



For Immediate Release
March 1, 2018

Contact: Emma Starr
301-897-5437
emma@kid-museum.org

KID Museum Brings Maker Education to Local Schools Through *Making Spaces* Initiative

More students in our region will experience high-impact maker learning at school as *Making Spaces* enters its second year. *Making Spaces: Expanding Maker Education Across the Nation*, is a national program supported by Google, Maker Ed, and the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh that helps schools create makerspaces and maker programs.

As a regional hub, KID Museum works directly with local schools to develop a vision for creating on-site maker resources, and then supports them as they conduct community crowdfunding campaigns. This year, five schools will participate, including two Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) elementary schools, one MCPS middle school, and two regional independent schools.

Kingsview Middle School in Germantown is hoping to create a school-based makerspace that would be open to students both during the school day and on weekends. "Making allows kids who might know few constructive outlets to learn empowering skills and develop confidence," explains Kingsview teacher Todd Leff. "They get to say, 'I made this!'"

Gaithersburg Elementary School is planning targeted maker programming for the children of immigrants, while Wayside Elementary wants to build a dedicated makerspace in its new

building to serve kids in every grade. Also participating this year are Mary of Nazareth Catholic School of Darnestown and Bishop Walsh School of Cumberland, Maryland.

Glenallan Elementary School was one of four schools that successfully completed their crowdfunding campaign during the 2016-17 academic year. “Our staff and students are very excited about the students’ engagement around this new resource,” said Glenallen STEM Coordinator, Zulay Joa. “The Making Spaces experience has been positive and encouraging.”

The *Making Spaces* program is just one part of a larger KID Museum initiative to bring hands-on, impactful learning experiences to students throughout the region. The museum’s growing partnership with MCPS is part of a shared vision of how to best prepare students for the 21st century economy. Maker-based learning experiences provided to MCPS middle school students this year through the KID Museum partnership will be expanded to include elementary schools in the 2018-19 academic year.

KID Museum is also rolling out a comprehensive professional development program to train teachers in maker-based learning techniques. And the museum’s Learning Collaborative, now in its third year, is a community of practice that draws educators from around the region.

About KID Museum

KID Museum is an independent, mission-driven nonprofit serving 55,000 people annually in its creative learning space, on-site at schools, and at community events. A national leader in maker-based education, the museum seeks to spark the creative potential of all children, and inspire the next generation of innovators. For more information, please visit www.kid-museum.org.