MakerX: The Columbus Maker Expo
10am – 5pm. April 6, 2019
Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, Ohio
www.makerx.org

MakerX is an annual public festival for the Columbus region that educates, celebrates, and provides networking opportunities for everyone interested in the exciting new technologies of digital design, creation, and fabrication.

MakerX 2018 hosted 67 exhibitors and 1000 attendees at the Reynoldsburg Performing Arts center on April 21. Exhibits ranged from robotics and drones to 3D printing, virtual reality, digital art, assistive technologies, high-tech transportation, electronic music and more. We plan to grow and deepen this unique experience for 2019.

MakerX is part of an international series of maker events (often titled Maker Faire™, MakerCon, or Makerfest) that draw thousands of attendees to each event (over a million globally in 2017). MakerX is distinctive among these events for three reasons:

1. It has the Makerspaces and Fablabs of the Columbus region's educational institutions at its core—keeping a focus on the depth of the educational experience they offer, while still welcoming community makerspaces, hobbyists and appropriate for-profit entities.
2. It strongly emphasizes the high-tech tools of digital design and creation, with the inclusion of traditional manufacturing and craft techniques in a supporting role.
3. It includes digital design and creation of media, music, and software, broadening out of the hardware-only nature of other events.

Goals of MakerX 2019

1. A high-energy and fun educational event of 70+ exhibitors and 1000+ participants celebrating the spirit of open but deep learning in digital design and creation.
2. An intensive opportunity for those curious about the maker movement to join it, and for those already involved, to learn more and network more widely.
3. A recognition of students, schools, community makerspaces, individuals, startups, and established companies, showcasing their projects and people to the public.
4. An opportunity for the companies in central Ohio engaged in digital design and creation to engage with students, hobbyists, and the interested public around the technologies they employ.
5. A demonstration of the Columbus region as a wellspring for innovation in high tech design and creation.

Sponsorship

MakerX is operated on an all-volunteer basis. Ticket prices are kept as low as possible (estimated $5 for 2019) and many free tickets are provided to schools and youth groups. We do not charge our exhibitors as they are already investing their time in sharing what they do with the public. As a result, MakerX requires the collaboration and financial support of sponsors to be successful.

Organizations contributing $500 or more to the event become sponsors of MakerX.

Sponsors receive:

- Recognition in all MakerX marketing, online information, press kits, and signage.
- A block of 30 event tickets that the sponsor may distribute themselves or have the MakerX committee provide to a k12 school or youth group in the sponsor's name.
- A prominent booth at the event of their custom specification (in consultation with the event planners). Booths are indoors and include tables, chairs, and power.
- Free tickets to the event for the staff of the sponsor's booth.

Partners and Planners

IEEE Columbus provides fiscal hosting for MakerX and Capital University provides ticketing services.

The planning committee for MakerX consists of:

Dr. William Ball, Scholar in Residence, Capital University.
Thomie Timmons, Innovation Labs Coordinator at Reynoldsburg City Schools.
Joshua Civiello, Educational Activities Chair, IEEE Columbus Section.
Mike Kunselman, Gahanna-Jefferson Schools Fablabs.
Dr. Andrew Breuning, Director of Bridge Programs at the PAST Foundation.
Curtis Smith, Makerspace and Laboratory Operations Manager, The Point at Otterbein University.
Sandy Guinto, Teacher, Ghanna-Jefferson Schools.
Anne Baldwin, Career Tech and College Readiness Coordinator, Westerville City Schools
Evelyn Van Til, Columbus Community Director, Tech Talent South

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