



For Immediate Release

Contact for the press:

Elizabeth Gallaresi at 301.439.5100 or egallaresi@themodernmuse.com

Or Emma Starr at 301.897.5437 or emma@kid-museum.org

Contact for the public: www.kidfest.org; info@kid-museum.org

Phone: (301) 897-5437

Catch a Glimpse of the Future at KIDfest 2018

KID Museum will be hosting KIDfest, a festival celebrating creativity and innovation for the entire family, on Sunday, September 23, in downtown Silver Spring. This is the museum's sixth year hosting its signature event, which attracts 15,000 attendees with almost 90 exhibits, making it the largest maker festival in the DC region.

KIDfest brings together makers, scientists, artists, community leaders, and families for a day of hands-on activities and presentations (featuring "KIDtalks" by inspirational leaders in their fields) — all designed to spark imaginations and inspire the next generation to invent the future with creativity and compassion. People of all ages can experience the latest in robotics, engineering, biotechnology, sustainability, interactive art, and much more—providing a glimpse of a future that's being invented right now.

Festival attendees can meet an advanced robotic seal that responds to voice and touch, use wildflowers to create paints, explore an on-site inflatable planetarium, build electronic circuits, modify codes, and play handcrafted musical instruments. At the KID Museum area, visitors are invited to interact with a giant automaton, try out kid-created pinball, take part in a community loom, connect pipes for a super-sized ball run, and play with a robotic balloon pop (aka "bot pop"). KID Museum educators and KID's high school Coding Corps members will provide free coding jams at the event, as well as other coding and robotics opportunities. In addition, visitors can try their hand at projects from KID Museum's woodworking, textiles, and electronics studios.

KIDfest also marks the official kick-off of the 2018-19 *Invent the Future Challenge*, where middle school students design an innovative solution to a community problem. In the 2017-18 school year (its inaugural year), the *Invent the Future Challenge* brought high-impact, hands-on STEM

learning experiences to over 500 students throughout the area — and in particular to those traditionally underrepresented in STEM. At KIDfest, former Challenge participants will offer inspiration as they showcase their inventions. Festival goers can also sample design activities and learn about how to take part in this year's Challenge.

This year's roster of KIDtalk speakers includes: Dr. Crystal Icenhour, Founder and CEO of Aperiomics; Elizabeth Hendricks North, President of Curiosity Stream; Nora Atkinson, Curator of Craft, Renwick Gallery at the Smithsonian American Art Museum; and Julie Lenzer, Associate Vice President for Innovation and Economic Development at University of Maryland and Co-Director of UM Ventures.

KIDfest 2018 will take place on Sunday, September 23, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m., at Veterans Plaza in downtown Silver Spring. KIDfest is always free and open to the public. The event is accessible by the Silver Spring Metro station. Free parking is available in the nearby Wayne Avenue or Bonifant garages. For more information, visit www.kidfest.org.

Sponsors

KIDfest is presented by KID Museum along with lead sponsor, Montgomery County. Additional sponsors include Pepco, Pella, Emergent Biosolutions, Lockheed Martin, Arthur C. Clarke Foundation, Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County, Arthur C. Clarke Foundation, Eagle Bank, Gallagher and Associates, CuriosityStream, Central Japan Railway, Montgomery College, Lunii, My Organic Market, iHeartRadio, ABC7/WJLA, and News Channel 8, and Activity Rocket.

###

About KID Museum

KID Museum is an innovative learning space unlike any other in the D.C. region, providing maker-based learning that incorporates STEM, arts, and culture with 21st century skills like creativity and critical thinking. KIDfest — a free, large-scale, family-oriented festival — helps the museum expose children and adults alike to hands-on, STEAM experiences, encouraging them to find their “spark.”