



# Maker Ed

## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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# INTRODUCTORY LETTER

Dear Friends,

2014 was a year of momentum for Maker Ed. Building on what we established in our first full year of programming in 2013, Maker Ed carried forward its work to create more opportunities for young people to develop confidence, creativity, and curiosity through making, by supporting the adults who shape their lives.

I'm proud to say that in 2014, Maker Ed expanded and deepened the impact of our work in the following ways:

- Through our Maker Corps program, we infused new energy and additional support into the summer maker programs at 34 youth-serving organizations, reaching 50,000 youth and families across the nation.
- We broadened access to maker education for youth disadvantaged by poverty through the expansion of the Maker VISTA project, growing the project from 5 sites in CA to 11 sites across the country.
- Through our Open Portfolio Project, we continued our research on portfolios as an assessment tool in education.
- We connected hundreds of young people with mentors through our Young Makers program, and enabled them to exhibit over 100 projects at Maker Faire Bay Area.

In addition to our ongoing work, we moved maker education forward through several special projects and events. In May, we held a day-long Making Possibilities Workshop, where we had the chance to spend time with 100 educators from across the country as we gathered together to connect, tinker, and learn. In September, we launched a free, online Resource Library with curated content for those starting and continuing their work in maker education.

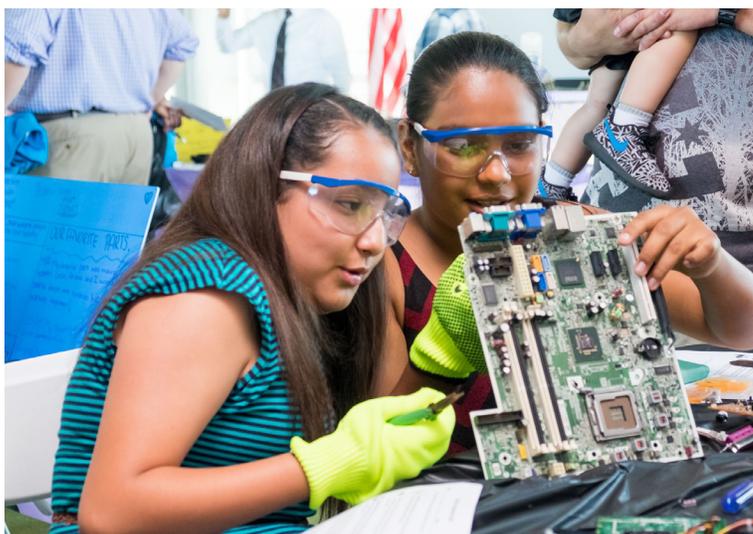


Photo: DIY Girls

And, in what may be the most indicative illustration of the growing momentum for maker education across the country, we attended not one but two events at the White House -- including the first-ever White House Maker Faire, which took place in conjunction with a National Day of Making.

I am also very excited to have joined Maker Ed as Executive Director in October of 2014 and to be collaborating with our amazing staff to build on the great work Maker Ed has done. While we're excited about what the future holds for us, we're always mindful of our past and thankful for the partners and supporters who have helped make this work possible. Whatever the future holds, we know we are moving ever closer to our vision of Every Child a Maker.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren C. Lathe III".

**Warren (Trey) C. Lathe III**  
Executive Director, Maker Ed

# ABOUT MAKER ED

Maker Education Initiative (Maker Ed) is a non-profit organization that supports and empowers educators and communities — particularly, those in underserved areas — to facilitate meaningful making and learning experiences with youth. By providing educators with the training, connections, and resources needed to spark, strengthen, and sustain making in their settings, Maker Ed plays a national leadership role in both broadening access to and deepening the impact of making for youth.

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## Maker Ed: At A Glance

**OUR MISSION:** Create more opportunities for all young people to develop confidence, creativity, and interest in science, technology, engineering, math, art, and learning as a whole through making.

