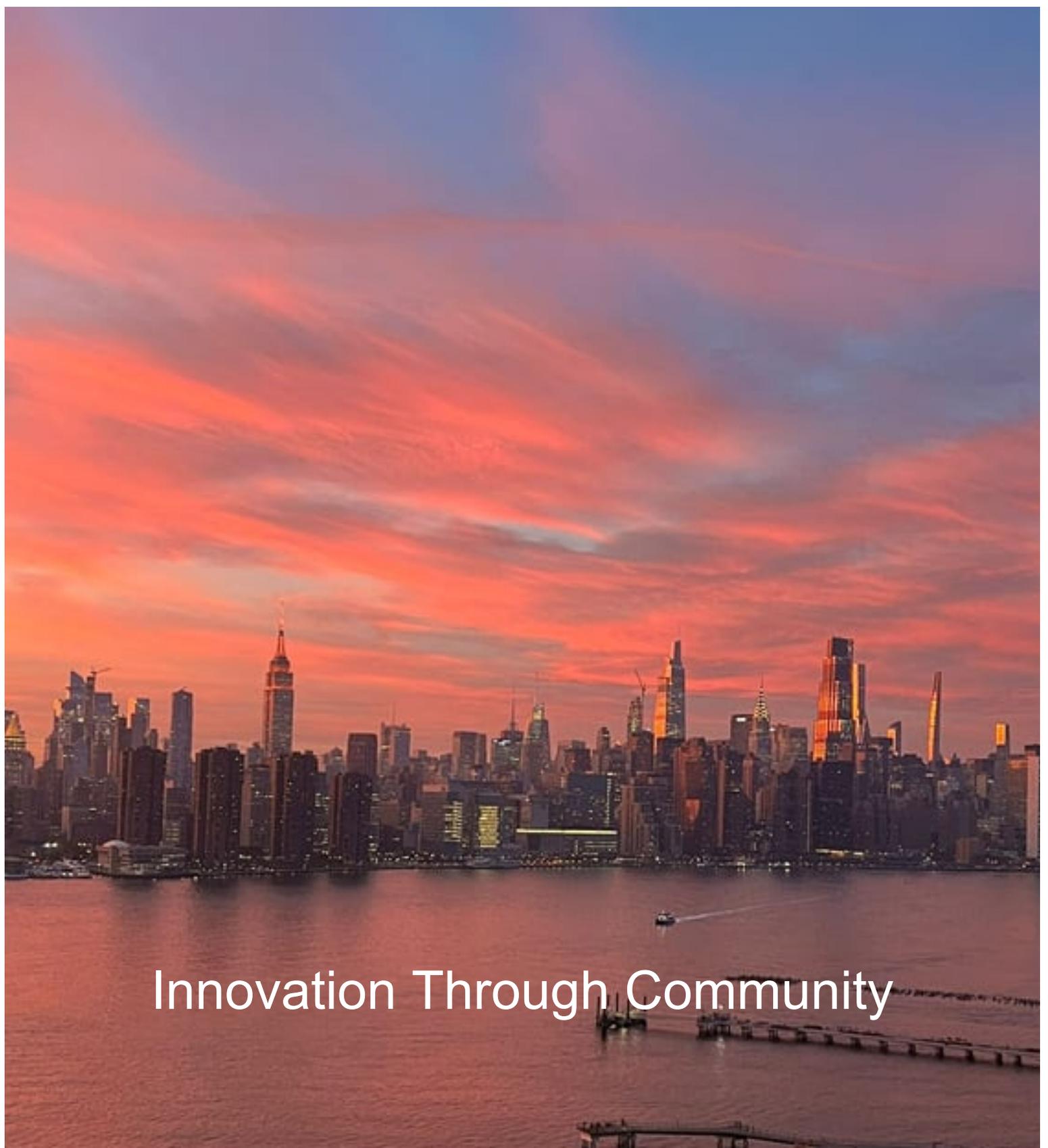


Erab tech collective



Innovation Through Community

31/01/26

From The Arab Tech Collective Team

Welcome

أهلا وسهلا

Whether you're a new member or long-time supporter, we're excited to welcome you to the Arab Tech Collective (ATC) and introduce you to 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, webinars, career resources, and more! If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on Instagram, LinkedIn, Discord, and Slack to stay connected.





Looking Towards 2026!

As we step into a new year, we're filled with excitement and ambition for what's ahead for the Arab Tech Collective. This year is about growth with intention: expanding our community toward 1,000 members, launching our first stand-alone chapters, and cementing student chapters that will shape the next generation of Arabs in STEM fields. We're focused on making the PXRID program an outstanding success and developing open-source tools that directly serve and strengthen our ecosystem, further proving the power of community-driven innovation. Along the way, we're deepening collaboration, both within Arab ERGs across the tech industry and through new partnerships with Arab-led organizations, brands, and global tech communities—so we can continue building and innovating through our shared communities together.



