



Supporting the Next Generation of Makers

Friends of TVCOG,

Spring is here and with it, opportunities for new programs and partnerships!

It is my pleasure to announce our partnership with the Questar-III P-Tech and Early College High School (ECHS) programs located on the Hudson Valley Community College Campus this fall. The NYS P-TECH model is a six-year program (grades 9-14) focused on developing students' knowledge and skills needed for today's high-wage, high-skill and high-demand career areas in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

TVCOG's role in the program will be to manage our newly formed **STEM Careers Club**. The STEM Careers Club is an out-of-school extracurricular "club" that supports the focus of the P-TECH and ECHS programs through a club setting that reinforces skills development for in-demand STEM career pathways with on-site career days and presentations from regional professionals in STEM careers, as well as project-based learning workshops. Informal settings provide students with the freedom to explore and position themselves in STEM disciplines, and our makerspace is a great place to learn and experiment with new skills!

We strive to inspire and empower the next generation of makers and creators; we want to thank Questar-III BOCES and Hudson Valley Community College for making this program possible.

As we prepare to launch this program in the fall, we will be seeking volunteers and industry mentors. If you're interested in getting involved, please email us at info@tvkog.net.

-- Cheryl Kennedy, Executive Director

News from the Makerspace

In the Spotlight...

Spring Trimester Classes

We're excited to announce that we will be returning to in-person classes for both members and non-members starting on May 1, for the duration of our Spring trimester. Currently, classes have a maximum of three people to ensure proper social distancing; one-on-one classes are offered as well.

We are committed to ensuring the safety of our members, instructors and class participants. Along with social distancing, we require masks be worn at all times while in the facility, and follow a strict cleaning and sanitizing regimen.

[Read Our Full COVID Safety Policy](#)



Classes, Events & Programs



Laser Cutter 101: Make an Illuminated Acrylic Sign

May 22, 12-2pm

This class is geared towards beginning laser cutter makers or those looking for a refresher. Participants will learn safe laser cutter operation and the basics of designing for the laser cutter and go home with a battery-powered illuminated acrylic sign of their own design. Class size is limited to 3 participants.

Class fee: \$50 COG Members | \$65 Non-Members. [Register here.](#)



Woodshop 201: Introduction to the Lathe

Offered on: May 15, June 12 and July 31

Are you interested in learning how to use the wood lathe in the woodshop? This pen turning workshop is the perfect workshop for you! Learn the basics of pen turning, familiarize yourself with the lathe, and go home with a gorgeous custom made pen. This is a hands-on class with a limit of two participants per class. Each student will have their own lathe, and will be provided with direct instruction from the instructor. No prior experience necessary.

Class Fee: \$60 CoG Members | \$75 Non-Members [Register here.](#)

Limited Registration Open Now! More Class Offerings to Come.

This trimester will have a limited amount of classes, as we continue to restructure our classes to meet current NYS guidelines regarding COVID-19. **Registration is open now for classes in the Woodshop, on the Laser Cutter and for Quick Start Guide classes, which are one-on-one lessons.** Please keep an eye on our website for more updates as we move through the trimester.

[See All Classes Currently Open For Registration](#)

Prototyping Highlight: Rick Avila

When member Rick Avila needed assistance prototyping his low-cost Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR), he knew his investment in a CoG membership would pay off. He was able to utilize our vacuum former to test materials, and our staff was able to connect him with a product designer with vacuum forming mold design experience. After months of work, his all-volunteer team developed a highly effective and low cost PAPR that provides every person on the front lines of an airborne virus pandemic the protection they need to work safely. [He has since launched Pandemic Virus Protection Systems](#) to share the open source design. Check out his [recent interview with Spectrum News](#).

This just goes to show how the CoG is fast becoming the go-to location not just for access to tools, but to network with the Capital Region's product development community. Get connected with the action by following our [Meetup group](#) to stay informed of all of our Incubator's public events.

