



Maker Ed

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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ABOUT MAKER ED

The [Maker Education Initiative](#) (Maker Ed) is a nonprofit organization that envisions every young person having equitable access to maker education: engaging learning experiences that collectively develop their skills, knowledge, and ways of thinking, and that recognize and value their ability to experience and influence their world.

To support educators and institutions in creating these kinds of engaging, inclusive and motivating learning experiences, Maker Ed provides training, resources, and a community of support around maker education.

Our Impact in 2016:

Worked directly with 1,130 educators, including over 150 at our national Maker Educator Convening

Reached nearly 250,000 educators, youth, & families through our work

Granted \$152,500 to youth-serving museums, libraries, schools, and after-school programs to support maker education

Curated content for the Resource Library, accessed by over 10,000 unique visitors from all 50 states and 180 different countries

Secured \$325,000+ in resources and donations for schools and community partners to support the development of maker education curriculum

Ended the year with over 30,000 social media followers

INTRODUCTORY LETTER

Dear Friends,

We're so pleased about all the ways we were able in 2016 to expand and deepen our commitment to our mission: to provide educators and institutions with the *training, resources, and community of support* they need to create engaging, inclusive, and motivating learning experiences through maker-centered education.

In order to effectively support educators and the sites they work at, we know we have to be continuously engaged in conversations with our community. Thanks to a generous grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in 2016 we were able to hire two staff to expand and deepen our work around community. They have focused specifically on understanding how educators engage in maker-centered learning communities, and to learn where Maker Ed could bring additional value to that landscape. We were also able to conduct research aimed at better understanding the needs of educators engaged in maker-centered learning communities, and to provide insight into promising approaches for professional learning.

In many of our conversations throughout the year, we encountered a recurring theme: maker educators are inspired by the generosity and creativity of the community, and are hungry for more opportunities to share with, learn from, and build community with their peers.

In response to these findings, we increased the scope and size of our annual Maker Educator Convening; focused on holding and sponsoring maker educator meetups (MEMs) in multiple locations, and, with our partners, began work on an online, editable MEM Playbook; launched the Ask a Maker Educator series, which live-streams conversations between maker educators, providing the opportunity for audiences anywhere to engage and ask questions; and explored possible improvements to our Resource Library, creating a prototype that is robust in its search functions as well as its social engagement capacity.

We also know from our conversations that educators are seeking more professional development (PD) in order to begin or deepen their maker-centered learning practices. In 2016, Chevron generously provided us with support that allowed us to build out the PD section of our Resource Library. We are delighted to now be able to offer a broad range of free, self-paced activities, organized into topic-based modules, that encourage educators to explore, engage, read, watch, reflect, learn, and share.

We are continually grateful that we have the opportunity to be part of such an amazing group of maker educators, and humbled that we have been able to provide more resources, training, and communities of support to help them continue the amazing work they do every day!

Sincerely,



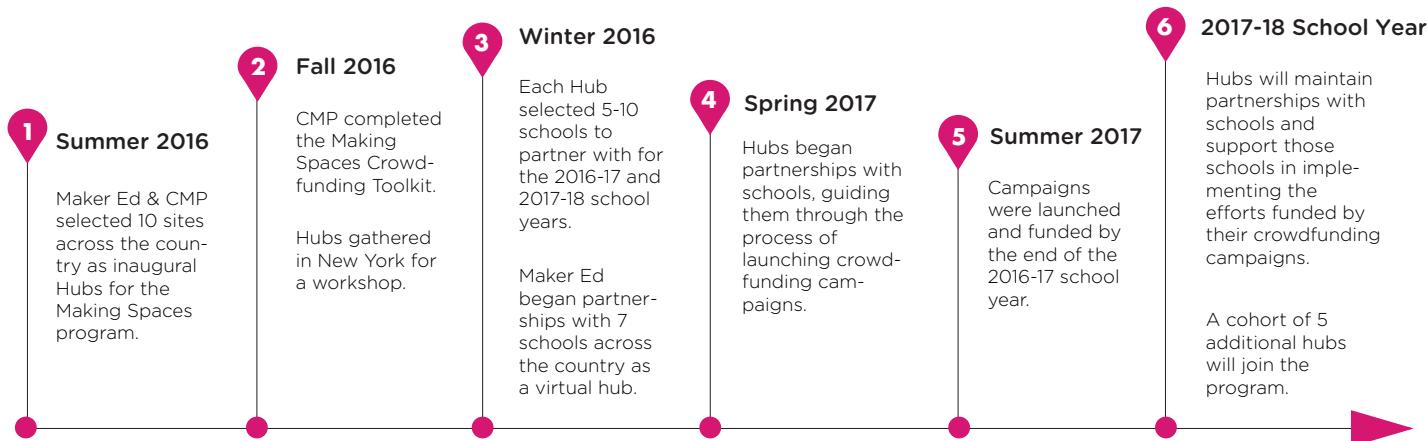
Warren (Trey) C. Lathe III
Executive Director, Maker Ed

