

HUB FAQs

WHAT IS THE MAKING SPACES: EXPANDING MAKER EDUCATION ACROSS THE NATION PROGRAM?

Making Spaces is a partnership between Google, the Maker Education Initiative, a project of Tides Center (Maker Ed) and the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh (CMP), which aims to develop a national strategy to sustainably integrate making into schools across the country.

The program will employ an innovative model where multiple participating schools are paired with a nearby hub (such as a school district, a library, a museum, or a community organization). These hubs will provide the schools with professional development and support to help jumpstart and sustain maker education in classrooms through community engagement. In particular, hubs will work closely with schools to launch a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds and local support.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, the Making Spaces program will have 10 participating hubs that will each work with 5 to 10 regional schools, creating a national resource network.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A HUB IN THE MAKING SPACES PROJECT?

Each Hub will work with 5-10 regional schools to raise community awareness, funding and capacity for integrating making in ways that meaningfully fit within each school. This may include providing professional development for teachers and administrators, programming for students, and assisting schools in creating and launching crowdfunding campaigns. In addition, each hub will participate in monthly Google hangouts and in-person network meet-ups in the Fall and Spring of the 2016-2017 school year.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A SCHOOL IN THE MAKING SPACES PROGRAM?

Each participating school will partner with a Hub (within regional proximity or remotely) to create a sustainable vision for integrating making as a learning process into school-based activity. For example, this may include the incorporation of making into classroom instruction and learning, the development of a dedicated makerspace at the school, the creation of an afterschool program, or a professional development program for teachers and staff. Schools will then work with the Hub to create and successfully launch a crowdfunding campaign to raise awareness and funding to put the plan into action.

WHAT ARE THE ROLES OF THE CHILDREN’S MUSEUM OF PITTSBURGH AND MAKER ED IN MAKING SPACES?

Maker Ed and CMP will act as “meta-hubs,” supporting, training, and connecting participating hubs as these hubs support, train, and connect schools. Additionally, both will serve and support their own cohort of schools, with CMP focusing in on the Pittsburgh area and Maker Ed providing virtual support for schools that want to participate but are not geographically located near a participating hub.

WHAT ARE THE CORE RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH HUB?

As a regional hub, your organization’s primary responsibilities will be to:

Select 5-10 local or regional schools with which to partner. This may include

- Reaching out to current or desired partner schools
- Developing and facilitating an application and selection process for partnership

- Meeting with schools to explain the project and the process

Work with schools to find a vision and plan their maker education work. This may include

- Identifying a point person and project team at each school
- Assist schools in determining goals for their makerspace and/or maker program
- Work with schools to determine their crowdfunding goals and platform

Assist schools in creating and launching their crowdfunding campaigns. This may include

- Assist schools in their creation of a fundraising budget, campaign and community outreach strategy, project page and photos and/or video (if applicable to crowdfunding platform)
- Provide professional development to help schools better understand making prior to creating their campaigns, if needed
- Once campaigns are launched, monitor campaigns and help schools spread the word through social media platforms and community and national outreach

Deepen and expand partnership with schools. This may include

- Work with schools to provide professional development, design consulting and other service *
- Continue the partnership with schools beyond this project

Participate in National Network Activities. This includes

- Network Meet-Up at World Maker Faire in NYC, October 2016
- Network Meet-Up at Bay Area Maker Faire and Maker Ed's Educator Convening in San Francisco, May 2017
- Regular, monthly Google Hangouts with Network members

WHAT RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE HUBS?

- Hubs will receive financial support from Google of \$15,000 (through December 2016), as well as an additional \$5000 in 2017, to offset staff time and resource costs, as well as funding to attend Network Meet-Ups.
- Training and support from Maker Ed and CMP through Network Meet-Ups, Google Hangouts, Online Maker Ed Learning Modules, and regular correspondence
- A Toolkit of Resources to support Hubs in their work with schools. The toolkit will include resources such as: an action plan, sample application for schools, cost-analysis and budgeting worksheet, Crowdfunding Professional Development resources, sample crowdfunding campaign materials, etc.
- Connection to a nation-wide community of maker educators
- A new approach to partnership and revenue for professional development and related services for schools and educational partners
- Visibility in a national effort that has drawn attention from the White House

WHAT IS THE RESOURCE COMMITMENT OF BEING A HUB?

Your level of involvement will depend on your institutional goals, capacity, and available resources. Staff time is needed to launch and support the program and your relationships with partner schools. The amount of time will depend on how you decide to implement the program (different implementation strategies will be provided in the toolkit).

* Funds raised by schools should cover costs associated with professional development, makerspace design, materials and tools.

An important thing to keep in mind is that costs for staff time and resources spent prior to the launch and success of the schools' crowdfunding campaigns might not be reimbursed from the schools until after funds are raised. This may mean that some services may need to be delivered in-kind or that hubs and schools create a memorandum of understanding to ensure that hubs are reimbursed for their prior investment of services and resources.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT TIMELINE?

- Fall 2016 - Hubs select partnering schools and begin training in maker education and in creating successful fundraising campaigns
- Winter-Spring 2017 - Schools successfully launch fundraising campaigns
- Spring-Summer 2017 Schools work with hubs to create their makerspaces/programs and participate in professional development