



Innovation Through Community



July Newsletter

31/07/2025

Welcome!

Whether you're a new member or a long-time supporter, we're excited to welcome you to the Arab Tech Collective (ATC) and introduce to you our monthly newsletter. Our newsletter will be your guide to all things tech, community, and culture in the collective and beyond—highlighting upcoming events, exciting opportunities, and important news within our growing community.

Each month, we'll keep you updated on everything you need to know, from emerging tech trends, guest speakers, career resources, and more! If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on Instagram, LinkedIn, Discord and Slack to stay connected.

– The ATC Team

The WIRE



Trending Technologies:

X is piloting a new feature that uses Community Notes, its crowdsourced fact-checking system, to surface posts that are widely liked or agreed upon across political and ideological divides. Posts tagged with notes that receive consensus approval from a range of contributors will be eligible to appear in a special “For You” tab, potentially increasing their visibility. According to X, the goal is to highlight content that “brings people together” or reflects broad agreement.

Why it matters: At first glance, this feature seems like a push for transparency and civic harmony. But in practice, it could easily reinforce majoritarian bias—especially on polarizing topics like Palestine, the Arab world, or anti-colonial movements. If “consensus” is determined by a contributor base that doesn’t reflect the lived realities of Arabs, Muslims, or other marginalized communities, critical posts may be deprioritized or dismissed altogether.

For the Arab Tech Collective and allied creators, journalists, and organizers, this raises concerns around digital gatekeeping under the guise of neutrality. While Community Notes has successfully flagged misinformation, it's also shown cracks when used to evaluate posts about conflict, race, and resistance—topics that rarely generate clean consensus. This pilot could lead to further downgrading of narratives that challenge the status quo, even if those narratives are truthful or necessary.

Industry Movements

Upscrolled is a new social media app developed in response to Meta's censorship of Palestinian voices. Built by a team of Palestinian and allied engineers and designers, Upscrolled reimagines what an image-first platform can look like when it's built on community, trust, transparency, and political autonomy.

Unlike Instagram, which continues to algorithmically suppress and remove content about Palestine, Upscrolled is designed to be platform-neutral, censorship-resistant, and controlled by its users—not corporations.

Why it matters: Upscrolled challenges Big Tech's gatekeeping by offering a user-controlled alternative rooted in creative and political freedom. For Arab Tech Collective members, this project offers inspiration and an actionable blueprint of how to mobilize collaboration, design for safety and sovereignty, and use technology to counter digital repression—especially as we continue to witness increasing crackdowns on online activism.

Cultural Relevance

New York assembly member, Zohran Mamdani, secured a major political victory this month through a campaign that defied traditional norms and leaned heavily on digital tools to mobilize multilingual, working-class, and Muslim communities across New York City. His approach centered around community storytelling, translated content, and creator partnerships, particularly on Instagram and TikTok, to reach younger voters often overlooked by mainstream campaigns.

His win comes amid a time when Islamophobia is escalating in the media and online. Just days before the election, Shawn Maguire, a partner at Sequoia Capital, one of Silicon Valley's most influential venture firms, posted inflammatory anti-Muslim rhetoric to his personal account, sparking widespread backlash. While Sequoia has yet to formally comment, the silence from such a powerful institution underscores how Islamophobia often goes unchecked at the highest levels of tech leadership.

Why it matters: Mamdani's victory is not just a political milestone—it's a case study in how communities can reclaim digital platforms to organize, educate, and mobilize. In stark contrast, Maguire's comments reflect how tech continues to be weaponized by those in power to spread hate with little consequence.

For Arab Tech Collective and our broader networks, this moment reminds us of the dual role tech plays in both marginalization and resistance. It reinforces the need to build, back, and protect platforms and leaders that reflect our values, and to hold accountable the institutions that don't.

We want to hear from you!

Have a minute? We'd love your feedback through a quick member survey. This helps ensure we are concentrating on the things that matter to our community.

شكراً!

[Member Survey](#)

We Need Your Help!

We are looking for contacts for student STEAM related groups at Universities. We want to start organizing more in-person events across Universities, starting in NY but expanding slowly across the US and beyond. If you happen to be apart of such a group, or know someone who'd be interested in collaborating, let us know!

AND we are looking for philanthropy work to do this Summer as a group. If you know of any group volunteer opportunities (e.g. park cleanup, soup kitchen, clothing drive) reach out to us!

Nothing Beats a Summer Sahra!



Our latest summer sahra on July 30th at Pier 57 brought together one of our biggest crowds yet, a vibrant mix of new faces and longtime members. While the rooftop views were rained out by a surprise monsoon, we kept the energy alive indoors with great conversations and spontaneous connections.

From startup founders trading advice, to students exploring how to bring ATC to their campuses, to community members planning tech and art exhibitions, the room was buzzing with collaboration and ideas. It's always encouraging to hear how meaningful these gatherings have become to our growing network. Thank you to everyone who joined us—we're excited to keep building with you.

Upcoming Events!



If you'd like to stay informed about upcoming events, we post regularly on IG, LinkedIn, Discord, and Slack. If you'd like to host an event in your city or promote one, we recommend reaching out in our Discord or Slack, we have a growing number of local channels.

For August office hours, feel free to schedule time on our calendar here: <https://calendly.com/arabtechcollective/30min>

Below are our upcoming events or events we will be attending. We will post more details closer to each one:

- August 30 — *Habibi Tech Summit*, New York City
 - August 29-31 — *People's Conference for Palestine*, Detroit, MI
 - August TBA — Summer Sahra, New York City
 - September 25-28 — *ArabCon*, Dearborn MI
 - October 6-19 — *Tech Week*, Los Angeles / San Francisco, CA
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Call to Publish!



We are now accepting requests from our members, subscribers, and allies who would like to publish content on our Newsletter, Socials, or Community spaces!

If you have any articles, news, events, announcements, or content that you'd like to broadcast, let us know. You can submit requests below.

[Submit Content](#)

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