MAKING SPACES

Making Spaces connects schools with local or virtual hubs to develop makerspaces and maker education opportunities through crowdfunding, professional development and community engagement.

The First Year

2016 marked the launch of the Making Spaces program, a national and collaborative effort between Maker Ed, the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh (CMP) and Google.



Spotlight: Crowdfunding Toolkit

The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, in partnership with Maker Ed, designed a suite of resources and tools that Regional Hubs and their partner schools can use to support the integration of making into schools and educational spaces across the country. The resources in this "toolkit" are designed to assist schools in planning for, campaigning for and implementing maker education in schools.

The [Making Spaces Toolkit](#) is composed of tools in 3 different categories:

- 1** **Campaign Development**
Used to guide the crowdfunding campaign development process for schools
- 2** **Program Planning & Promotional**
Used for reference and to help structure expectation and communications about the project and partnership
- 3** **Visioning & Goal Alignment**
Used to guide conversations between Hubs and partner schools before the campaign development process begins in order to create common understanding about the intentions, expectations, and funding goals for integrating making into the school environment

Spotlight: Expanding School Partnerships at Madison Public Library

The Bubbler at Madison Public Library was selected as part of our initial cohort of 10 Hubs. They were interested in the Making Spaces program because of the opportunities that it provides for working with local schools. The public library in Madison was excited about expanding their reach with making in those spaces.

"We have been talking a lot about our larger youth services scope and what they can do in terms of reach," said Rebecca Millerjohn, Youth Services Librarian. "The Train the Trainer model is really interesting to the

library." Instead of the Library being the organization that's doing all of the making, they want to empower those schools and educators to do making themselves.

The Bubbler has already been able to start making deeper connections with schools and the local school district, including introducing their resident Teaching Artists to the schools and providing educators with connections to artists that they wouldn't have time to seek out on their own.

MAKER VISTA

In 2016, [Maker VISTA](#) members across the country built and boosted the organizational capacity of their subsites to create new and integrated maker education opportunities. These efforts took the shape of projects such as the creation of makerspaces and mobile making toolkits; designing of websites and resources; hosting of community and cultural maker events; running volunteer and teacher training workshops; developing local business partnerships; and facilitating STEAM career days and field trips. Under the direction of new Program Manager Daniella Shoshan, the Maker VISTA program has grown and diversified to include a greater number of committed and inspiring VISTA members and subsite partners across the country, all of whom work to overcome poverty through education.

Milestones:

- = Welcomed new Program Manager, Daniella Shoshan.
- = Recruited 336 volunteers and trained 93 staff members at 10 subsites across the country, reaching over 6,825 students in 2016.
- = Continued strong, long-term partnerships with Los Angeles Education Partnership (LAEP), Lighthouse Community Charter School, and Ravenswood Makerspace Collaborative that help to connect in-school and community-based support.
- = Developed new maker-focused training opportunities for Maker VISTA members, as they embarked on their years of service, to better understand and dive into the work.



