

Making Spaces: Expanding Making in Schools Across the Nation, FAQ for Hubs

What is the *Making Spaces: Expanding Maker Education Across the Nation* Program?

Making Spaces is a partnership between Google, the Maker Education Initiative, a project of Tides Center (Maker Ed) and the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh (CMP), which aims to develop a national strategy to sustainably integrate making into schools across the country.

The program employs an innovative model where multiple participating schools are paired with a nearby hub (such as a school district, a library, a museum, or a community organization). These hubs provide the schools with professional development and support to help jumpstart and sustain maker education in classrooms. In particular, hubs will work closely with schools to launch a crowdfunding campaign or other fundraising effort to raise funds and local support.

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the Making Spaces program will bring on 5 new hubs for our Cohort 2, each of which will work with 5 to 10 schools in their region, creating a national resource network. Our first cohort of 10 hubs will continue to support their groups of 5-10 regional schools.

What is the role of a Hub in the Making Spaces Program?

Each Hub will work with 5-10 regional schools to raise community awareness, funding, and capacity for integrating making in ways that meaningfully fit within each school. This may include providing professional development for teachers and administrators, programming for students, and assisting schools in creating and launching crowdfunding campaigns. In addition, each hub will participate in monthly video conferences and in-person network meet-ups in the Fall and Spring of the 2017-2018 school year. In the 2018-2019 school year, Hubs will continue to support their group of schools in implementing their maker efforts.

What are the roles of Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and Maker Ed in the Making Spaces Program?

Maker Ed and CMP will act as "meta-hubs," supporting, training, and connecting participating hubs as these hubs support, train, and connect schools. Additionally, both will continue to serve and support their own group of schools, with CMP focusing in on the Pittsburgh area and Maker Ed providing virtual support for schools that want to participate but are not geographically located near a participating hub.

What are the core responsibilities of each Hub?

As a regional hub, your organization's primary responsibilities will be to:

Select 5-10 local or regional schools with which to partner. This process may include

- Building or deepening partnerships with regional schools
- Developing and facilitating an application and selection process for partnership
- Meeting with schools to provide information about engaging in the project and process

Work with schools to find a vision and plan their maker education work. This may include

- Identifying a point person and project team at each school
- Assisting schools in determining goals for their makerspace and/or maker program
- Working with schools to determine their goals in relation to fundraising and community building

Assist schools in creating and launching their crowdfunding campaigns. This may include

- Assisting schools in their creation of a fundraising budget, campaign and community outreach strategy, project page and photos and/or video (if applicable)
- Providing professional development to help schools better understand maker education prior to creating their campaigns, as needed

- Once campaigns are launched, monitoring campaigns and helping schools spread the word through social media platforms and community and national outreach

Deepen and expand partnership with schools. This may include

- Working with schools to provide professional development, design consulting and other service¹
- Continuing the partnership with schools beyond this project

Participate in National Network Activities. This includes,

- Network Meet-Up at Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh, July 2017
- Network Meet-Up at in San Francisco, May 2018
- Regular, monthly video conferences with Network members

What resources and supports will be available to the Hubs?

- Hubs will receive financial support from Google of \$15,000 for year 1, to offset staff time and resource costs, as well as travel funding to attend Network Meet-Ups.
- Training and support from Maker Ed and CMP through Network Meet-Ups, video conferences, Online Maker Ed Learning Modules, and regular correspondence
- A Toolkit of Resources to support Hubs in their work with schools. The toolkit will include resources such as: an action plan, sample application for schools, cost-analysis and budgeting worksheet, Crowdfunding Professional Development resources, sample crowdfunding campaign materials, etc.
- Connection to a nation-wide community of maker educators
- A new approach to partnership and revenue building for professional development and related services for schools and educational partners
- Visibility in a network that has drawn national attention

What is the resource commitment of being a Hub?

Your resource commitment will depend on your institutional goals, capacity, and available resources. Staff time is needed to launch and support the program and your relationships with partner schools and will depend on how your implementation of the program aligns with existing efforts and programming at your institution (different implementation strategies will be provided in the toolkit).

An important thing to keep in mind is that costs for staff time and resources spent prior to the launch and success of the schools’ crowdfunding campaigns might not be reimbursed from the schools until after funds are raised. This may mean that some services may need to be delivered in-kind or that hubs and schools create a memorandum of understanding to ensure that hubs are reimbursed for their prior investment of services and resources.

What is the program timeline?

This is a two year partnership spanning the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years.

- Summer 2017: Participate in Hub Workshop in July in Pittsburgh to launch the program.
- Fall 2017: Set up structure, recruit & select schools
- Winter - Spring 2018: Work with schools to establish vision and goals, launch crowdfunding campaign
- Fall 2018 - Spring 2019: Support schools in implementing their maker education efforts.

¹ Funds raised by schools should offset costs associated with professional development, makerspace design, materials and tools.