

## **Mozfest 2022 – Responsible Sensing Drone Workshop**

*Hyde Kamst & Sam Smits of the Responsible Sensing Lab*

On March 8 2022, Hyde and Sam gave an online workshop at Mozfest on behalf of the RSL. The aim of the workshop was to collect images from the Mozfest community about their ideal future with drones. Participants made a personal collage with photos that depicted this future. From their personal collage, participants chose their favorite photo for the shared group collage. With this group collage we aimed to make a representation of the group's shared ideal future with drones. Using collages, we wanted to make the subject of drones more tangible.



### **Outcome**

It was nice to see how participants each made their own collage. Everyone had to get going, but in the end the method did indeed provide tools for thinking about a future with drones. Each collage was very different and spawned interesting ideas. The photo below shows the group collage, on which each participant placed 1 photo. The shared future could be expressed as follows.

At the top right you see a photo of the TV program Futurama. While this air traffic looks chaotic, it is actually well-structured. The transportation of people is largely separated from air traffic. The picture depicts that drones offer interesting opportunities, but clear rules must be introduced. To its left is a meditation photo on the beach; it is important to be able to keep quietness in the city and have drone flights in harmony with biodiversity. In addition to harmony, drones can also be used to further investigate and protect nature, as the photo on the right below depicts. The photo in the bottom center refers to a future in which drones are used to offer people the experience of flying with the help of virtual reality. Finally, there is the photo with the signage; it is important to have a good information point in the future where residents can find everything about flights in the city.



## Context

The workshop is a follow-up to the Responsible Drones exploration. This exploration showed that drones are a complex subject, which makes it challenging to conduct a dialogue with citizens. Future scenarios with drones still seem far away and the level of knowledge about this subject among people is generally low. As a result, conversations get stuck in abstractions and technical details, which raises the threshold for discussion. Because drones may have a major impact on the city, the RSL considers it important to involve residents. However, as the exploration shows, this is challenging.

Earlier pilots by the RSL similarly show that it is often difficult to involve residents in technological developments. Partly because developments are not always tangible, but also because many people don't seem to care. Therefore, the RSL identified a number of ways to involve residents in technological developments. One method is making technology tangible with the help of simulations. As a follow-up to Responsible Drones, the RSL therefore wants to do a simulation study with drones. This can act as a testbed for involving citizens in technological developments with simulations.

A second method is talking to people who have an explicit interest in or are concerned about technology. The workshop at Mozfest was an experiment to do just this; the Mozfest community consists of tech activists that are involved in technology development. Portraying the future with technology in a collage turned out to work nicely. It would be interesting to have a longer version of this workshop in the future in which there is more room for discussion.

**MozFest** is part art, tech and society convening, part maker festival, and the premiere gathering for activists in diverse global movements fighting for a more humane digital world. To learn more, visit [www.mozillafestival.org](http://www.mozillafestival.org)