L-R: Maker VISTA Member at Drew Charter School in Atlanta, GA, Greg Robbins; Maker VISTA Leader Hadiyah Shabbaz; Maker VISTA member Caitlan Cole

Credit: Drew Charter School Staff

Spotlight: Building Community Connections in Atlanta

Starting in mid-2016, Maker VISTA members Caitlan Cole and Greg Robbins employed a number of creative methods to build capacity for STEAM education at Drew Charter School in Atlanta, GA. Caitlan [constructed a website for the school's STEAM program](#), including a tool for faculty to request the use of the school's 10 mobile STEAM trunks, streamlining the process and making STEAM resources more easily accessible to students and teachers. Greg and Caitlan also recruited 80 presenters for STEAM Career Days for students at all grade levels. These presenters were professionals serving in a variety of STEAM fields, selected in order to share their career insights and inspire the next generation of innovators. Thanks to the VISTA Members' efforts, over the two days of this event, students heard from engineers, musicians, scientists, architects, dancers, entrepreneurs, and doctors. To seek out, schedule, and coordinate these presenters, Caitlan and Greg worked closely with local businesses, parents, and community partners, as they conducted personal, focused outreach, built new relationships for Drew Charter, and strengthened existing collaborations.

Coming in 2017:

For the 2016-2017 school year Maker VISTA added 4 new partner sites: ReCreate in Roseville, CA; Drew Charter in Atlanta, GA; Computers4Kids in Charlottesville, VA; and Grass Valley Elementary in Oakland, CA. As these Maker VISTA sites continue to thrive in their second year of partnership, we look forward to growing our program even further in 2017, exploring new means for impacting poverty through maker education.

MAKER CORPS

Under the leadership of new Program Manager, Katie Barthelow, our 2016 [Maker Corps](#) program brought together a community of 41 partner organizations from 25 states and countries, who employed over 100 Maker Corps Members and reached more than 170,000 youth and family members. During the summer, Maker Corps partner sites supported Maker Corps Members to facilitate maker-based programs on robotics, creative reuse, digital fabrication, paper automata, music video creation, and much more. This also marked the first year that the Maker Corps program expanded to international sites, with partners in the UK, Canada, and Nigeria.

Milestones:

- = Welcomed new Program Manager, Katie Barthelow.
- = Built a new online community platform that allowed for strong asynchronous collaboration between participants around the globe.
- = Facilitated opportunities for Maker Corps members and supervisors to earn Continuing Education Units and Maker Certificates, resulting in a large number of thorough and thoughtful portfolios of summer work.
- = Piloted efforts with international sites (2 in the United Kingdom, 1 in Canada, and 1 in Nigeria).

Spotlight: Supporting Innovation at Keene Public Library

Keene Public Library in New Hampshire has participated in Maker Corps for the past 3 seasons, finding Maker Ed's guidance useful as they began and now continue to sustain maker centered programming. Site supervisor Gail Zachariah said, "We applied [in 2014], because we thought it'd be really helpful... for the community to be able to say that we're connected with Maker Corps, and for ourselves to feel like we're confident in what we're doing."

Over the past three years, Gail and her staff have developed and delivered maker programming inspired by the Maker Corps online community and Maker Ed's resource library. She has found the name recognition of Maker Ed to be helpful in advocating for programming and attracting Maker Corps Members. Gail's persistence and infectious curiosity has contributed to the maker approach becoming a part of the library's future. The Keene Public Library is set to expand into an adjacent building in the next few years, and a makerspace is part of that plan.

"If we didn't do [maker education], then the library would not be as well-rounded. Our mission has the word 'curiosity.' To me it really fits. People can explore things by using, and building, and not only just through books."



Credit: [The Bubbler at Madison Public Library](#)

Coming in 2017:

Based on evaluation and learning, the 2017 season of Maker Corps will feature:

- "Spotlight On" visual blog series featuring expertise in the Maker Corps community
- Newly-refined spring training series for partner site supervisors that focuses on community building, best practices in regards to facilitation of programming, and evaluating maker education programs
- Virtual one-on-one partnering of Maker Corps sites to further resource exchange and community building
- Comprehensive video and discussion based summer sessions series for Maker Corps Members to enhance their own professional growth while participating in the program
- Continued expansion to new international partner sites

YOUNG MAKERS

The [Young Makers](#) program trains educators to bring together a community of young people with mentors in a flexible club model where they work together to make an interest-driven project and exhibit it at a showcase event. Maker Ed works with national out-of-school and after-school organizations to scale the Young Makers program and training. In 2016, Young Makers reached out to the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of Northern California through Cognizant- and Lemelson-supported efforts to provide professional development and support towards new maker-centered integration in those networks.

