



FUTURE
CARIBBEAN

90-DAY PROGRESS & IMPACT REPORT

BUILDING AGENTIC AI INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR THE CARIBBEAN AND DISTRIBUTED
MARKETS GLOBALLY



236

TEAM APPLICATIONS
450 BUILDERS



39

COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED



49

PARTNER
ORGANISATIONS



34

DIGITAL EVENTS
1,016+ HOURS WATCHED



7,014

ACROSS OWNED
CHANNELS



US\$70,000+

IN PRIZES & OPPORTUNITIES
ROAD TO THE NYSE

TALENT | TECHNOLOGY | INSTITUTIONS | INDUSTRY EXPERTISE | CAPITAL

WEAVE THE DIGITAL FABRIC FOR A CARIBBEAN READY TO MOVE AS ONE.

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At a Glance

Cohort 1 of the Future Caribbean Agentic AI Buildathon, as at 23 August 2026 — day 90 of an ongoing programme.

236	team applications, comprising 450 builders
39	countries represented
236 of 236	teams accepted — resources secured for every applicant
49	partner organisations
159	judges, advisors, members and volunteers
34	digital events, totalling 1,016+ hours watched
7,014	across owned community and social channels
10	opportunity tracks · 21-day build sprint
US\$70,000+	in prizes and opportunities, culminating at the NYSE

Executive Summary

Future Caribbean launched on 26 May 2026 during IDB Invest Sustainability Week in Barbados, with founding partners IDB Invest, ACTAI Global and ACTAI Advisors. The proposition: bring Caribbean and global talent, technology, institutions and capital together to build deployable Agentic AI systems around the region's most important economic opportunities.

Ninety days on, it is an operating international ecosystem — and the first Buildathon is still running. To date it has drawn **236 team applications from 39 countries**, comprising **450 builders**, with the window open to 31 August. Launched with 40 places, the programme secured additional resources so that **all 236 teams are building**. Supporting them are **49 partner organisations** and a **159-strong** network of judges and advisors spanning the World Bank, IDB, UNDP, Google DeepMind, Intel AI Cloud, Citigroup, DRW and ANSA McAL.

A continuous digital programme runs alongside the build: **34 events so far, 1,016+ hours watched, 541 Tapin members**, and **7,014 people** across owned channels.

Three findings define the period so far:

1. **Talent is present and mobilisable.** Demand ran at nearly six times the original capacity.
2. **The region attracts world-class resources.** Frontier model providers, GPU platforms, a global exchange, a multilateral bank and a Big Four strategy practice all committed to a first cohort.
3. **The binding constraint has shifted** — from talent and technology to **deployment**: operating environments, data, procurement pathways and capital, on terms that make building for the public sector economically rational.

With teams now building, Future Caribbean is moving from mobilisation into **validation, deployment and capital formation**.

1. The Opportunity

The Caribbean is globally connected but operationally distributed — different governments, regulators, legal systems, currencies, central banks, procurement systems and datasets across each territory. That creates friction in payments, healthcare, property, disaster response, transport and trade.

Future Caribbean was built around one question:

Can Agentic AI provide a new coordination layer for distributed economies?

The region is an unusually good place to answer it: **43 million people**, among the most climate-vulnerable geographies on earth, concentrating nearly every category of cross-border coordination problem found in far larger economies.

The distinction matters. Conventional software automates a task inside one system; an agentic system can observe, decide and act *across* systems on an ongoing basis. A region whose central difficulty is coordination across boundaries is precisely where systems that act across boundaries generate outsized returns.

Future Caribbean therefore treats the Caribbean not as a market for imported technology, but as a place from which globally relevant technology is built.

2. The First 90 Days

May — Launch. Formally launched at IDB Invest Sustainability Week 2026 in Barbados. The Global Open-Source Agentic AI Buildathon was announced: 40 teams, 10 tracks, a 21-day sprint, US\$70,000+ in prizes, NVIDIA H200-class inference compute and an investor pathway.

"Agentic AI is creating the biggest wave of opportunity we've seen in decades, giving small teams a level of leverage that was previously unimaginable." — Bill Tai, Chairman, ACTAI Global; founding partner

June — Mobilisation. Applications opened globally, reviewed on a rolling basis, with the window ultimately running to **31 August 2026**. Every accepted team receives **21 days of build time with full access to each partner resource**.