**OUR VISION:** Every Child A Maker

**OUR STRATEGY:** We empower educators to transform the places where youth learn -- schools, museums, libraries, and more -- by giving them the support they need to integrate making into all facets of their work. That support includes:

- *Professional Development:* Providing training and support opportunities (in person and online) for formal and informal educators that will both develop their skills to integrate making into their current settings and prepare them to train others in their local communities.
- *Network and Community:* Fostering a robust and growing network of maker educators through online community, virtual hangouts, in-person convenings, directories, and more.
- *Capacity Building:* Delivering a combination of seed-grants, fundraising support, and capacity building personnel and volunteers through various Maker Ed programs such as Maker Corps and Maker VISTA.
- *Model Sharing and Building:* Making available well-tested and evaluated models and best practices for maker education, in addition to research efforts that aim to further field-wide understanding.

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## Why Making?

Maker Ed believes that every child is a maker and deserves the chance to develop confidence, creativity, and a lifelong love of learning through their educational experiences.

Young people are inherently curious and creative, and they love to learn. But many educational experiences today threaten to dampen the natural abilities of youth and leave them feeling unexcited about learning. Why? Because these experiences are based on a flawed assumption: that students learn best as passive absorbers of knowledge, rather than as active and engaged creators of the world around them.

We reject this notion. We believe the best way to nurture a young person's natural abilities is to create experiences where they are in charge of and fully engaged in their own learning. We want youth to explore curiosities and passions while they learn. We want youth to have an environment where they feel free and safe to ask questions, make mistakes, keep trying, and explore new things. We want youth to use their hands, minds, and imaginations to create things. And we believe these kinds of experiences will enable youth to grow into lifelong lovers of learning and contributors to their communities.

# MAKER CORPS

Maker Corps is a professional development program that combines online training with hands-on practice to create and provide maker education programming within youth-serving organizations. Maker Corps works with its partner organizations and their Maker Corps Members throughout the spring and the summer, bringing them together through an online community and providing them with online training and support to create hands-on and community-specific making programming.



Photo: Children's Museum of Houston

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## At a Glance

- 99 Maker Corps Members at 34 partner sites across the country reached over 50,000 audience members over the course of the summer
- 100% of partner sites said Maker Corps Members infused new energy into their summer programming. Many noted that, without Maker Corps Members, these programs would not have been possible at all.
- One Maker Corps Member said, “I feel like I made an impact because most of the children, especially the teens, were quite reluctant [at first] to participate in the maker activities. By the end of the six weeks they were much more interested and engaged.”

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## Spotlight: Community in Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, PA -- a city with a vibrant and growing maker presence -- was home to three Maker Corps sites in 2014 due to the generous support of the Grable Foundation: Assemble, Millvale Community Library, and the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh.

Using Maker Corps to build off of existing networks in Pittsburgh, these three sites collaborated through an online community for the Maker Corps program and in-person meetups. Together, they set up gatherings for their Maker Corps Members to come together and reflect upon what making could look like in different contexts. Of these gatherings, Brian Wolovich, the president and founder of Millvale Community Library, said, “each of our sites is so different and they could really learn to see, ‘how does this play out in various spaces?’ and we thought it would benefit our individual space as well for them to be able to come back.”

Brian found the support from other organizations tremendously helpful as he started to develop new programming, largely due to its welcoming spirit. Of the community, he said: “It’s a tight network, here. We support each other and we try to... understand that will strengthen all of our work. Our work depends on our cooperation—as opposed to some sense of competition or isolationism.”

Through the connections it provided through Maker Corps, these sites were able to build both long and short-term capacity. In the short-term, Maker Corps Members developed and delivered programming during the busy summer months, allowing the sites to serve larger audiences. Longer-term, the program or activities developed by Maker Corps Members, and the new perspectives and ideas they shared, greatly aided the organizations in thinking about future programming.

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# MAKER VISTA

Maker VISTA is a national service project, managed by Maker Ed, with partners across the US and is a designated STEM partner within the federal AmeriCorps VISTA Program portfolio administered by the Corporation of National and Community Service (CNCS). VISTA is an acronym for Volunteers in Service to America who specifically volunteer a year of service to tackle poverty. VISTA members work onsite with youth-serving maker organizations to build capacity by designing programs, expanding partnerships, securing resources, organizing training on maker education, and linking communities to the larger Maker Movement.