Milestones:

- = Worked closely with the Boy Scouts of America to develop and provide resources for Boy Scouts leaders and facilitators, resulting in the creation of a Maker Exploring Leader Guide, to be posted within their [library of STEM-based guides](#). These guides can be used by the leaders of the Exploring posts to lead hands-on making lessons with the youth they work with.
- = Provided dedicated training to coordinators and leaders in the pilot Maker Exploring program, with Boy Scouts, including those in Austin, Detroit, Chicago, and San Diego, in addition to the statewide Michigan chapter.
- = Guided a strong group of 212 young makers and 70 mentors through the process of exhibiting their projects at Maker Faire Bay Area 2016.
- = Kicked off a new effort with the support of the Lemelson Foundation to train and support educators in linking making to invention education.



Young Makers exhibiting their projects at the Bay Area Maker Faire.

Credit: Maker Ed Staff

Coming in 2017:

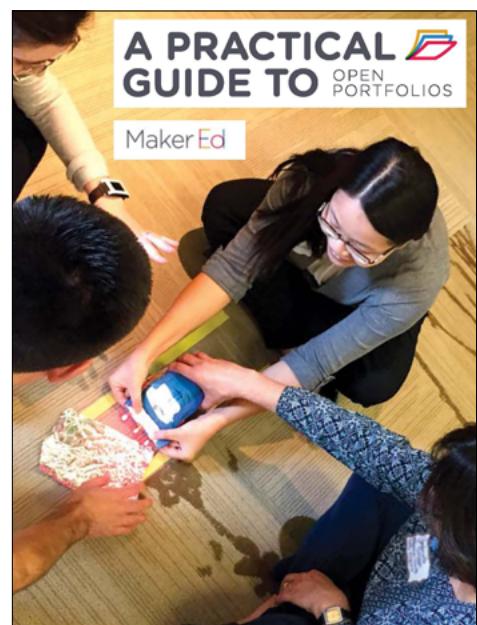
- In addition to continuing and expanding our work with the Exploring program, Maker Ed will, with the generous support of the Lemelson Foundation, be working with Girl Scouts of Northern CA, the Los Angeles Education Partnership, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and others. Through in-person workshops, as well as virtual support, this pilot program will provide adult mentors the training necessary to help move kids “From Making to Invention.” The goal will be for youth to work to create real solutions to problems they identify in their communities.
- As an extension of the pilot program with Boy Scouts in 2016, Cognizant and Maker Ed will put together a pop-up 5,400-square-foot makerspace at the 2017 National Jamboree in West Virginia, engaging over 200 Scouts per day for 10 days in a variety of small and large activities and projects.

RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE: THE OPEN PORTFOLIO PROJECT

The [Open Portfolio Project \(OPP\)](#) aims to develop a common framework for documenting, sharing, and assessing learning through portfolios. Open portfolios are openly networked, decentralized, and distributed systems of documentation, curation, and reflection, which can showcase a learner's abilities, interests, and voice in a way that test scores and grades cannot. Especially for students who may not excel in academics or high-stakes testing, portfolios allow for both themselves and others to recognize the skills and ideas they have to offer and contribute. Inherent to the creation of a portfolio is the process of reflecting on one's work, curating what's most appropriate for an intended audience, and designing an artifact to articulate that evolution of learning and making.

Milestones:

- = Deepened our efforts, in partnership with Creativity Labs at Indiana University, at select field sites to research and investigate the nuances of how educators can best facilitate opportunities, motivation and understanding of youth portfolio creation.
- = Designed and ran two in-person practitioner-facing workshops, one in February 2016 in Palo Alto, CA and one in November 2016 in Pittsburgh, PA, to introduce and spur portfolio use and development at youth learning environments of all kinds. Each workshop brought together about 60 educators for 2 days to explore portfolio platforms, principles, and examples, and develop practices of their own.
- = Released the [Practical Guide to Open Portfolios](#), which distills some of the best practices for documentation and portfolio creation uncovered in 3+ years of work in the field. Our Practical Guide draws from the research findings of both phases 1 and 2, as well as the practitioner workshops that we've run, and pulls the information into a guide that aims to assist educators and practitioners in getting started with portfolios, as well as for those who are aiming to develop their practices further.



