



**For Immediate Release:**

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**KID MUSEUM PARTNERS WITH MONTGOMERY COUNTY TO RE-ENGAGE YOUTH POST-PANDEMIC THROUGH EXPANDED ACCESS TO MAKER LEARNING ACROSS THE REGION BEGINNING IN JULY**

***The expansion from the region’s leading educational makerspace fuels deeper engagement with youth from diverse backgrounds with new multi-site model powered by a 28,000 square foot “innovation hub” atop Bethesda Metro Center***

(Bethesda, MD, June 30, 2021) Following a year of profound disruptions to learning, KID Museum announced today a major expansion of its maker learning facilities and programs in partnership with Montgomery County Executive, Montgomery County Council, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), and other community partners around the DMV. The expansion enables KID Museum to deliver its transformative hands-on learning model to more students, with a focus on youth from under-resourced communities. Powering the expansion is a new 28,000 square foot metro-accessible innovation hub at 3 Bethesda Metro Center. This new facility will offer studio space for programs in coding, robotics, electronics, textiles/fiber arts, 3D printing and more, as well as expanded space for KID Museum educators to collaborate with local schools and community partners.

Additionally, KID Museum is jumpstarting its robust summer programming lineup through a multi-site initiative, delivering programs in partnership with District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), MCPS, The Universities at Shady Grove (USG), area recreation centers and more, along with its existing facility at Davis Library. The efforts are the result of significant investment, including recent funding from Montgomery County, to support the museum’s growth plans, which advances KID Museum’s goal to serve more than 100,000 students, families and educators per year through onsite, community-based and virtual programs.

The need has never been greater. With statistics showing that the average student lost five to nine months of learning during the 2020-2021 school year, and students of color falling as much as six to 12 months behind, KID Museum deepened its commitment to youth of color and low-income populations through partnerships with Title I schools, equity hubs, and key community organizations. In a standard

year, more than 50 percent of students who participate in KID Museum programs are from under-resourced communities. During the pandemic, this figure jumped to 88 percent.

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich said: “COVID highlighted how imperative it is that we lean into proven strategies to support youth, not only to make up for lost time, but to leapfrog forward into the future. KID Museum offers a powerful approach to accelerate and democratize access to high-impact learning experiences that prepare youth with skills for success and build the talent pipeline of the future.”

KID Museum Founder and Executive Director Cara Lesser emphasized the critical need to act fast. “This new model allows us to both go where the greatest need is, and build an accessible, dedicated space for hands-on, maker learning that engages youth of diverse backgrounds.” She continued, “We are energized that the County Executive and County Council recognize how important it is to invest in our mission, which fuses STEM and social-emotional learning and helps build skills for the future.”

The new KID Museum space is part of Brookfield Properties. “We are delighted to welcome KID Museum to 3 Bethesda Metro Center as it expands its footprint and continues on its promise to deliver engaging and innovating experiences for communities across the DMV,” said Greg Meyer, Executive Vice President and Head of Greater DC Region, Brookfield Properties. “Just steps away from the Bethesda Metro Station, educators, children and their families will now have easy access to an educational makerspace that will activate this downtown hub with inclusive and dynamic programming for years to come.”

KID Museum re-starts in-person programming around the region in July and is developing new content to be rolled out this Fall. Construction also starts this summer on the dynamic innovation hub at 3 Bethesda Metro — a site chosen for its central location and easy access to public transportation and parking — with an expected grand opening, in coordination with area schools, in early 2022.

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### **About KID Museum**

The leading educational makerspace and innovation space for K-8 students in the greater Washington DC region, KID Museum has pioneered the design and delivery of “maker learning,” hands-on, experiential learning that integrates STEM and social-emotional learning to build skills for the future. Whether learning to code, experimenting with 3D printing and robotics, or designing an invention, KID Museum invites kids to explore what they can make and solve real world problems, cultivating an innovator mindset and creating the next generation of changemakers. For more information, please visit [www.kid-museum.org](http://www.kid-museum.org).