



For immediate Release

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KID Museum Launches KIDfest 2017

KID Museum will be hosting KIDfest, a dynamic celebration of creativity and innovation, on Sunday, September 24, in downtown Silver Spring. This is the museum's fifth year hosting its signature event (previously named Maker Faire Silver Spring), which attracts 15,000 attendees and over 90 exhibitors each year, making it the largest maker festival in the DC region. Now as KIDfest, KID Museum will further integrate the festival with its mission and learning philosophy, exposing children and adults alike to the power of hands-on maker experiences, and inspiring them to find their own "spark."

"We are transitioning our Maker Faire to the new name 'KIDfest' to reinforce our emphasis on inspiring creative leadership in the next generation," says Cara Lesser, KID Museum founder and Executive Director. "We are taking a bold step to go beyond maker, to emphasize how maker skills empower kids to make a positive difference in the world — through technology, social action, and a driving focus on social impact."

KID Museum opened in Montgomery County in October 2014, offering unique, hands-on STEM, art, and cultural programs, designed to encourage youth to take risks, embrace failure, and pursue their passions. Now in its third year, the museum serves more than 50,000 people

annually through after-school programs, camps, outreach events, and drop-in programming for families.

“Kids gain much more than technical skills when they learn how to code, use a drill, or design a robot,” explains Lesser. “When they engage in maker activities, they are building confidence in their abilities and learning lifelong skills in creative problem-solving, collaboration, and resilience.”

KIDfest will bring together makers, scientists, artists, community leaders, and families for a day of hands-on activities and presentations (featuring “KID Talks” by inspirational leaders in their fields, as well as young makers) — all designed to spark imaginations and inspire the next generation to invent their future with creativity and heart.

Hands-on activities like toy making, playing with robots and 3D printers, and building Rube Goldberg machines and giant ball runs invite visitors to tap into their inner-maker and discover what they can create. At the KID Museum tents, visitors can assemble gears and pulleys on a magnetic wall, drill and connect circuits to create a communal electric pachinko (pinball) board, and challenge themselves in a larger-than-life version of the buzzing “Operation” game.

Past exhibitors have included NASA, FIRST Robotics, Destination Imagination, University of MD’s Human-Computer Interaction Lab, and a broad range of makers offering everything from building kinetic sculptures to felting wool.

KIDfest 2017 will take place on Sunday, September 24, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Veteran’s Plaza in Downtown Silver Spring. KIDfest is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit www.kid-museum.org/kidfest.

About KID Museum

KID Museum is a new kind of experiential learning space for children and families in the Washington, D.C. area. With a focus on elementary and middle school-aged youth, KID Museum’s core purpose is to inspire the next generation of innovators and empower youth to invent the future with imagination, resourcefulness, and compassion.

A recognized leader in maker education, KID Museum has become a vital resource for families, schools, and the community; a catalyst in re-thinking how kids learn, and how they position themselves in the world.

KID Museum currently operates out of a “proof-of-concept” site at Davis Library in Bethesda, Maryland. At the core of the museum is a 21st century creative workshop and makerspace that includes 3D printers, an electronics lab, a digital media lab, a woodworking shop, and a textile studio, alongside a mixed materials workshop space designed to offer innovative, project-based learning experiences for kids. Building on the successes of our prototype space, we are actively working to establish a permanent home and a world-class cultural and educational institution in our region.