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## At a Glance

- Maker VISTA expanded to a national scale, placing a total of 21 Members and 2 VISTA Leaders in 11 project sites across the country throughout 2014
- Maker VISTA members collectively raised approximately \$75,000 in cash donations, and recruited an estimated 320 volunteers who directed about 1500 hours towards programming.



Photo: Lighthouse Community Charter School

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## Spotlight: Capacity Building at Digital Harbor Foundation

After having a transformational experience as participants in our Maker Corps program, Digital Harbor Foundation (DHF) -- a youth tech center located near the Inner Harbor of Baltimore, MD -- was accepted to take part in the Maker VISTA project in 2014. They brought on two Maker VISTA Members, Melissa Huch and Iman Cuffie, who completed a year of service building DHF's capacity -- with a particular focus on creating systematic documentation, overhauling a volunteer program, managing communications through social media, helping with resource development, and building new relationships in the community.

In the first few months, Melissa and Iman worked to successfully overhaul DHF's volunteer program, complete with a new website and processes and procedures for interviewing and onboarding. The VISTA Members tackled supervising the creation of documentation to support the reorganized program and writing comprehensive guides to seamlessly transition the Volunteer Program from VISTA Members to support staff upon the end of their term.

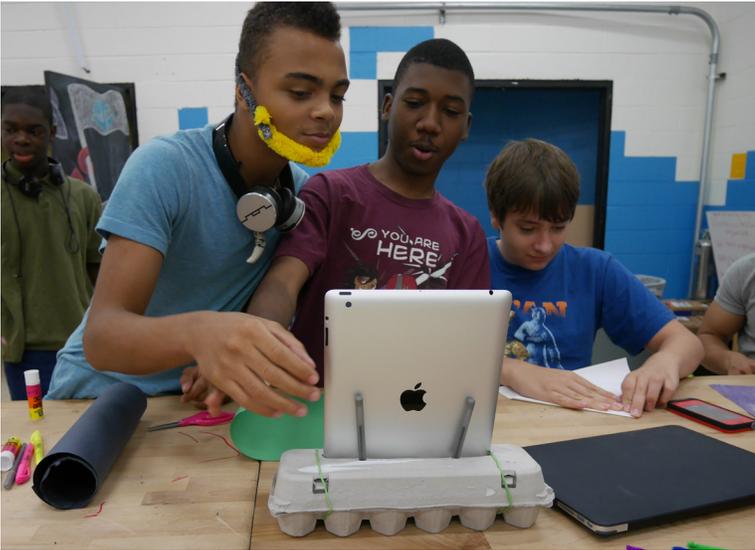
With support provided by Melissa and Iman, DHF was also able to launch and maintain a brand-new Field Trip Program for their Tech Center. The VISTA Members worked on a DHF team that secured funding to provide free field trips to 676 youth, and created a robust and thorough documentation of the field trip program that enabled DHF to complete the hand-off of this program to Program Staff in record time.

Steph Grimes, Director of Education at DHF, found the support the VISTA Members provided to be invaluable. She said, "Melissa and Iman certainly built our capacity in many areas and helped us to put new structures and supports in place to support our work. This past year was a year of significant growth and change in our organization and the work we did with our VISTA Members contributed to our ability to navigate those changes to create a stronger, more balanced organization. In addition, we were so impressed with Melissa's quality of work and level of dedication that we hired her full-time after her VISTA term as our first ever Community Manager."

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# OPEN PORTFOLIO PROJECT

The Open Portfolio Project aims to develop a common set of practices for maker portfolio creation, reflection, and sharing. In collaboration with Indiana University's Creativity Labs, the Project includes a literature review that situates the current work, regular meetings with a National Working Group of researchers and experts across multiple fields, an extensive site survey on youth programming and portfolio practices, 10 field sites visits with youth-serving organizations, and an in-depth set of written research briefs. Stage 1 of the project took place from October 2013 to March 2015.




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## At a Glance

- The Open Portfolio Project published the first 2 of its 9 total research briefs in 2014.
- The Open Portfolio Project team conducted field research on maker portfolio creation and documentation at 10 youth maker programs and spaces across the country.
- The Open Portfolio Project conducted an extensive survey that asked 51 youth-oriented makerspaces in the United States and one in Korea about youth maker programming and portfolio work.