Coming in 2017:

- New Research Briefs from our comprehensive Phase 2 of research and work
- Presentations of our work at American Educational Research Association, the International Conference of the Learning Sciences, and the conference on Computer Supported Collaborative Learning
- Launch of free online portfolios course at KQED Teach

Credit: Maker Ed Staff

RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE: COMMUNITY

Community building is part of everything that we do at Maker Ed, and we consistently engage in distinct efforts to better understand and support the needs of maker educators in a variety of settings. Through research into community needs, as well as in-person and online networking events, Maker Ed provides expanded opportunities for maker educators to connect, collaborate, and share.

Key Research Highlights

Maker Ed contracted with SRI International to research the needs of maker educators. From February to May 2016, Maker Ed and SRI created and administered a mixed-methods survey of maker educators, titled "[A Study of the Communities and Resources that Connect Educators Engaged in Making](#)." SRI interviewed community leaders and participants within teacher-centered and maker-centered online communities and networks. Here are some key findings:

- 1** Maker educators appreciate being part of open and generous communities that are willing to share.
- 2** Over three-quarters of respondents (78%) had been educators for 7+ years. Of these experienced educators, 70% work in K-12 public, charter or independent schools. Many of these experienced educators, particularly those with 11+ years of experience, have taken on administrative roles or other leadership positions.
- 3** Many educators shared their feelings that making can help students develop real-world skills and dispositions associated with positive work and life outcomes, including creativity, problem solving, critical thinking, perseverance, and the ability to innovate.



L-R: Micah Lande, Karen Wilkinson, Paula Mitchell, Jessica Henricks

Credit: Maker Ed Staff

- 4** Maker educators must attend to equity. Maker educators are thinking about how to increase diversity and inclusion in their programs, and this is something seen as crucially important. There is a significant need to actively address issues of equity by, for instance, encouraging broader definitions of making, providing support for the design of spaces, furthering funding opportunities, and building on-ramps for engagement.

- 5** Maker educators lack segmented, searchable resource collections and are interested in building a shared resource base.

Coming in 2017:

- Facilitating Maker Educator Meetups: Meetups are a great way to expand one's professional learning network and to dive deeper into maker-based topics, pedagogies, ideas, and insights.
- Ask a Maker Educator Video Series: This informal 30-minute online gathering pairs up a Maker Ed staff member with an experienced maker educator(s) to chat and answer questions from the community.
- Exploring options for an updated and expanded Resource Library

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2016, we expanded our [professional development offerings](#) to new audiences in three different ways. We created a broad range of free, self-paced activities that allows educators to engage with curated materials, tackle a hands-on activity, reflect on a resource, and/or share thoughts with the wider community of maker educators. Second, we offered our first PD course in the fall of 2016. And, third, we developed “Getting Started with Making” micro-credentials.

Self-Paced Professional Development Modules



Thanks to funding from Chevron, Maker Ed's [“Professional Development” category in the Resource Library](#) now contains a variety of activities that encourage educators to explore, engage, reflect, and share their experiences in maker education. From learning approaches to project ideas, these free, self-paced modules encourage educators to tackle a hands-on activity, reflect on a resource, and share thoughts with the wider community of maker educators.

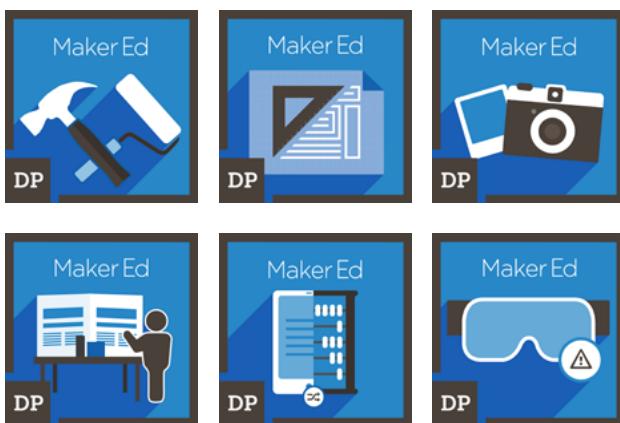
Maker Ed’s First Online Professional Development Course, Mapping Making

Maker Ed’s first online professional development course, [Mapping Making: Charting a Path for Your Maker Educator Practice](#), launched in Fall 2016 with 20 educators from around the world, including Illinois, Florida, Hawaii, Ontario, Canada, Australia, and Chile. The course covered both big picture and on-the-ground topics, such as: *Why make? Who makes up your maker community? What are your goals for your community? What tools and materials are needed to support making? How can you ensure equitable and sustainable practices?* The course’s cohort model allowed educators from K-16 to learn from each other as they mapped challenges and opportunities for meaningful making.



