



For Immediate Release

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**KID Museum Announces Return of the
Most Popular Maker Faire in DC Area
Maker Faire Silver Spring - Sunday, September 20th 12-5**

Silver Spring, MD – KID Museum announces the return of the most popular Maker Faire in the DC area on Sunday, September 20th, 12:00-5:00pm. Last year, over 14,000 people attended the Faire. Along with sponsors Discovery Communications, Make Media, Montgomery County, Innovation First International and Hess Engineering & Construction, KID Museum will host Maker Faire Silver Spring – one of the only free and family-oriented Maker Faires in the country – at The Silver Spring Civic Building.

Maker Faire is a unique festival featuring the work of inventors, hackers, crafters, artists, and do-it-yourselfers of all kinds. Projects range from robotics and electronics, to metal working and larger than life interactive artwork. The goal is to inspire creativity and innovation, with a particular emphasis on science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and the arts. With KID Museum at the helm, Maker Faire Silver Spring will highlight Young Makers and will offer many hands-on activities for children and families.

“Maker Faires are becoming popular all over the country, but what makes the Silver Spring Maker Faire unique is the free admission and the emphasis on family learning and creativity. Kids and

parents alike can build robots, make community art projects, or just enjoy the spectacle of the day.” says Cara Lesser, KID Museum Founder.

Maker Faire Silver Spring is part of KID Museum’s ongoing effort to bring STEM learning to diverse populations, including those who are traditionally under-represented in STEM fields. “We are committed to creating opportunities for all kids to engage in maker education, both in and out of schools,” says Lesser. KID Museum has quickly become a leader in this arena, advising and partnering with schools about how to incorporate maker education into their curriculum, taking part in policy discussions and outreach events like National Robotics Week, and hosting Title I schools, as well as other public and private schools, at their start-up space in Bethesda’s Davis Library.

Maker Faire, the museum’s signature outreach event, is an extension of the creative, hands-on learning that is available year round at KID Museum. This year, that extension includes the Toy 2.0 Challenge (<http://kid-museum.org/toy-2-0>), a toy design challenge for 10 - 18 year olds sponsored by KID Museum and Innovation First International. Ten finalists will present their toy prototypes at the Faire, where attendees can vote on their favorites. “With the Toy 2.0 Challenge, we are offering kids real-world challenges that excite their imagination and inspire them to invent,” Lesser explains.

Call to Makers

The Silver Spring Maker Faire is now accepting applications from individuals or groups who are interested in exhibiting at the faire. Participant fees are being underwritten by KID Museum and are free to selected applicants excluding commercial sellers. All applicants will undergo a jurying process. To apply, please visit the Faire website: <http://makerfaresilverspring.com/call-for-makers/>

At the Silver Spring Maker Faire, we are especially interested in showcasing Young Makers — and have spots reserved just for projects made by kids! We are seeking applications from Young Makers—aged 10-17 years and passionate about hands-on learning—to exhibit their projects through a demonstration, presentation, or workshop. The best participants for the Silver Spring Maker Faire are mature young people and their adult mentors who are willing to explain, demonstrate, and share their project with others.

For more information visit www.makerfaresilverspring.com .

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