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## Spotlight: Monticello High School, A Model for Capturing Maker Work

Nestled in the rolling hills of Charlottesville, VA, Monticello High School is a large, public, comprehensive high school within the Albemarle County Public School (ACPS) system that serves urban, suburban, and rural communities. One of the ten field sites visited by the Open Portfolio Project core team in the summer of 2014, Monticello is a unique place with experiences that provide strong insights into how portfolios are functioning within a standard school environment for administrators, teachers, and students alike.

In the 2013-2014 academic year, Monticello High School took a bold step, instituting school-wide portfolios for its 9th and 10th graders. With every new year, incoming freshmen will start portfolios, and soon, students at all grade levels will have a digital portfolio alongside their transcript, GPA, and standardized test scores.

Anecdotes from teachers and students also show the successes and continued challenges that surround the implementation and use of portfolios. Students commented that they could see benefitting from the sharing of portfolios with peers, whether to learn from each other's processes or using other portfolios as a comparison. Some teachers also mention that an ideal problem to have would be for students to be making so much stuff and creating so much content that they would need to curate what to show. In the vein of open portfolios, Monticello's emphasis is to ensure that students have continued access to their work, whether personal or school-related.

At Monticello and within Albemarle, the passionate administrators, librarians, central office staff, teachers, and students continue to prototype and test their portfolio implementation, eager to learn from others as well as draw insights from their own experiences.

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# YOUNG MAKERS

The Young Makers program brings together a community of young people, ages 8-18, of varying backgrounds, interests, and skill levels, with mentors and a space to make. In small clubs, participants work together throughout the season to design and make a youth-chosen, open-ended project, culminating in an opportunity to share and exhibit at a showcase event.

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## At a Glance

- Over 275 young makers, with support from about 100 mentors, exhibited 103 projects at Maker Faire Bay Area in 2014. These projects included a pvc pipe instrument, a tent that inspires new ideas, a crafted lock box, a cupcake oven, a crayon re-maker, Arduino-controlled robots, hovercrafts, a thunder and lightning generating lamp, a harmonograph, and much more.
- The Young Makers program sent one of its most ambitious projects - the Grid - to the White House Maker Faire. The Grid is a life-size version of the mobile app Flow Free, where users play the game by walking on interactive light-up tiles instead of using their fingertips.

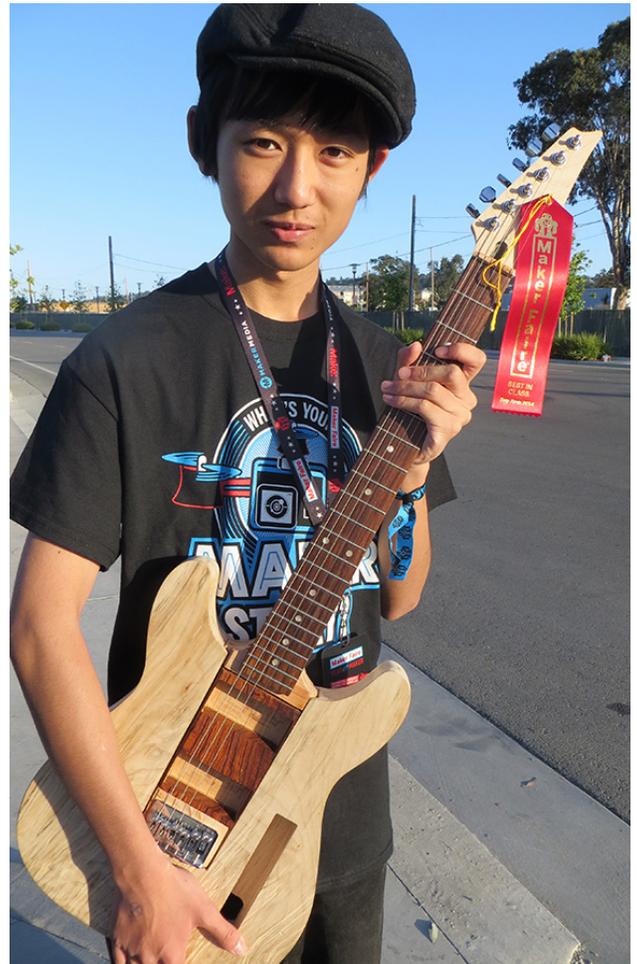


Photo: Huynh family

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## Spotlight: Q.V.'s Modular Guitar