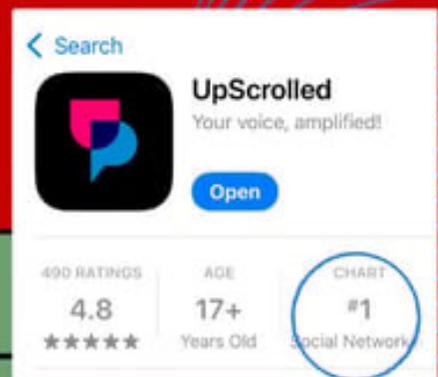
TRENDING TECHNOLOGIES

Upscrolled, the social app we highlighted last August, has surged to the top of the app store. Following the major changes at TikTok and rising user concerns about censorship and platform transparency, Upscrolled climbed its way into the top 10 free apps [and number 1 in free social apps] in the U.S. app store. The app is a blend of familiar social features you'd use on Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter/X—from photos, short-form videos, text posts, and direct messaging—with a promise of unbiased feeds and reducing algorithmic manipulation.

Founded by Palestinian-Jordanian-Australian engineer Issam Hijazi, Upscrolled was built as a social app that belongs to the users, that allows individuals to express themselves freely without fear of outside agendas or algorithms that try to suppress them. The app downloads have spiked **2,850%** since Thursday, January 22, shortly after TikTok's changes were made under the direction of Larry Ellison and Oracle.



Source: TechCrunch, Forbes



TRENDING TECHNOLOGIES

Why it matters:

Upscrolled's sudden rise is not like any other app trend, it's a significant shift in user expectations around social media governance, algorithms, and expression. As people grow skeptical of these opaque changes to their social platforms and who's monitoring

their activity, alternative platforms that prioritize user control, transparency, and freedom of expression are gaining serious, and overdue, traction.

This moment also echoes a broader pattern: social media users are rewarding platforms that use less manipulation and more honesty. We live in a landscape where debates around censorship, political content, and data harvesting are intensifying, and Upscrolled's surge reflects what people want from their social platforms—not new features, but social networks that align with their values.

arabic.ai | replit

INDUSTRY MOVEMENTS

Arabic.AI & Replit launch fully free Arabic-language coding courses. The Arabic-first education platform, Arabic.AI [led by Nour Al Hassan], partnered with developer Replit [led by Amjad Masad] to offer Replit's full coding curriculum fully localised into Arabic and free for learners across the MENA region. This marks the first comprehensive Arabic rollout of Replit's learning ecosystem, bringing hands-on software development education and video content to students, engineers, and aspiring developers.

The initiative also ties into Arabic.AI's broader strategy to connect learning with real-world AI creation through its Agentic Studio tools, arriving as MENA sees rising investor confidence in Arabic-first tech—including the region's record-breaking \$230M seed round earlier this year.

INDUSTRY MOVEMENTS

Why it matters:

Language has long been a barrier to entry in tech across the Arab world. Free, high-quality coding education in Arabic helps unlock new developer pipelines, ensuring the region has the talent needed to build the next wave of globally scaled, Arabic-first platforms.

CULTURAL RELEVANCE

On January 10, a star-studded benefit concert co-hosted by Bella Hadid and Pedro Pascal brought major cultural momentum to urgent humanitarian crises in Gaza and Sudan, raising roughly **\$5.5 million** for relief efforts focused on children's medical care and aid. The lineup featured performers from across music genres—including Claire, Shawn Mendes, Lucy Dacus, Chappell Roan, Omar Apollo,

Clairo, Shawn Mendes, Lucy Dacus, Chappell Roan, Omar Apollo, Daniel Caesar, Geese, Blood Orange and more—in a night that fused performance with purpose.

Rather than turning inward, these artists used their visibility to spotlight sustained humanitarian catastrophe and displacement in both regions, channeling grief into collective action and empathy. Mustafa, the event's primary organizer, emphasized that an artists' capacity to expand compassion and mobilize support is key for these movements



Source: Los Angeles Times, IQ Magazine

CULTURAL RELEVANCE

Why it matters:

This concert reflects a broader cultural shift: prominent artists, actors, and creative figures are increasingly using their platforms to engage with global human rights crises, rather than staying silent out of fear of backlash. Their participation helps break the longstanding stigma and political restraints around discussing wars and atrocities impacting marginalized communities.

At the same time, it reinforces a truth many are newly embracing: everything is political—especially art. Music and performance have always been tied to movements for change, and moments like this show how freedom of expression and cultural production work hand in hand with resistance. By speaking openly, these artists make it safer for others to do the same, pushing back against suppression and expanding who feels permitted to care, question, and act.



ARAB TECH COLLECTIVE SPOTLIGHT

After a successful pilot program and first graduates last year, our PXRID Program officially launches its full program in 2026.

PXRID is a global initiative focused on building Palestinian talent, business, unity, and impact within the XR [extended reality] industry. Designed for Palestinians across the world, the program creates structured pipelines into XR through training, mentorship, and real-world application, guided by a Steering Committee shaping long-term strategy and execution.



Source: Arab Tech Collective - PXRID

ARAB TECH COLLECTIVE SPOTLIGHT

Why it matters:

Palestinian technologists are often excluded from emerging tech pipelines—especially in frontier fields like XR. PXRID doesn't just teach skills; it builds infrastructure, creating sustainable pathways from education to employment and leadership.

By investing in XR talent now, PXRID positions Palestinians not just as participants in the future of immersive technology—but as builders, storytellers, and leaders shaping it.



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

Below are our upcoming events or notable events we're highlighting or attending. We will post more details closer to each one:

- February — Ramadan!
- February TBA — [ATC] Ramadan Meetup, New York

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