#	Track	Core coordination problem
1	Finance, Payments & MSME Capital	Multiple currencies, regulators and banking systems
2	Healthcare Systems & Delivery	Fragmented records; specialist access; cross-border referral
3	Tourism & Transportation	Intra-regional connectivity, scheduling, capacity matching
4	Climate Risk & Disaster Coordination	Multi-jurisdiction prediction, allocation and response
5	The Electron Economy	Generation, storage, grid and energy transition
6	Ocean Systems & Blue Economy	Marine data, conservation, fisheries, maritime awareness
7	Food Systems & Supply Chains	Import dependence, logistics, yield and traceability
8	AI for the Arts	IP protection, production, distribution
9	Real Estate & Development	Title, transaction capacity, capital velocity, approvals
10	Open Track	Cross-cutting opportunities

"By bringing together entrepreneurs, technology leaders, investors, institutions and development partners, the initiative creates new opportunities for talent, ideas and technologies to move from concept to deployment and scale." — Leonardo Mazzei, IDB Invest

July — The Assembly. Future Caribbean hosted its inaugural **Agentic AI Assembly** (10–12 July) at the IDB Barbados Country Office in partnership with ClawCamp: technical workshops, live demonstrations, collaborative builds, investor participation and global livestream. By 9 July the wider ecosystem approached **700 builders, founders, investors, advisors, judges and partners** — a figure counting the full ecosystem, not builders alone.

August — Building. The programme is in its active build phase, with applications still arriving ahead of the 31 August close. Figures below are as at 23 August.

Territory	Team applications	Share
Jamaica	41	17.4%
Barbados	33	14.0%
Trinidad & Tobago	25	10.6%
Top three combined	99	41.9%
All other territories and international	137	58.1%
Total	236	100%

Applications also came from The Bahamas, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Antigua & Barbuda, Guyana, Curaçao and the Cayman Islands, alongside substantial international participation.

Three observations follow.

The programme expanded to meet demand. Launched with 40 places against 236 applications, Future Caribbean secured additional compute, model access and partner resources so all 236 teams could build. A 40-team programme would have been simpler; the alternative was telling nearly 200 teams — most from a region routinely told there is no capacity for them — that there was no room.

Participation is genuinely distributed. Close to six in ten applications originated outside the three largest source territories.

Most teams applied under strength. 450 builders across 236 teams is an **average of 1.9 people** against a permitted maximum of four. Builders are individually motivated but team formation is not happening on its own; structured matching by track, skill gap or territory is a low-cost intervention likely to raise submission quality in Cohort 2.

Submissions must include a deployable or near-deployable system, technical architecture, the agentic workflow, a business model and a go-to-market strategy. This is not principally an AI education programme: the objective is people capable of building systems, companies capable of deploying them, and an ecosystem capable of supporting them.

3. Future Caribbean Live

A continuous digital programme connects builders with regional and international expertise, hosted on Tapin. It is running now, alongside the build.

34 events · 541 members · 488 unique visitors · 412 unique participants · 61,000+ minutes · 1,016+ hours

Two derived figures: approximately **148 minutes watched per participant**, and **1.9 events per week sustained across twelve weeks and continuing** — an operating rhythm, not a launch spike.

The engagement funnel

Stage	Count	Conversion
Joined the platform	541	—
Visited the community space	488	90.2%
Attended a live session	412	76.2%

Roughly three in four people who joined went on to attend a live session. For a voluntary, unpaid programme across multiple time zones that is high; the join-to-participate gap is where community programmes normally lose people.

Most-consumed sessions

Session	Viewers	Watch time	Avg min/viewer
Future Caribbean Day 2 Live Event	95	15,100	159
DeepMind Lab Discussion	82	11,800	144
Oceans & Blue Economy Brainstorming	57	3,800	67
Agentic AI Industry Brainstorming — 20 Aug	50	3,200	64
Agentic AI for the Arts	41	2,400	59
Fireside Chat with Iyinoluwa "E" Aboyemi	57	2,100	37
Fireside Chat with Marla Dukharan	53	2,100	40
Agentic AI for Healthcare	38	2,100	55
Future Caribbean Community Orientation	47	1,900	40
Highrise & Impala API Onboarding	97	1,700	18
Finance Track Advisory Call	39	1,600	41
Fireside Chat with Lucio Dery	40	1,600	40
Make Them Care MasterClass	45	1,600	36

Session	Viewers	Watch time	Avg min/viewer
Nebius Onboarding	47	1,400	30
MiniMax Onboarding	77	1,300	17

These fifteen sessions account for **53,700 minutes — about 88% of watch time** — from under half the events. Onboarding sessions draw the largest audiences but the shortest stays; industry and research sessions draw smaller audiences that stay two to three hours. Both patterns indicate a community using the platform instrumentally.

Dedicated working sessions ran across **Oceans & Blue Economy, Finance, Healthcare, Real Estate, Climate Risk & Disaster Coordination, and Arts & Creative Industries** — each bringing the people who understand the problem together with the people who can build the technology.

Community and audience reach

Channel	Size	Character
Instagram	2,900	Regional and diaspora awareness
X	1,500	Global technology and AI audience
LinkedIn	986	Institutional and investor audience
Tapin	541	Live events and knowledge layer
WhatsApp	700	Builder and participant coordination
Discord	387	Technical collaboration and build support
Combined	7,014	—

The three community platforms — WhatsApp, Tapin and Discord — are two-way working environments rather than broadcast lists, together representing **1,628 people in active community spaces**. That is the closest proxy for committed participation. Followers measure reach, not commitment; the figure worth watching next period is how many of the 7,014 move into building, partnering, mentoring or investing.