While trying to save money to buy his first electric guitar, Quoc-Viet (Q.V.) Huynh, 16, searched for an affordable model that could be easily upgraded. In researching his instrument options, he came to realize that most affordable electric guitars use low quality electronics, assume the same generic look, and still cost a substantial amount of money. To address this issue and to give guitarists the opportunity to “customize” their guitars without huge costs, Q.V. designed and created the Modular Guitar. The Modular Guitar is the first guitar where one can affordably interchange all of its parts, allowing for on-the-fly re-configuration according to the user’s needs and requirements. After two years and seven revisions to the project, Q.V. showcased his prototype, as part of Maker Ed’s Young Makers program, at the 2014 Maker Faire Bay Area in San Mateo, CA. He received overwhelming support and feedback from the maker community, and was even awarded a ribbon at Maker Faire. Mindful of his own background — coming from an immigrant family of humbled means — many of Q.V.’s past and current projects are aimed at addressing accessibility for economically disadvantaged youth.

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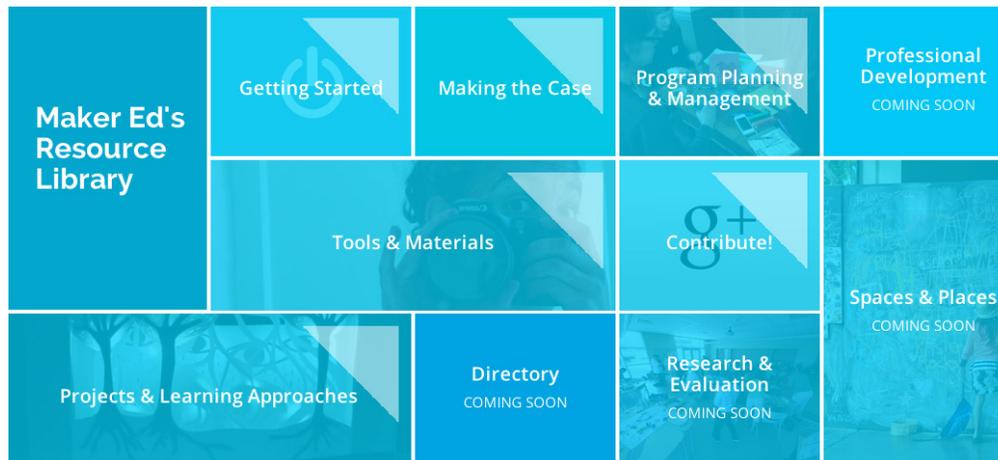
## Spotlight: Makin’ It Club

The “Makin’ It club,” a Young Makers club based out of Los Gatos, California, showcased an impressive 35 projects at Maker Faire Bay Area in 2014. Ranging in complexity and representing a wide variety of interests, the projects were an amazing showcase of youth creativity and imagination. Projects included: a cupcake oven, an electromagnet named Phoenix, a PVC pipe water balloon launcher, a light-up skirt for dancers made with LEDs, a sun powered laser cutter, spy robots with cameras, crayon melters/remakers, an automated book page flipper, and so much more.

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# SPECIAL PROJECTS: RESOURCE LIBRARY

Launched in conjunction with the World Maker Faire in New York in September 2014, Maker Ed's online Resource Library contains information intended to help educators and facilitators from all backgrounds and environments get started -- and continue -- with maker education.



## What is the Resource Library?

The Resource Library was built in response to a pressing need among maker educators for a central repository of useful and concrete information. From its launch in September 2014 to the end of the year, it received nearly 13,500 visits.

An ever-changing, evolving collection of resources (including submissions from maker educators through a Google+ Community, accessible at [MakerEd.org/community](https://www.makered.org/community)), the Resource Library is regularly updated and carefully curated by the Maker Ed team.

