



## **National Week of Making Kicks Off with More than 100 Events and New Initiatives to Expand the Maker Movement Across the U.S.**

The National Week of Making, June 16 - June 22, 2017, will continue for its third year. Spearheading the week, [Nation of Makers](#) invites you to join in the celebration!

The maker movement starts with the community; the ecosystem of makers and all that they do and create. ***The National Week of Making recognizes the contributions and impact of a diversity of makers, hackers, crafters, artists, DIYers, engineers, and manufacturers across the United States, young and old, rural and urban, on the fabric of our country.***

The increasing availability of low-cost tools and technologies for design and prototyping such as 3D printers, laser cutters and microcontrollers, is making it possible for more students and adults to design, develop and prototype their ideas into real projects, products and solutions. In makerspaces, hackerspaces and Fab Labs across the country, individuals are coming together to share their skills in everything from welding and coding to sewing and robotics and work together on projects that are making their communities better places to work, live and play.

More and more, Nation of Makers is seeing makers take on challenges both locally and globally, using their knowledge and skills to improve their lives and the lives of others in their communities. [Maker Town Halls](#) are an opportunity to convene both makers and community leaders to discuss the role of the Maker Movement within their local area and to work together towards developing sustainable community outcomes. Kicking off the National Week of Making today, Nation of Makers is pleased to partner with Cognizant and Maker City Project to award eleven communities across the United States microgrants to support the hosting of Maker Town Halls:

- Anchorage, AK (Anchorage Makerspace)
- Colorado Springs, CO (Colorado Maker Hub)
- Cadiz, KY (Wildcat Makerspace)
- Hazleton, PA (Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress)
- Houston, TX (TXRX Labs)
- Knoxville, TN (Knoxville Entrepreneur Center)

- Lynchburg, VA (Vector Space)
- Newport, RI (FabLab Newport)
- Piscataway, NJ (NJ Makers Day)
- Standing Rock, Lakota Nation (Tradlab)
- Tuscon, AZ (Southern Arizona Arts & Cultural Alliance)

Whether you're a part of one of these eleven communities, or any of the many other communities in our country, ***Nation of Makers welcomes EVERYONE to participate in a week long celebration of the maker movement within the United States from June 16-22, 2017.***

Over the course of the week, people young and old, in rural and urban communities throughout the United States, can celebrate by participating in a wide variety of public events focused on making, from makerspace open houses, community builds, teacher trainings, summits and workshops, to maker meals and camps. A sample of events around the country can be found below:

- On June 17th and 18th, learn about the maker movement at the [North County Mini Maker Faire](#), held at the American Gas and Steam Engine Museum in Vista, CA
- On June 18th, join Next Fab and the Neil Squire Society in Philadelphia, PA at a [buildathon](#) where you can assemble an open source assistive technology, the [LipSync](#), that enables a person that has no use of their hands to use a touchscreen device.
- On June 21st, at American University in Washington, DC, join a discussion about the impact of making on education at the U.S. Department of Education's [showcase and panel discussion](#).

Find an event near you at: <http://www.weekofmaking.org/events> and join the celebration! Or join the celebration by participating in [community build projects](#) and posting your project on social media with the hashtag #weekofmaking.

However you choose, join the #NationofMakers in celebrating the National Week of Making and share your maker story today!

For additional information please email [pr@nationofmakers.us](mailto:pr@nationofmakers.us)  
 Websites: [www.nationofmakers.us](http://www.nationofmakers.us) and [www.weekofmaking.org](http://www.weekofmaking.org)  
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