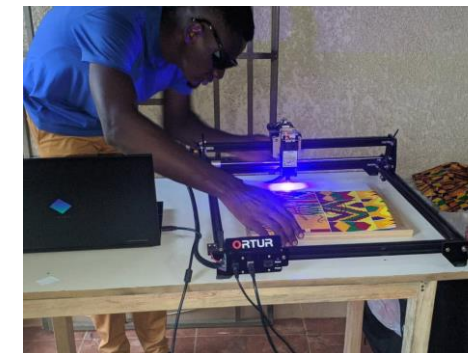# 2128756 Race, Gender and Class Equity in the Future of Work: Automation for the Artisanal Economy
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Artisanal labor in employee-owned businesses such as fashion, furniture, urban farms, etc. have some of the highest race, class and gender diversity of any economic sector, but low income.

Research Question: Can AI and digital technology enhance the capabilities of artisanal production and services, creating an economic ecosystem with greater equity and sustainability?

Year 1 results: We engaged 15 Detroit artisans in separate and collective innovation workshops. Year 1 findings include:

1. Began developing new products/services via 3D printing, laser cutting, digital agriculture, AI-assisted design, etc.

2. Found increase in tech skills and interest, including programming, digital fabrication and electronics

3. Found the need for non-digital support (training, solar panels, rain harvesting, waste upcycling) to enable digital tech in unalienated value generation (ecological value, labor value, social value)