Foundation logo: a globe made up of a series of small, varied circles. Mozilla logo.]

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