4. Technology, Prizes and the NYSE

Partners are providing infrastructure that early-stage Caribbean teams could not otherwise access.

Category	Provided through
NVIDIA H200-class inference compute	Nebius, Highrise & Impala AI
Frontier AI model access	MiniMax, Shogo
Developer infrastructure & APIs	NoInfra, OllyGarden, Giotto.ai, Highrise, Impala
AI deployment hardware	Other World Computing — US\$20,000
Agent operations & enterprise integration	Ocular, Wingsoft, CYBORG
Payments infrastructure	PowerTranz
Data & labelling	Sapien
Community and events platform	Tapin (Gigaverse)
Professional services & strategy	EY-Parthenon
Incubation & soft landing	DMZ, Cayman Enterprise City
Capital markets access	New York Stock Exchange

Compute is provisioned for **inference** — running agentic systems in operation — rather than training, reflecting the emphasis on deployable systems built on existing open-source and frontier models.

Prize composition

Component	Value	Provider
Cash prize pool	US\$50,000	Prize partners
AI deployment machines	US\$20,000	Other World Computing
H200-class inference compute	In kind	Nebius, Highrise, Impala
Model and API credits	In kind	MiniMax, Shogo, NoInfra and others
Incubator scholarships	In kind	DMZ via Cayman Enterprise City
Mentorship, partner perks, market access	In kind	Ecosystem partners
Final showcase at the New York Stock Exchange	—	NYSE

Timeline

Stage	Timing	Status
Applications open	26 May 2026	Complete
Rolling review and team acceptance	June – August 2026	In progress
Building — 21-day sprint, full resource access	Per team, from acceptance	In progress
Application deadline	31 August 2026	Upcoming
Submission review and final judging	Following the sprint	Upcoming
Caribbean Investor Showcase	<i>To confirm</i>	Upcoming
Final showcase and pitch day at the NYSE	Fall / Q4 2026	Upcoming

◆ **This report is written at day 90 — the two rows marked *in progress* are where the programme stands today.**

The 31 August deadline falls eight days after this reporting period closes, so final figures may rise. Published sources variously describe the NYSE finale as September, Q4 and Fall 2026; a single date should be adopted across outbound materials.

5. Judging

Applications are reviewed on a **rolling basis** rather than in a single post-deadline round. Submissions are assessed against a published rubric covering deployability, technical architecture, agentic workflow, business model and go-to-market strategy — available at futurecaribbean.com/judging-rubric.

Three integrity measures apply: a **shared rubric** across all tracks, **two-person verification** of final scoring, and a **48-hour freeze period** before announcement. For a programme whose credibility depends on the defensibility of its results, these are what allow a government or investor to treat the outcome as a signal.

Teams may apply solo or in groups of up to four; the 236 applications represent 236 teams and 450 builders.

6. Our Partners

49 partner organisations contribute capital, compute, networks, domain expertise, market access and deployment pathways.

Presenting partners

IDB Invest (founding partner; institutional host) · **ACTAI Global** (founding partner; global network) · **ACTAI Advisors** (founding partner; advisory and venture support) · **New York Stock Exchange** (final showcase) · **Export Barbados** (national export development) · **EY-Parthenon** (strategy and professional services) · **Highrise & Impala AI** (GPU compute and inference)

Technology partners

Partner	Contribution
Other World Computing (OWC)	US\$20,000 in AI deployment machines
Nebius	GPU cloud infrastructure; H200-class inference
MiniMax	Frontier AI model access
Shogo	AI model and GPU resources
NoInfra	Developer and deployment infrastructure
OllyGarden	Developer tooling and observability
Giotto.ai	AI technology and tooling

Investor, venture and capital

ACTAI Ventures · **Barita** · **Bering Waters Group** · **Ocean Climate Fund** · **Extreme Tech Challenge** · **DMZ** (Toronto Metropolitan University) · **Cayman Enterprise City**

Institutional, government and development

IDB Invest · **Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)** · **Export Barbados** · **Future Barbados** · **Government of Jamaica** · **Jamaica Technology and Digital Alliance (JTDA)** · **Jamaica Artificial Intelligence Association (JAIA)**

Foundations and impact

ABED Foundation · **PermaCity Foundation** · **Ocean Climate Fund** · **LiveWell**

Ecosystem, community and media

ClawCamp · **Tech Beach** · **Island Innovators** · **Mosaic** · **Hub Culture** · **Tapin (Gigaverse)** · **Infolytics** · **Explaining The Caribbean** · **Beyond Growth Digital** · **Supernova Lab**

