

## **WA4STEAM, a women business angels association to finance women-led STEAM projects is born**

- ***WA4STEAM is an association of women business angels that invest and support STEAM<sup>1</sup> related start-ups led by women***
- ***WA4STEAM seeks to expand women entrepreneurial presence in STEAM***
- ***WA4STEAM members look for projects at seed capital stage that bring innovation to markets, value to the community and may potentially impact the economy and society eliminating the gender gap***
- ***WA4STEAM members are more than business angels driven by profitability, and aim to become strategic partners nurturing women future leaders and role models***
- ***31 members, from 5 countries participated at the Foundational Assembly***
- ***Regina Llopis as President, Sylvie Lemaire as Vice-President, Ana Suarez as Treasurer and Blanca Ochoa as Secretary of the Executive Committee will manage the association***
- ***WA4STEAM is open to new women angels ([www.wa4steam.com](http://www.wa4steam.com))***

***Barcelona (Spain), November 22, 2018.*** WA4STEAM, an association of women business angels committed to invest and support STEAM related start-ups led by women, held its Foundational Assembly in Barcelona.

31 members from 5 countries elected Regina Llopis, a mathematician and renowned artificial intelligence entrepreneur, as President, Sylvie Lemaire as Vice-President, Ana Suarez as Treasurer and Blanca Ochoa as Secretary of the Executive Committee.

Regina Llopis stressed WA4STEAM commitment to STEAM: “*Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Architecture and Mathematics are the future pillars of the economy and are also among the areas with the largest gender gap too; being an all women business angel group we have a responsibility to help*”.

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<sup>1</sup> STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Architecture and Mathematics



WA4STEAM members are not just driven by profitability; as Sylvie Lemaire, Vice-President emphasized *“we work to provide not only seed capital but to become a*

*strategic partner nurturing women future leaders and role models for girls and women of all ages”.*

The wide variety of professional backgrounds of its members, in medicine, pharmacy, physics, engineering and finance among others, together with its specialization in STEAM projects and its broad network of strategic partners add significant value at the early stages of the start-up life cycle.

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WA4STEAM was created by a group of women after meeting at the European Union Women Business Angels for Europe's Entrepreneurs Program (WA4E) held by IESE business school in Madrid and Barcelona. Since its inception in May 2018, WA4STEAM angels have privately invested in several women-led STEAM start-ups among them, Spotlab, Marbel, Ezymlogic and Artig Gallery.

*“We dream of a future where gender gap in STEAM start-ups is no longer an issue in the agenda”* stated Blanca Ochoa, Committee secretary.

During the meeting the association also reviewed its Articles of Association, its operational structure and approved its Operating Rule Book among other items in the agenda.

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### **About WA4STEAM**

WA4STEAM is a non-for-profit association of women business angels that provide seed capital and support to STEAM start-ups led by women.

WA4STEAM aspires to be a reference within the start-up ecosystem by helping women-led STEAM projects to become profitable enterprises. It aims to be a cohesive body of knowledge for both, women angels (WA) and women entrepreneurs (WE) as well as a community of mentoring and networking.

The broad skill set of its members, its dual approach to investing, driven by economic profitability and social impact, together with its strong values make WA4STEAM a unique organization that:

- Promotes women's entrepreneurship initiatives in STEAM.
- Fosters women's talent and innovation in STEAM.



- Influences society towards gender equality in STEAM.
- Encourages women's greater participation in financing STEAM projects.
- Creates a collaborative environment that allows women entrepreneurs to find the tools and the support to develop their business projects.
- Promotes networking between professionals, entrepreneurs and other organizations.

For more information, visit [www.wa4steam.com](http://www.wa4steam.com)

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