Participants in our first online PD workshop created maps showing their journey through maker education.

Credit: Meredith Rice, Innovation Specialist at Sunset Ridge School District 29, in Northfield, IL.



Credit: Digital Promise

Micro-Credentials

In partnership with Digital Promise and their micro-credential platform, Maker Ed has developed [“Getting Started with Making,” a set of 6 maker education micro-credentials](#) on topics such as: *Creating Learner Driven Curriculum; Designing a Space for Making; Documenting and Reflecting; and Planning a Student Showcase.* These topics focus on six of the skills we believe are crucial to educators looking develop and expand their skills as maker educators. Each credential emphasizes our belief that maker education is most successful, impactful, and sustainable when the needs and interests of learners guide the learning experience.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

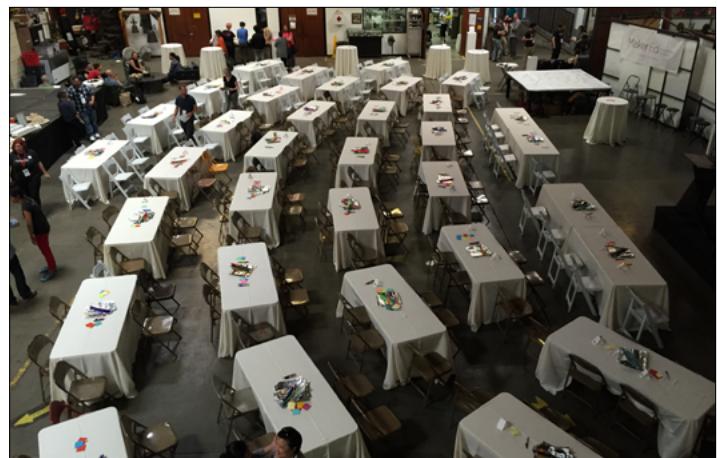
Maker Ed supported hundreds of maker educators by providing opportunities to connect, learn, and share at several large events across the country, including our 2nd Annual Maker Educator Convening and the education stages at flagship Maker Faires. Additionally, Maker Ed was honored to present during the National Week of Making at the Capitol Hill Maker Faire and the White House Higher Education Alliance Symposium.

2nd Annual Maker Educator Convening

May 17-18, 2016 in Oakland, CA

The national event, hosted by Maker Ed at The Crucible, an Oakland-based industrial arts school and community space, brought together 175 educators, administrators, librarians, practitioners, and museum staff in discussions about deepening the collective impact of maker education. Highlights included:

- A [packed agenda](#) featuring multiple speakers
- An amazing [keynote presentation](#) by Dr. Nichole Pinkard, who discussed how to increase on-ramps to making for educators and youth.
- 18 demonstrations on topics such as: paper circuits, 3D printing, lockpicking for good, & creative reuse.
- 10 Ignite talks with titles such as: *Making is the 21st Skill; Mind the Relevance Gap; Making Pathways to Systems Thinking; and For the Why.*



Over 150 educators attended the 2nd Annual Maker Educator Convening.

Credit: Maker Ed Staff



Audience members at the education forum at the New York Hall of Science.

Credit: Maker Ed Staff

Education Forum at the World Maker Faire in NYC

September 30, 2016 in Queens, NY

Maker Ed co-hosted the [Education Forum](#) with the New York Hall of Science (NYSCI) and Make:. With over 300 educators in attendance, highlights included:

- A rousing keynote from Superintendent Pam Moran and Educational Technology Specialist Ira Socol, titled “Equity and Access: Making as Social Justice.”
- Three panel presentations on supporting diverse learners through making, creative computation and creative making, and sharing successful maker learning communities.
- A show-stopping presentation from 18-year-old senior, Julian Waters, who gave a [5-minute quick talk](#) about how investing in student voice, self-directed learning, and passion-centered projects in school will allow educators to “make a lasting difference for students in their secondary schooling and together, we can make the education of tomorrow.”