Industry and track partners

PowerTranz (payments) · **BookIt** (travel) · **Villabound** (real estate) · **Island Drive** (mobility) · **WiFetch** (connectivity) · **Electronics Edge** (hardware) · **CYBORG** (AI systems) · **Ocular** (enterprise AI agents) · **Wingsoft** (systems integration) · **Sapien** (AI training data)

Partnership categories

Founding Partner — shape and support the initiative · **Investor & Venture Partner** — support teams and ventures · **Technology Partner** — provide technology and technical guidance · **Track Partner** — lead a subtrack and mentor its teams · **Ecosystem Partner** — connect communities and expand participation

Three routes for corporates

1. Membership. Contribute expertise, networks and people; nominate specialists to advise builders or join the Founding 1000; gain visibility across the ten tracks.

2. Track sponsorship. Help define the challenge in your sector, contribute the domain knowledge that shapes what teams build, and see the resulting systems first. The most direct route for an organisation with a specific operational problem.

3. Future Caribbean Partner. Full partnership, carrying **access to the Digital Partner Lounges** and **curated introductions across the partner network**. With 49 organisations spanning multilateral finance, frontier AI, capital markets, regional government and sector operators, much of the value is what partners find in each other — a payments company, a development bank, a GPU provider and a national export agency have few natural occasions to be in the same room.

Partnership enquiries: futurecaribbean.com/partner · lily@futurecaribbean.com

7. The Founding 1000

159 named judges, advisors, members and volunteers as at 23 August 2026, and still growing — new appointments are introduced as the Buildathon progresses. A 236-team cohort across ten tracks cannot be judged credibly by a small panel; 95 judges is what makes track-level expertise and two-person verification achievable.

Category	Count
Judges	95
Advisors	53
Members	8
Volunteers	3
Total	159

Leadership. Future Caribbean was founded and is led by **Lily Dash**, a Barbadian lawyer, entrepreneur and technologist.

Founding partner support. The initiative was developed with three founding partners — **IDB Invest**, **ACTAI Global** and **ACTAI Advisors**. **Bill Tai**, Chairman of ACTAI Global, helped inspire the vision for Future Caribbean and mobilised the ACTAI ecosystem behind it, contributing mentors, partners, sponsors, judges and prizes. A venture capitalist across a 35-year career, he was an early backer of Zoom and Canva and of more than twenty companies that reached the public markets. He also serves as a judge.

Institutional representation spans the World Bank, IDB, IDB Invest, UNDP, UNICEF, the World Food Programme and the OECD; Google DeepMind, Intel AI Cloud, Highrise AI, NoInfra, OllyGarden, Airtable, Salesforce, Ripple, Wingsoft, 10x Genomics and Fujitsu Caribbean; Citigroup, DRW, Amalgamated Bank, Sagicor Bank, ANSA Merchant Bank, Barita and World Liberty Financial; ACTAI Global and Ventures, Clearco, 99VC, Kismet Capital, Fathom Fund, Innova Capital, Endeavor Global, Cerulean Ventures, Sangha Capital, Logos Capital, Obsidian Capital Partners, Bering Waters Group and ACERO Capital; ANSA McAL, Export Barbados, Cayman Enterprise City, DMZ, Automotive Art, Blue Mahoe Holdings, the Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator and Jamaica's National AI Task Force; the University of the West Indies and McGill University; and the Clara Lionel Foundation, Stingray Media and Explaining The Caribbean.

Judges (95)

Name	Role
Abdullah Snobar	Executive Director · DMZ
Adrian Bayrd	Head of Strategy & Transformation · Fujitsu Caribbean (Barbados) Ltd
Adrian Dunkley	Founder · StarApple.ai
Adrian Glace	Chief Technology Officer · Amalgamated Bank
Angel Colon Molero, MD	CEO & Chief Medical Officer · Prohealth Advisors LLC

Name	Role
Anthony N. Sabga III	Group Chief Executive Officer · ANSA McAL Group
Anya Ayoung-Chee	Director · Anya Ayoung Chee Limited
Ashley Trick	General Partner · Kismet Capital
Audrey Joachim	Programme Director, Conecta Caribbean · Socle Aegis LLC
Bill Tai	Venture Capitalist & Chairman · ACTAI Global
Boardy Boardman	AI Superconnector
Brandon Richard	Infrastructure Engineer, Digital Workplace / DEX Lead · OECD
Brian Bogart	Director, Caribbean Office · World Food Programme
Carolina Casas Forga	Co-Founder · Sangha Capital
Chandler Fang	Founder · t54 labs
Charlie Kirkconnell	CEO · Cayman Enterprise City
Chjango Unchained	Founding GP · Aexodus
Christopher Burns	.
Christopher Burt	Corporate Governance Senior Officer · IDB Invest
Daniel Gómez	Product Designer · Wingsoft
Danish Chaudhry	Judge · Future Caribbean
Darlington Akogo	Founder & CEO · Mino Health
David B Bender	Investor · Fathom Fund
David Doss	Partner & Board Director · ART Fund SP (by ChainBLX)
David Mullings	Chair & CEO · Blue Mahoe Holdings
Dereck Foster	Chairman · Automotive Art
Dora Tolstoy	Managing Director · Extreme Tech Challenge
Egbert Frankenberg	CEO · Knightfox App Design Ltd.
Ewelina Leszczak	Founder & CEO · Bering Waters Group
George Oliver R Thomas	CEO · Sagicor Bank (Barbados)
Gianni Love	Founder & CEO · Explaining The Caribbean
Gregory Hill	Founder & Managing Partner · ACERO Capital; Principal · Caribbean Economic Forum 2026
Gustavo Inostroza	Chief AI Officer · Wingsoft
Hazel Bagwell	Vice President · Dynamic Talent International

