



FORT WORTH MUSEUM
SCIENCE AND HISTORY

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Fort Worth Museum of Science and History Flourishes in Making Spaces *Initiative Supports Making in Classrooms Nationwide*

Fort Worth, TX - Maker Education Initiative (Maker Ed) and Children's Museum of Pittsburgh (CMP) launched a program in 2016 called Making Spaces: Expanding Maker Education Across the Nation to support schools eager to integrate making into their classrooms. The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History was asked to join their second cohort in 2017.

The program aims to maximize the collective impact of its support by employing an innovative model where multiple participating schools are paired with a nearby hub - like the Museum. These hubs provide the schools with professional development and support to help jumpstart and sustain maker education in classrooms through community support. In particular, hubs tackle the crucial topic of fundraising, working closely with schools to launch a crowdfunding campaign.

The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History was one of five informal institutions chosen in June 2017 to be a part of a second cohort of museums and the only museum chosen in the state of Texas. During this past year, the Museum's team has led professional development for campus educators and the students from each campus were invited to showcase their maker projects during Engineers Week, iMake and Family Museum Festivals. As part of the grant, campuses were encouraged to find ways to raise funds to support their maker programs. One school in Lorena, Texas raised money for their space by selling chocolate bars. Other schools will kick off next school year with fundraising along with professional development targeted at bringing making projects to all subject areas.

Maker Ed's Executive Director Trey Lathe explains, "Schools are increasingly interested in maker education and establishing youth maker programs and spaces, but don't always have access to the training, resources and community of support they need. Building upon what we've learned in serving educators and institutions through our other national programs, we're thrilled to be working closely with Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and Google to bring customized support to schools in their unique communities. CMP's pilot program was wonderfully successful, and we're excited to work together to expand that energy and momentum in a similar model nationwide."

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About the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History

The Museum was established in 1941 and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Anchored by its rich collections, the Museum is dedicated to lifelong learning. It engages guests through creative, vibrant programs and exhibits interpreting science and the history of Texas and the Southwest. The Museum is open daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Visit www.fortworthmuseum.org for more.