



KID Museum Wins Grant to Bring Evidence-Based STEAM Program for Middle Schoolers Back This School Year

KID Museum announced today that the Jim & Carol Trawick Foundation is renewing its support for Full STEAM Ahead!, one of their TeamUp collaborative projects. The grant program supports KID's Invention Studio and related hands-on, project-based learning programs for middle-school students. The renewal of the grant means the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) program will be available to more students in the 2017-18 school year. Last year, 72 students benefited from it.

KID Museum leads the Full STEAM Ahead! program in partnership with, Parkland Magnet Middle School, Passion for Learning, and AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center. The initiative emphasizes an inquiry-based exploration of STEAM areas along with filmmaking, peer mentoring, and communications-building components. Students come to KID Museum for multiple sessions over several months to learn specific skills and design and create a multi-disciplinary, interactive invention.

An evaluation of the program found that students who participated reported statistically significant gains in science interest and interest in and knowledge of science careers. It also led to gains in social and emotional learning skills. More than three-quarters of students reported significant overall gains in perseverance, the quality of relationships with adults, problem-solving abilities and the quality of their relationships with their peers. To conduct the analysis, KID used a nationally recognized survey tool created by the PEAR Institute, Partnerships in Education and Resilience at Harvard University.

"Thank you to the Jim & Carol Trawick Foundation for their continued commitment to STEAM education and for trusting KID Museum to lead this important program," said KID Museum founder and Executive Director, Cara Lesser. "This partnership program will continue to focus on increasing the participation of diverse populations in STEAM fields and help youth develop as creative leaders. We're looking forward to another exciting year of great STEAM education."

"I'm so proud of our students," said Parkland Magnet Middle School Principal, Khanny Yang. "This program has really given them the chance to grow and thrive in the STEAM fields. This has been an incredible opportunity for them to grow emotionally, socially, academically and professionally. None of this would have been possible without The Trawick Foundation."

The key elements of the Full STEAM Ahead! program include:

Invention Studio: a comprehensive STEAM experience that immerses 6th and 7th graders in Mechanisms and Engineering, Analog Circuits, Coding and Microcontrollers, and Woodworking

Filmmaking: The filmmaking group participates in a weekly afterschool program at Parkland, in which they learn how to plan, shoot, and edit a professional-quality documentary film about their peers' experiences in Invention Studio.

Mentoring: A mentor group of 8th grade students learns to support youth empowerment, promote the inquiry-based learning model, and support their 6th and 7th grade peers who are participating in Invention Studio.

Communication Team: The self-selected group of program participants meets weekly and is led by Passion for Learning, builds buzz through branding, print and social media within the school and the community around STEAM learning events and the culminating event.

To learn more about the Full Steam Ahead Program, [click here](#). To learn more about the Jim & Carol Trawick Foundation, [click here](#).

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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.