Name	Role
Henry Bezan	Lead, Tokenisation & Capital Markets · World Liberty Financial
Ian Dash	Director · Champion Maritime Limited
Isabel de Caires	Inter-American Development Bank
Iyinoluwa "E" Aboyeji	Co-Founder · Andela
James K Sternlicht	Founder & Chief Strategy Officer · The Peace Department
Jarryon Paul	Founder · Sunshine®
Jeffrey Johnson	Founder & CEO · Stemcomm Ventures
Jeremy McKane	CEO · Ocean Currency Network
Jesse Qin	Founder · Solo Unicorn Club
Justin Ram	Economist · Caribbean Development
Kathynn Sandiford	KTG Health Group
Keisha Barwise	Clinical Data Insight Specialist · Lucea Data and Informatics
Kellyssia Robinson	Data & AI Architect · Salesforce Middle East
Krista Lucenti	Regional Coordinator, Trade & Investment · IDB
Kyle Sonlin	Co-Founder & President · Global Settlement Network
Learie (Herc) Hercules	Founder · Heft IQ
LeeAnn Janissen	Head of Research · East Coast Asset Management SEZC
Leslie Lee Fook	Director · Incus
Lily Dash	Founder · Future Caribbean
Lisa Goodchild	Founder · DIGILEARNING
Lisa Yu	General Partner · 99VC
Malachi	CEO · HFS
Mantelena Kaili	Policy & Media Advisor
Maria Serafica	Co-Founder · ACTAI Advisors
Mariana Dahan	Senior AI & Digital Advisor · World Bank
Mark Castleman	Managing Director · Intel AI Cloud
Mark Hill	CEO · Export Barbados
Micah Louison	Innovation Mentor
Michele Romanow	Serial Entrepreneur; Co-Founder & Executive Chairman · Clearco

Name	Role
Neeraj Tayal	Senior Director, Software Engineering · 10x Genomics
Nikhil Tayal	Founder & CEO · NoInfra
Olumide Durotoluwa	Senior Product Manager · M-KOPA
Dr. Parris Lyew-Ayee	Advisor · Geospatial & Disaster Risk
Percival Hurditt	VP, Group Strategic Operations & Data Insight · Barita Financial Group
Peter Chami	Head, Department of Computer Science · UWI
Quinn Weekes	CEO · Infolytics
Racquel Moses	CEO · Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator; Global Ambassador · Race to Zero
Ralph Chami	CEO · Blue Green Future
Rhea Yaw Ching	Founder & Principal Advisor · Anchor Point Management Solutions
Ritesh Patel	CEO · Ticket Fairy
Sabrina Runbeck	PulsePoint Path
Samana	Head of Operations · BOOGLE Syndicate
Samantha Pleeth	Head of Business Development · Airtable
Shannon Williams	Director of AI and Automation · Stingray Media
Shontelle Layne	CEO · Broken Trident Records
Silvio Pupo-Casco	CEO · Logos Capital
Sophia Nadur	NED, Investment & Innovation Advisor · Ideas 2 Launch Ltd
Spencer Powers	Head of Special Investments · DRW
Stephen Grell	Managing Director · ANSA Merchant Bank Limited
Stuart Reavley	Managing Director · Juneau Technologies SEZC
Sukhveer Sanghera	Founder & Chief Architect · Potentially
Tania Martin	Leader, Holiday Rentals · Blue Sky Luxury
Tatsuya Kohrogi	Senior Ecosystem Growth Manager · Ripple
Temitayo Bewaji	AI Consultant & Digital Transformation Lead · Bewaji Healthcare Solutions
Terrence Haynes	General Manager · Goldfield Solar
Thokozile James	CEO · EXECUCOMM
Todd Speece	Head of VC Coverage · Citigroup Tech Investment Banking
Tomiwa Ogunmodede	Co-Founder & Principal Product Designer · Axis & Sage Advisory
Trevor Koverko	Founder · Sapien, Polymath, Matador

