

**For Immediate Release**

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**Gadgets, Games, and Robots for All Ages**

**Hands-On Family Activities at KIDfest**

**on Sunday, September 24, 12 noon – 5 p.m.**

**Free Admission**

Silver Spring, MD – Interactive activities and hands-on family fun abound at KIDfest on Sunday, September 24th, 12:00-5:00pm at the Silver Spring Civic Building. Admission and activities are free to the public. KIDfest (previously Maker Faire Silver Spring), is KID Museum’s signature community event. A dynamic celebration of creativity and innovation, the festival attracts 15,000 attendees each year.

KIDfest is part of KID Museum’s ongoing effort to expose children and adults alike to the power of hands-on maker learning, and inspire them to find their own “spark.” People of all ages can experience hands-on electronics, art, engineering, science, and crafts activities--along with awe-inspiring demos, engaging “KIDtalks,” and two stages of live musical performances and entertainment.

Almost all exhibitors offer a free activity for adults or children to test out, build themselves, or play with. Just a few examples of activities include:

* Create a custom 3D foam robot face using heat, 3D shapes, and vacuum mask maker
* Felt art making: create your own piece of felt using bits of wool, soapy water, and a sandwich bag
* Check out NASA’s Space Operations Learning Center, Space Age Gizmos for Promising Engineers, Understanding Optics, and Space Photo Booth
* Build an autonomous robot using electronic circuits, structures, soldering, and coding
* Construct a hydroponic gardening system out of PVC pipes with pre-drilled holes and a solar-powered submersible water pump, or try seed extraction
* Play with magnets, eddy currents, homopolar motors, and tesla coils at the Gravity Is Optional booth
* Create electronic silhouette with an interactive light display that tracks motion
* 3D printing and robots of all kinds, as well as so much more!

KID Museum will feature a number of hands-on activities that reflect the types of programming they offer throughout the year:

* Pipe Dream: a massive, sculptural ball and tube challenge
* Electric Pachinko and a Giant ‘Operation’ Game
* Coding Corner: fun and interactive coding language education and games
* Hands-on Gears and Pulley challenges
* An exhibit of inventions by Young Makers who’ve participated in KID Museum programs

The festival will also feature a series of KIDtalks (similar to TED talks) by local inventors, professional makers, and industry experts. A sampling of the talks include:

* *Digital Fabrication and Art,* **Davide Prete**, Artist and Director of CUA Digital Fabrication Lab, “The 3D Printed American Flag Project”
* *Future of Work,* **Paul Roehrig**, Chief Strategy Officer, Cognizant Digital Business and co-author of “What To Do When Machines Do Everything”
* *Think Global, Act Local,* **Kate Medina,** Co-Founder of the Charles Koiner Center for Urban Farming Education (CKC Farming)
* *Assistive Technology and Making,* **Bill Binko,** Co-founder and principal technologist at [LessonPix.com](http://lessonpix.com/)
* *Entrepreneurship and Creativity,* **Sterling Crockett,** Visionary CEO
* *Digital Media/Data Mapping,* **Katherine Vargas,** Media Partnerships and Public Affairs, Google

KIDfest is free and open to the public. The event is accessible by the Silver Spring Metro station. Free parking is available in the nearby Town Center and Wayne Avenue garages. For more information, visit [www.kidfest.org](http://www.kidfest.org).

**Sponsors**

KIDfest is presented by **KID Museum**, a new children’s experiential learning space in Montgomery County, along with lead sponsor, **Montgomery County.** Additional sponsors include Comcast, Emergent Biosolutions, Pepco, the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, Digital Infuzion, Holton-Arms School Primary Day School, Green Acres School, Washington Episcopal School, Montgomery College, Bozzutto, United Therapeutics, Anthrotronix, Brookfield Properties, Ropes & Gray, ABC7/WJLA-TV, News Channel 8, Activity Rocket, and *The Washington Post.*

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