The Resource Library originally launched with 90 resources in the following categories:

- “Getting Started,” including a set of curated, introductory resources for those new to making or interested in learning more about what making is and its potential impact in education. It also provides practical, concrete ways for integrating making into educational settings.
- “Making the Case,” containing resources that demonstrate the impact of the maker education movement and provide inspiration for what’s possible. These stories, articles, reports, videos, and other information may help funders, administrators, fellow educators, facilitators, and community members see how making in education affects learning for all.
- “Program Planning & Management,” providing models of successful making programs in varied settings, including afterschool clubs, youth makerspaces, school classrooms, museums, and libraries. These examples also contain relevant tips on how to plan a year-long program, all the while managing students, project progress, supplies, and safety.
- “Projects and Learning Approaches,” including a wide variety of information meant to provide educators and facilitators with ideas for short-term activities as well as open-ended long-term projects, curriculum samples, examples of facilitation methods and practices, and the pedagogies and values aligned with making.
- “Tools and Materials,” containing lists and examples of useful tools and resources in making activities and makerspaces, including suggestions for consumables, hardware, machines, open source software, and other technologies. This category also includes guidance or tutorials on specific tools or skills.

# SPECIAL PROJECTS: EVENTS

Throughout 2014, Maker Ed ran and contributed to several events and conferences across the country -- including the Making Possibilities Workshop, two flagship Maker Faires, and two events at the White House -- to bring together a community of maker educators and young makers to discuss and share their work.

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## Making Possibilities Workshop

The first-ever Making Possibilities Workshop was a day-long event that provided 100 educators with the opportunity to explore making as a strategy to engage youth in learning. The Workshop took place on May 15, 2014 at Intel's headquarters in Silicon Valley through a joint partnership between Intel and Maker Ed. It served educators, including teachers, afterschool providers, administrators, and staff of community-based organizations. The participants came from ten different states and Canada to attend this event.

Highlights from the event included: an opening keynote from Dale Dougherty, founder and Executive Chairman of Maker Media, and Maker Ed's board chair; a closing keynote from Sylvia Martinez, co-author of *Invent to Learn*; a panel of six students who shared their projects and their perspectives; breakout sessions that enable participants to dive deep into specific topics; and a "Possibility Faire" of resources for educators.




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## Maker Faire Bay Area & New York

Described by the Maker Faire team as a "gathering of tech enthusiasts, crafters, educators, tinkerers, hobbyists, engineers, science clubs, authors, artists, students, and commercial exhibitors," Maker Faire is an opportunity for makers of all ages to share what they've made with others.

Maker Ed had a presence at Maker Faire Bay Area in San Mateo and World Maker Faire in New York. At both events, Maker Ed ran the education stage, bringing together over 30 speakers at each event to share their insights about maker education and to spark discussion about important topics in the field.

At Maker Faire Bay Area, Maker Ed had the additional pleasure of running the Young Makers area, where young participants in Maker Ed's program came together to exhibit over 100 amazing projects.

# SPECIAL PROJECTS: EVENTS

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## White House Science Fair & Maker Faire

Maker Ed was invited to two events at the White House in 2014: the White House Science Fair and the White House Maker Faire.

At the Science Fair in May, Maker Ed arranged for three groups from partner organizations to present their projects. The Solar Scooter project, by Kevin Barrios and Saul Soto Zarate from Lighthouse Community Charter School, is a solar charging system for an electric scooter, created by using surplus supplies from a physics teaching unit. Katia Castenada's Electronic Cane, also from Lighthouse Community Charter School, is intended for those with visual impairments, and uses sonar sensors to warn users of any obstacles through headphones. The Innovation in Autism team, comprised of Jonathan Berman, Maya Flannery, and Arjun Mahajan, from The Exploratory: Maker Guilds in Los Angeles, joined together to study stereotypy -- a behavioral issue involving repetitive or ritualistic movement that often manifests in children with autism. Recognizing that stereotypy can create social barriers and interfere with a student's ability to focus and learn, the team set out to design a motion-detecting bracelet that could signal to a child through vibration that they were stereotyping, allowing the child to address the behavior in real time.