Name	Role
Veronica Allende Serra	Founder · Innova Capital; Global Board Member · Endeavor Global
Vince Fong	Co-Founder & CEO · Highrise AI

Advisors (53)

Name	Role
Val Alexandre Torres, MD, MBA, FIADFE	Co-Founder & CEO · Latino Executive Exchange
Nikola Simpson-Kellman	Founder · Sustainable Caribbean
Roxanne Waithe	Development Consultant · Workmates BB
Navin Seeterram	CEO · Smart Mountain Inc.
Nigel Guy	CEO & Commercial Director · Iyansan Ventures
Kimberly Lawrence	Environmental Engineer
Roberto Schiano Lomoriello	Disaster Risk Finance & Public Finance Specialist
Anthony McGregor	Founder & CEO · McG6000 Inc
Sebakunzi Matemane	Consultant · The Matemane Group
Steven Roy Smith	CEO & Co-Founder · COLAB CREATIVE CIC
John Ervin	CEO · Allnet
Darnel Francois	Director · Optimaize
Tanya Radosavljevic	UNICEF
Paul Estevez	Co-Founder · Obsidian Capital Partners
Dinesh Daswani	Innovation Manager · Orbtronics
Hasanalam Attar	Web3 AI Ecosystem Builder · Nomadic Wolf Labs
Jessy Abed	Founder & Head Consultant · Niama Health Consultancy
Eric Loubaud	Programme Specialist, DRR & Recovery · UNDP
John Sankeralli	Chief Strategy Officer · AXXS Digital Ltd
Kiki Heathcock	Founder & Managing Member · Fast Forward Ventures LLC
Candace Chandra	Principal · Sequana Natural Capital / Cardinal Legacy Ecosystem Management
Alexander Gafoor	Principal Consultant
Matthew Courtis	Science Team Lead & ML Data Scientist · Treefera Ltd
Dom Sagolla	CEO & Founder · Gray Whale

Name	Role
David Santilli	Founder & Owner · Finca Chocolat, LLC
Fidelis St. Hill	AI Analyst & Legal Advisor · CynatGlobal & Fidelity Law
Matt Schwartz	CTO · Percents
Amanda Terry	Co-Founder · Metagood and ACTAI Ventures
Elena Sinelnikova	Founder · CryptoChicks, Metis Foundation, ClawUp, GOAT Network, LazAI
Samantha Conyers	Chief of Staff · EY-Parthenon
Vanessa Schultz	UNDP
Marvin	Founder · Done In Seven LLC
Stan Stalnaker	Founding Director · Hub Culture / Ocean Climate Fund
Brent Coutain	Head of Digital, iuGO Division · Lonsdale Saatchi & Saatchi
Blair Kelsie	Fractional CTO & Startup Mentor · Lion Mentorship
Zain Ishaq	CEO · DotCMS
Peter Lawrence Thompson	Founder · Remote Work (Barbados) Inc.
Jim StClair	CEO · MyLigo, Inc
Matt Mckibbin	Founder · DecentraNet
Al Pierre Lestrade	Founder & CEO · GoDocta Health Corp.
Ifeanyi Monyei	Co-Founder & CEO · Axis and Sage Advisory
Marla Dukharan	Caribbean Economist & Advisor
Jaya Savalani	Real Estate · Savalani
David Levy Maduro	Co-Founder & Managing Director · CX Pay B.V.
Christopher Reckord	Chairman · National AI Task Force (Jamaica)
Kayvia Harriott	Director & Lead Developer · TekUp Jamaica
Emma Dash	CEO · Live Well Clinics
Krystle Francis	Director of Programs, Caribbean · Clara Lionel Foundation
Juraci Paixão Kröhling	CEO · OllyGarden
Caroline Kerswell	Global Head of Legal & Director · Lewis-Simpson Partners Capital Group
Shegun Holder	Managing Director · Watooka
Noah W Berman	CEO & Founder · Global Venture Builder
Melissa Powell	Entrepreneur · Stealth AI Startup

Members (8)

Name	Role
Matt Hamilton	Founder · Dharach
Albert Mensah	Founder & Creative Director · Fortune Favours Productions
Dr. Aviane Auguste, PhD	Assistant Professor · McGill University
Matthew Stotts	General Partner · Cerulean Ventures
MJ Jain	Chairman · Unison Capital / Ideation3X
Jessica Lewis Marshall	Campus Librarian · UWI Mona Library
Christopher Bleau	Creative Director · Fortune Favours Productions
Roniesia Godfrey	Program Manager · Google DeepMind; Founder · 21 Ethos

Volunteers (3)

Name	Role
Connie Ip	Engineering Program Manager · Claris International
Sherika S R Herbert	Customer Relations · Government of Barbados
Emmanuel Okon	Community Manager · CSN

A small number of entries are listed by first name only or without an organisation, reflecting the published roster; these should be completed before external circulation. The live roster is maintained at futurecaribbean.com/judges.

