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### **KID Museum at the White House for National Week of Making**

KID Museum is at the White House again today, invited as part of a group of national leaders in the maker movement to kick-off the National Week of Making. After bringing the first Maker Faire to the DC region in 2012, KID Museum has been at the forefront of this movement, bringing hands-on, maker education to over 45,000 people since opening its prototype space eighteen months ago.

The museum continues to grow at a rapid pace, reaching the local community and beyond, as it becomes a leading voice in maker education. In honor of the National Week of Making, KID Museum has committed to furthering its reach in the coming year, with a particular focus on low-income and minority youth. Today's invitation to the White House (one of several in the past year), is a recognition of KID Museum's work in expanding access to maker education.

The National Week of Making puts a spotlight on the power of maker education, drawing national attention to efforts around the country to engage kids' imaginations and build their capacity for innovation. President Obama states, "During National Week of Making, we recommit to sparking the creative confidence of all Americans and to giving them the skills, mentors, and resources they need to harness their passion and tackle some of our planet's greatest challenges."

KID Museum provides these essential opportunities year-round through family programming, school visits, camps, after-school workshops, and free festivals and outreach events. “Rather than giving kids more worksheets, we’re activating them to think creatively and empowering them to be the innovative leaders of tomorrow,” says Cara Lesser, KID Museum Founder & CEO.

For the National Week of Making, the museum will focus on family maker activities and deep-dive maker experiences. During regular museum hours this weekend, families are invited to engage in maker activities together, with a series of special activities on Father’s Day led by father-child educator teams. On Wednesday, June 22, children can take part in three-hour Maker Intensives in woodworking, soldering or Arduino.

The kick-off event takes place today at Parkland Middle School, with a celebration for Parkland’s Minority Scholar students, who have been a part of KID’s Invention Studio Program this past academic year, visiting the museum once a month to devise and create their own inventions. Partnerships with schools like Parkland, which bring high-quality STEM learning experiences to underserved students, are just one of the initiatives being expanded in the coming year.

Plans are also underway to expand the reach and scope of current offerings at the museum’s prototype space at Davis Library. The museum opened in this space in October 2014 through a partnership with Montgomery County Public Libraries and Recreation Department. As KID Museum ramps up to meet the ever-growing demand from the community, it continues to build support from a variety of public and private sources, including Montgomery County, the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County, the City of Rockville, the Mead Family Foundation, and the Catalogue for Philanthropy.

KID Museum is also expanding its partnership with Glenstone, a private art museum, for the 2016-17 academic year, adding a new dimension to the Invention Studio Program, which currently serves seven area middle schools. And KID Museum is preparing to launch a new initiative that will build capacity for maker education among schools and libraries.

KID Museum’s annual Maker Faire Silver Spring, one of the few free Maker Faires nationwide, takes place on September 25 in downtown Silver Spring. The Faire attracts 15,000 people from around the region each year, and is part of KID Museum’s commitment to broaden participation in STEM and arts learning through making.

KID Museum is committed to bringing engaging maker education to an even greater number of people in the coming year, reaching diverse populations across the DC region. This National Week of Making highlights the need for all children to have access to programs that challenge them to think creatively, and equip them with the skills they need to tackle the future.

As said by President Obama in his Week of Making Proclamation, “It is critical that we support the types of hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) learning experiences -- in both formal and informal environments -- that students encounter through making, which can help unlock their full potential and ignite their enthusiasm for the careers of tomorrow.”

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