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Maker Faires: Bay Area & New York

*May 17-18, 2016 in San Mateo, CA
October 2-3, 2016 in Queens, NY*

Maker Faires are an opportunity for all makers, and especially maker educators, to come together, share their creations and insights, and connect across geographic borders and educational settings. In 2016, we were able to provide educators opportunities to share their experiences on the Education Stages at both the Maker Faire Bay Area and World Maker Faire in New York. Overall, the Education Stages offered more than 65 speakers, such as Marcos Navas (see inset), a chance to share their stories about youth and educators engaged in making and discuss creative ways to foster curiosity and better learning environments through making. At Maker Faire Bay Area, Maker Ed had the additional pleasure of organizing the Young Makers program area, where 272 young makers, supported by 162 mentors, came together to exhibit 97 amazing projects.



L-R: Maker educator panelists at World Maker Faire Elissa Malespina, Gene Osborn, Christa Flores, Meredith Martin, Jackie Gerstein, & Marcos Navas

Credit: Maker Ed Staff

"I cannot help but feel a special excitement around Maker Faire. How could I not? It was at the Maker Faire three years ago that my professional career changed forever."

For Marcos Navas of Union City High School, NJ, Maker Faire was a pivotal moment that opened his eyes to the world of making and the amazing ways that maker-centered learning could positively impact his students and his classroom.

White House Events

June, 2016 in Washington, D.C.

Maker Ed participated in two White House-related events during the National Week of Making: the [Capitol Hill Maker Faire](#) and the Higher Education Alliance Symposium. At the Congressional Maker Caucus, Maker Ed presented on the Making and Education: K12 panel, and then participated in the Capitol Hill Maker Faire by sharing student creations from San Rafael High School, West Oakland Middle School, and Bullis Charter School. Maker Ed also led an "Afternoon of Making and Exploring Possibilities" at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, hosted a booth at the National Maker Faire held at the University of D.C. campus, and toured the White House.



L-R: Maker Ed staff members Daniella Shoshan, Stephanie Chang, Danny Kirk, Jakki Spicer, & Jessica Parker

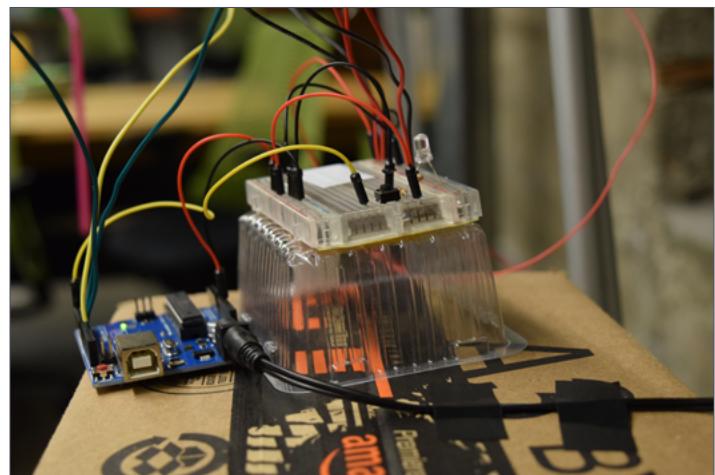
Credit: Maker Ed Staff

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Additional Conferences & Events

Maker Ed also participated in approximately 30 national conferences and events in 2016. Highlights included:

- Participating in the advisory committee for a National Science Foundation Cyberlearning grant, titled “Learning in the Making: Studying and Designing Makerspaces”
- Presenting on “Open Maker Portfolios: Capture, Share and Assess” and “The Importance of Micro-Credentialing in Maker Education” at SXSWedu
- Presenting on “Capturing Engineering Design and Process in Youth Portfolios” at National Science Teachers Association
- Participating on a panel, “More Than What’s Made: Stories of Making Possibilities,” at National Science Teachers Association STEM Summit
- Presenting on “Crowdfunding for Maker Programs & Spaces” at the Remake Education Summit
- Presenting on a panel, “Supporting Diverse Learners through Making,” at the Education Forum
- Keynote presentation, “Exploring the Intersections of Making and Citizen Science,” at the ASU Citizen Science Maker Summit
- Participating on a panel, “Best Practices: Supporting the K-12 Pipeline,” at the White House Higher Education Alliance Symposium
- Participating in the American Educational Research Association’s Making and Learning research meeting



Attendees of Maker Ed's many educator meetups.