Joining the Founding 1000

Experts and industry leaders are welcome to join as **judges**, **advisors**, **members** or **volunteers**. Judges evaluate submissions against the shared rubric; advisors guide teams within a sector; members contribute expertise and networks; volunteers support delivery.

The commitment is real but bounded — a judging round, an advisory session, an introduction at the right moment. Expertise is welcome from anywhere: deep knowledge of Caribbean systems is invaluable, but so is technical depth in agentic AI, experience scaling companies, or a network worth opening.

To join: futurecaribbean.com/get-involved · lily@futurecaribbean.com

8. Media Coverage

Coverage to date spans at least eight territories and international business and technology press.

Date	Outlet	Story
12 Jun	St Vincent Times	Future Caribbean launches global agentic AI buildathon
Jun	The Bajan Reporter	Future Caribbean launches global agentic AI buildathon
15 Jun	Barbados Today	Future Caribbean launches \$140K AI 'buildathon'
26 Jun	Jamaica Observer	Future Caribbean launches global Agentic AI buildathon
27 Jun	News Room Guyana	Positioning the Caribbean as an AI innovation hub
1 Jul	NY1 / Spectrum News	Using AI for climate relief in the Caribbean
6 Jul	Benzinga	Why two of AI's fastest-growing markets are being overlooked — opinion by Lily Dash
6 Jul	TTT (Trinidad & Tobago)	Shaping the region's AI landscape — founder interview
8 Jul	T&T Guardian	Future Caribbean launches Agentic AI Buildathon
9 Jul	Benzinga	Global AI movement accelerates with inaugural Assembly
9 Jul	Business Insider	Global AI movement accelerates, recruitment continues worldwide
9 Jul	GlobeNewswire	Inaugural Agentic AI Assembly
Jul	Yahoo Finance	Future Caribbean's Global AI Movement
Jul	AI Barbados	40 Teams, 21 Days, One NYSE Pitch
Jul	Caribbean AI	Caribbean AI roundup, first half 2026
24 Jul	Silicon Caribe	Momentum: 184+ applications, 32+ countries
10 Aug	Caribbean Pulse	450+ builders from 39 countries enter build phase

9. What the First 90 Days Show — and What Comes Next

What the first 90 days show

Talent exists. 450 builders across 236 teams from 39 countries, with applications still arriving — demand at nearly six times the places originally planned. The constraint is not Caribbean technical ambition; the opportunity is to organise it.

The region attracts global resources. 49 partners and 159 judges and advisors — including a global exchange, a multilateral bank, frontier model providers and a Big Four strategy practice — are committed to a first cohort, and both networks continue to grow.

Geography is not the constraint. 1,016 hours of watch time to date show a builder in Jamaica working with an expert in Barbados, a researcher in London and a founder in North America.

Problems are shared, solutions are not. Jurisdictions address common problems independently. Agentic AI creates an opportunity to build systems that coordinate across those boundaries.

Deployment is the next constraint. Builders can be mobilised, technology provided, experts assembled — all of that is now proven. The challenge ahead is connecting the strongest systems to real institutional environments — on terms that ensure the teams who build them are commissioned and paid to deliver them. Deployment access without commercial commitment does not build an industry; it depletes one.

The deployment chain

Talent → Compute & technology → Domain knowledge → Institutions → Deployment → Capital

The first three layers are built and operating. The fourth is partially in place through IDB Invest, the OECS, Export Barbados and national industry bodies. The fifth and sixth are the work of the next period.

Immediate priorities: build → validate → deploy → capitalise

Close applications on 31 August, complete the sprint, then judge and identify the strongest systems. Create real-world pilot environments. Establish deployment pathways on terms agreed before building begins. Connect companies with capital through the Caribbean Investor Showcase and the NYSE finale. Commission the first government-sponsored buildathon and publish what it cost and produced. Maintain Future Caribbean Live. Report team-level and track-level results so Cohort 2 is designed on evidence.

Targets for the next reporting period

Indicator	Target
Judged and scored submissions	100% of eligible teams
Teams placed into live pilot environments	8–12

Indicator	Target
Signed institutional pilot agreements	5+
Government data-sharing or sandbox arrangements	3+
Engagements with IP and remuneration terms agreed before build	100% of government pilots
Government members or track sponsors	2+
Government-sponsored buildathons commissioned	1+
Teams at the Caribbean Investor Showcase	15–20
Teams that raise capital or enter an incubator	6+
Companies incorporated post-Buildathon	10+
Future Caribbean Live events sustained	25+
Partner organisations	60+
Founding 1000 network	250+
Combined owned-channel following	10,000+
Members in active community spaces	3,000+

Proposed for adoption; to be confirmed by the programme team and founding partners. Baselines will be finalised once Cohort 1 closes.