The first-ever White House Maker Faire took place on June 18, in conjunction with the National Day of Making. Maker Ed arranged for members of the Willow Glen Young Makers Club to attend the event, where they were honored for their amazing work. In attendance were four young makers -- Matthew Tung, Andrew Ke, Davis Dunaway, Samantha McGinnis -- and their mentor and Willow Glen Young Makers Club leader Lendy Dunaway

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## Clinton Global Initiative America

In June, Maker Ed attended the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) America conference. There, Maker Ed's Deputy Director had the honor of reaffirming Maker Ed's commitment to its Maker Corps program on stage with President Clinton by stating, "In 2013, our commitment provided STEM mentorship to over 90,000 youth and families in 19 states. We're excited to report that we're expanding our commitment and are on track to exceed our goal to reach 140,000 students before September 2014." The success of Maker Corps has demonstrated the power of professional development paired with ongoing support to empower individuals and organizations to work together to achieve common goals. Additionally, at CGI, Maker Ed led a group discussion on making as part of the STEM Working group.

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## Maker Ed in the Community

Maker Ed also participated in approximately 25 national conferences and events in 2014, in addition to contributing to a variety of workshops, webinars and advisor meetings. Highlights included:

- SXSWedu, where Maker Ed presented on "Making and Learning"
- National Science Teacher's Association conference, where Maker Ed presented on "Maker Corps: Cultivating Makers and Creativity," and led a pre-conference workshop called "Banana Remote Controllers?: Tinkering with Purpose"
- Association of Science-Technology Centers, where Maker Ed gave a presentation on "What Happens After the Grant? Strategies for Scale-Up & Sustainability," another on "Great Ideas for Special Events," and led a pre-conference workshop called "Crowdsourcing the Learning Continuum in Museum-Based Making Activities"
- FabLearn conference, where Maker Ed presented on "Making as a Learning Process: Principles of Practice and Design"
- Project Zero Perspectives: Making, Thinking, Understanding, where Maker Ed presented on "The Promises and Possibilities of Maker-Centered Learning"

# SUPPORTERS

Maker Ed's programs, projects and initiatives are made possible through the kind generosity of our supporters.

We are pleased to acknowledge the following supporters of our work:

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Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation\*

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The Microsoft Youth Impact Fund, a corporate advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
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# Staff

**Warren (Trey) Lathe**  
Executive Director

**Rachel Goldman Alper**  
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**Stephanie Chang**  
Director of Programs

**Steve Davee**  
Director of Education

**Briana Flin**  
Communications Manager

**Lisa Regalla**  
Deputy Director

**Nancy Rink**  
Program Manager, Maker Corps

**Tiffany Thompson**  
Program Manager, Maker VISTA

## Joined Maker Ed in 2015

**Jan Schmitz**  
Office Manager

**Jakki Spicer**  
Director of Development

# AmeriCorps VISTA Members

**Jeremy Mitchell**  
VISTA Leader

**Kelsey Leach**  
VISTA Leader

**Chloe Umble**  
VISTA Communications &  
Development Coordinator

## Joined Maker Ed in 2015

**Amanda Reyes**  
VISTA Leader

**Karim Willens**  
VISTA Project Coordinator

# Board

**Dale Dougherty (Chair)**  
Founder & Executive Chairman  
Maker Media

**Kipp Bradford**  
Technology Consultant &  
Entrepreneur

**Carlos Contreras**  
U.S. Education Manager  
Intel Corporation

**Tony DeRose**  
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Pixar Animation Studios

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**Laura Anne London**  
Consultant

**John Lyman**  
Head of Partnerships  
Google

**Jay Silver**  
Founder & Director  
JoyLabz

**Jane Werner**  
Director  
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

## Joined Maker Ed in 2015

**Jay Melican**  
Maker Czar  
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**Kathryn Nash**  
Associate Director of Educational  
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**Twitter** | [@MakerEdOrg](https://twitter.com/MakerEdOrg)

**Facebook** | [Maker Education Initiative](https://www.facebook.com/MakerEducationInitiative)

**YouTube** | [Maker Education Initiative](https://www.youtube.com/MakerEducationInitiative)

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