



*For immediate release*

June 20, 2019

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***KID Museum Kicks Off National Week of Making  
with Capitol Hill Maker Faire & Free Coding Camps for Kids***

KID Museum will celebrate the National Week of Making (June 21 - June 27) by participating in the Capitol Hill Maker Faire and by offering free coding camps for Montgomery County kids.

On June 24, KID Museum will present at the Capitol Hill Maker Faire, hosted by Nation of Makers, in collaboration with the Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS) and Congressional Maker Caucus. Attendees will include members of Congress, their staff and the public, all celebrating the power of making through hands-on activities and inspirational exhibits. In 2014, KID Museum was part of the first-ever White House Maker Faire.

At the KID Museum display this year, visitors can meet enterprising middle school inventors and see their award-winning creations that impressed judges during the recent *Invent the Future Challenge*. A collaboration between KID Museum and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), the *Invent the Future* program empowers student teams to come up with an original solution to a pressing environmental problem.

Capitol Hill Maker Faire attendees will meet Earl B. Wood 7th grader Eva Jessy and her team, Inventor 101, who designed and prototyped a “smart” fire detector inspired by the devastating California fires. This invention uses sensors to extinguish flames, alert the fire department, and send warnings to nearby residences. “We refined our solution over many months,” says Eva Jessy. “We had to find the ins and outs — and be ready for anything.”

The National Week of Making was officially kicked off at the Nation of Makers Conference (NOMCON) in Chattanooga, TN. At the conference, KID Museum was awarded special recognition for its partnership with MCPS on the *Invent the Future Challenge*, which provided over 500 traditionally underserved students with the opportunity to experience high-impact, maker-based learning over the course of the school year. These students came to KID Museum for five visits, where they learned coding, engineering, fabrication, and design, along with social emotional skills like perseverance and collaboration. Over 850 students participated in the Challenge during the 2018-19 school year.

Also at NOMCON, KID Museum was honored to have its commitment included in the launch of Make For All, an initiative by Citizen Schools with support from Schmidt Futures, Genentech, and Arconic Foundation, highlighting the top 50 commitments from across the country endeavoring to expand access and opportunity to maker-centered learning. Together these commitments will serve more than 768,000 students in 149 communities over the next three years.

KID Museum will also offer free coding camps for elementary and middle school-age kids during the National Week of Making. These week-long camps, to be held at Germantown Library, offer an entry into coding to youth from low-income areas. Students will learn Scratch, Micro:bits, Hummingbird, and Arduino, with an emphasis on having fun and tapping into their creativity. By the end of the week, students will have designed and built their own creations. The museum will offer a second week of coding camp for rising 2nd through 7th graders at Silver Spring Library the week of July 22 - July 26.

“These camps give kids the foundation for coding, and really spark their creative confidence,” says KID Museum Educator, Gavin Donnelly. “With these tools, they can bring their ideas to life.”

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### **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. Core to its mission is ensuring that all youth, especially those who are traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields, have access to transformative learning opportunities that will pave the way for their future success — and the shared success of our community. For more information, please visit [www.kid-museum.org](http://www.kid-museum.org).