Credit: Maker Ed Staff

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:

Changemaker (\$450,000+)

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Additionally, we would like to thank Humble Bundle for their ongoing support of Maker Ed. Since 2015, individual donors have contributed more than \$500,000 towards Maker Ed's mission by using Humble Bundle's unique charity model.

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Bay Area Discovery Museum

David Wells

Manager of Creative
Making & Learning,
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Pam Moran

Superintendent,
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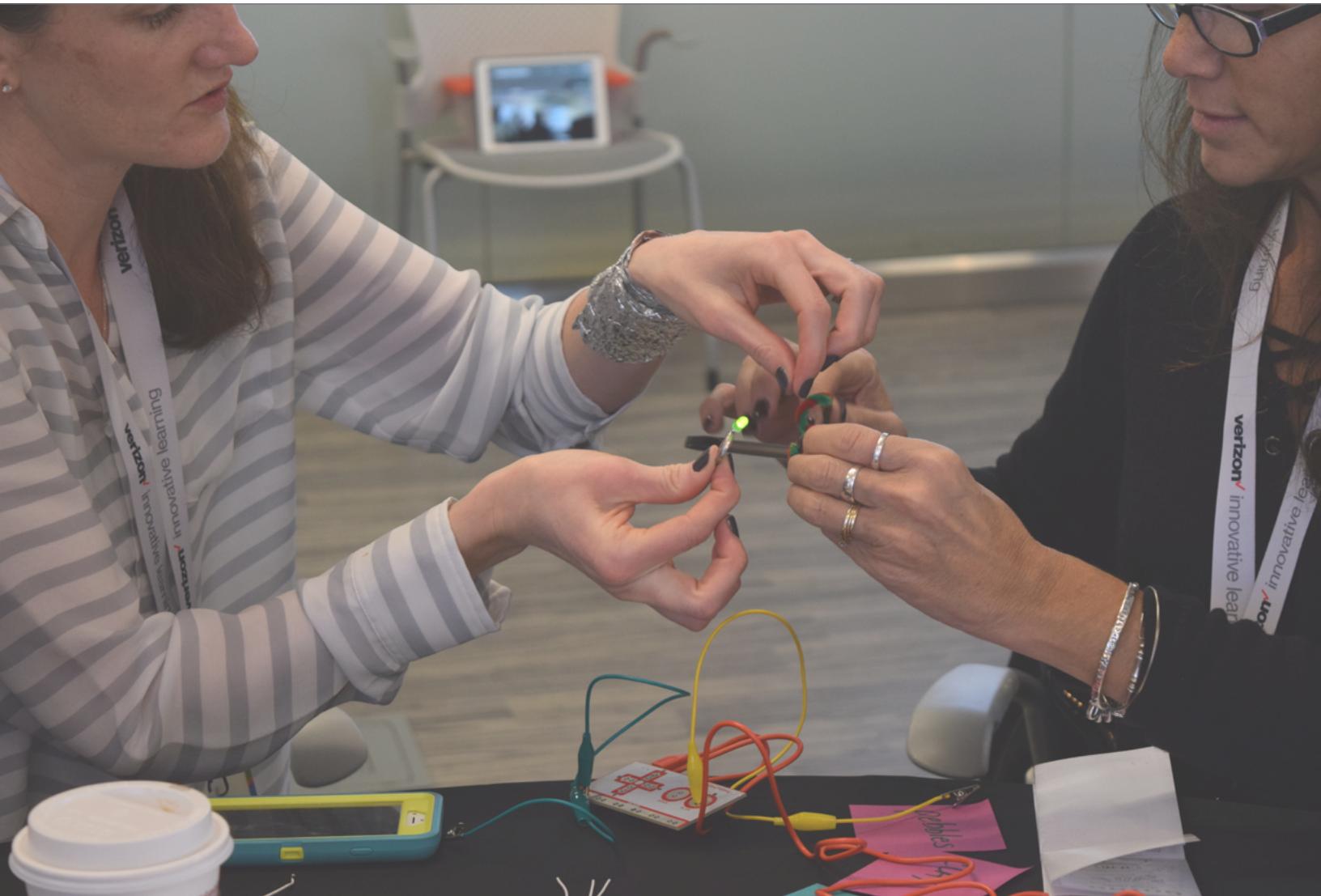
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