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## **KID Museum Celebrates New Program with Parkland Middle School**

*Invention Studio Makes STEM Learning Fun for Underserved Children*

On Saturday, May 16, KID Museum will celebrate the completion of its pilot Invention Studio program with Parkland Middle School. In an effort to bring STEM education to diverse populations, the museum has partnered with Parkland Middle School of Montgomery County, MD for a multi-visit initiative. The students are part of Parkland Scholars, a program designed to improve academic performance and increase interest in STEM for African-American and Latino children. It's currently the only program of its kind for middle schoolers in Montgomery County Public Schools.

"These are the kids we really wanted to reach," says Cara Lesser, Founder and Executive Director of KID Museum. "These are kids who might not otherwise have access to this type of programming, either after school--or during school."

Over a course of six months, students traveled to KID Museum to work with the museum's maker educators on STEM-based inventions in an area of their choosing: robotics, digital music composition, electronic gadgets or flying machines. "The focus on students as inventors truly gave them a sense of ownership of their projects," explains Alana Murray, Assistant Principal at Parkland. Bruna Genovese, the program's coordinator, says, "Our students were extremely engaged as they worked on their inventions. This experience gave them new meaning about the nature of STEM."

The invention studio program at KID Museum gives visitors the opportunity to think creatively while engaging in hands-on activities, learning new skills and inventing something of their own. KID Museum and Parkland Middle School plan to bring the success of this pilot program to a new group of students next year.

On Saturday, May 16, the Parkland students will be a part of KID Museum's Meet the Inventors series. They will present their inventions to museum visitors from 12:00 to 1:00. Parents and friends are invited to attend a party afterwards, where they will celebrate the students' achievements.

#### **About KID Museum**

KID Museum is a new museum in the DC metro region that inspires elementary and middle school-aged children to "explore the world, invent the future" through unique, interactive experiences that integrate hands-on science, technology, engineering, art and math learning with an exploration of world cultures and global citizenship. Families can drop in during weekend hours to participate in a variety of open exhibits and hands-on activities, or pre-register for after-school, weekend workshops, or summer camp. Field trips and birthday parties are offered for kids to experience the museum as a group. KID Museum is committed to serving all, regardless of their ability to pay. Free or reduced price admission is available for low-income families and Title I schools.