10. The Opportunity for Government

Governments can move this ecosystem from experimentation to deployment — but the engagement has to be wholesale rather than transactional. Handing builders a problem statement and waiting to see what comes back is not partnership.

Three ways in

Membership and sponsorship. Sponsor the track matching your national priority. This buys a cohort of technical teams working on your problem, with your operators in the room.

Deployment and build contracts. Access to real operating environments, and a route to paid delivery where a team produces a working solution. Three things must be settled in writing before building starts: who owns the technology, what happens if it works, and how the work is remunerated. Several arrangements can work; ambiguity cannot.

Problems, data and expertise. Nominate high-value operational problems, identify datasets that can safely support development, and connect builders with the officials who understand how existing systems work.

A procurement model: the sponsored buildathon

A government sponsors a buildathon around its own problem. Multiple teams compete, a prize pool is awarded for first, second and third, and Future Caribbean is sponsored to host and manage the workspace, infrastructure, mentorship and judging.

This is better procurement, not merely different. A conventional tender asks vendors to describe what they would build; this shows what several teams *have* built, against the same problem, before you commit. It reaches the four-person team with the best system in the region that cannot answer a 200-page RFP, at a cost bounded and known in advance. It also settles remuneration structurally: teams compete for a funded prize pool against a published rubric, so effort is paid for by design rather than as an afterthought.

How this sits alongside procurement law varies by jurisdiction — a paid discovery stage in some, the competitive process itself in others. We are ready to work through that design with you.

The principle: builders' work is protected

If a team designs a working system for a public problem, that team must be paid if it is adopted. The pattern to avoid is familiar: teams solve a stated problem, and the contract is then awarded elsewhere on the strength of what they demonstrated.

This is not a complaint; it is what makes an ecosystem viable. A government's long-term interest is a domestic supplier base able to build and maintain its systems, and that base exists only if building for government is economically rational. No government asks an architecture practice to design a public building at its own cost and then awards construction on the strength of those drawings; software design is not different in kind.

In practice: commitment precedes build, ownership is explicit, valid solutions are remunerated, and the building team has first opportunity to negotiate delivery. Where rules require open tender, the original team is either compensated for work performed or the requirement is scoped so they can compete fairly. Future Caribbean can provide template terms so none of this is negotiated from first principles.

A first engagement

One problem with a named owner. One dataset, even partial. One operator for two hours a fortnight. A 90-day evaluation window with success criteria set in advance. And, in writing before work begins, what happens if it works.

The first four require no budget and no procurement decision. The fifth requires only a decision made early rather than late.

11. How to Engage

If you are	The ask
A government or public agency	Join as a member, sponsor a track, or commission a sponsored buildathon around your own problem (Section 10)
A corporate or institution	Become a member, sponsor a track, or join as a Future Caribbean Partner (Section 6)
A Future Caribbean Partner	Use the Digital Partner Lounges and partner introductions; offer an operating environment for a validated pilot
An investor	Participate in the Caribbean Investor Showcase and the NYSE finale
A technology company	Contribute compute, models, APIs, tooling or technical mentorship
An expert or industry leader	Join the Founding 1000 as a judge, advisor, member or volunteer (Section 7)
A university	Connect students and researchers; host applied research collaborations
A builder or founder	Join the community and apply to Cohort 2
A member of the diaspora	Contribute expertise, networks or capital through the ecosystem partners

Partnership enquiries: futurecaribbean.com/partner **Direct contact:** Lily Dash, Founder — lily@futurecaribbean.com **Buildathon applications:** apply@futurecaribbean.com **Community:** Discord · WhatsApp · Telegram · Tapin **Follow:** [LinkedIn](#) · [X](#) · [Instagram](#)

Appendix: Programme Facts

Item	Detail
Cohort	1 (inaugural)
Launch	26 May 2026, IDB Invest Sustainability Week, Barbados
Founding partners	IDB Invest, ACTAI Global (Chairman: Bill Tai), ACTAI Advisors
Founder and lead	Lily Dash
Teams originally planned	40
Teams accepted and resourced	236 (all applicants)
Team size	1–4 members (average of applicants: 1.9)
Teams applied	236
Builders across applying teams	450
Tracks	10
Sprint	21 days
Application deadline	31 August 2026
Review method	Rolling
Prize pool	US\$70,000+ (US\$50,000 cash + US\$20,000 hardware + in-kind)
Compute	NVIDIA H200-class (inference)
Finale	New York Stock Exchange, Fall/Q4 2026
Judging rubric	Published at futurecaribbean.com/judging-rubric
Judging network	The Founding 1000 (159 members)
Population across the Caribbean	43M+
Climate vulnerability	Among the most vulnerable regions globally
Economic opportunity in AI transformation	Multi-billion USD
Jurisdictions, currencies and regulatory regimes	Multiple, non-harmonised

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