[See the Spectrum News Interview](#)



Upcoming Incubator Events & Programs



Next HATCHED: Thursday April 8 @ 7:00pm

Join us for our Hatched Quarterly Inventor Speaker Night when we chat with **Lars Christensen, Inventor, Autodesk Fusion 360 Customer Success & Adoption Manager, Blogger at cadcamstuff.com, and mesmerizing master of all things CAD/CAM.**

Note: HATCHED will return to its regular first Thursday schedule next month.

[Register Here](#)

Follow the [Manufacturing Incubator on Facebook](#) for more updates.

News from the THINQubator

Celebrating Earth Day



For April, the THINQubator Facebook page will be sharing Earth Day inspired activities each Saturday, starting with our very own Earth Day-inspired STEAM-Powered Saturday activity. Then we'll be sharing a special activity on Earth Day!

We're also working on something big for May! We'll be hosting STEAM-Powered Saturday as an in-person event outside in downtown Troy on May 1. We will also be doing a video tutorial and offering supplies kits. Whether you join us in-person or virtually, it's going to be a blast!

We will be sharing more details in the coming weeks, so stay tuned! [Follow us on Facebook here](#) for more updates.

Upcoming Classes & Events



Next STEAM-Powered Saturday: Saturday, April 3 @ 12pm

Every 1st Saturday children ages 4-12 and their families are invited to join us for a fun, creative hands-on project. Brought to you through the generous support of the Albany Society of Engineers Foundations, these mind-expanding projects help children discover creative play through science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics. Our special virtual additions are brought to you with additional support from GE Healthcare and Agora Media. To support this program, you can donate directly to the THINQubator through our [website here](#).



This month's project is "Seed Exploration!"

Explore the life cycle of a plant, and try your hand at gardening! The video and project guide will be posted at noon on April 3 on our Facebook page. **Free supplies kits will be available for pickup at Bard and Baker Board Game Cafe all month long.** For those who can't pick up a kit, we recommend some household items that will work as substitutes in the video. Please also feel free to reach out to us to learn where to purchase individual supplies.

[Go to the THINQubator Facebook Page](#)

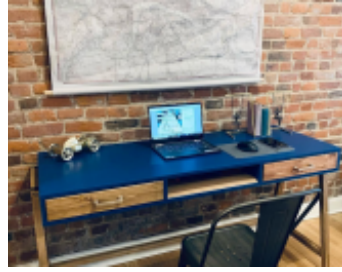
Updates from our Creative Community

Made at the COG

What our Members are working on right now.



Sari used her recently acquired welding skills from our Quick Start Guide: MIG Welding class to fabricate this prototype projection stand out of steel rod. The design will be part of a future art exhibition.



Rey built this absolutely gorgeous desk for his apartment.



Scott took a tool box he fabricated many years ago and converted it into his storage bin for all of the tools he needs while working in the Woodshop Zone.

Remember to tag your project on Instagram with #madeatthecog to show others what's possible here!

Volunteering Opportunities

In-Person Volunteering Options: We are currently seeking volunteers to do a regular weekly shift at the front desk as Volunteer Gatekeepers, handling member check-ins and temperature checks. We are looking mainly to fill morning and early afternoon shifts. Shifts are 4 hours long and count as credit towards membership dues. Please go to our [Community Access Programs page](#) to learn more.

Virtual Social Nights

Social Nights for members will continue to be virtual for the time-being; meetings are held via Zoom every Tuesday at 6:30pm. The log-in information and the meeting agenda for the regular weekly updates is sent to members via email each Tuesday. Not getting these emails? Contact us at info@tvkog.net to be added to the members-only mailing list.

Join Our Creative Community

We are open and operating at standard hours. Membership hours and access types depend on the membership level you choose. Membership is open to anyone ages 18+ so [join today!](#)

TVCOG's COVID-19 Protocols

Tech Valley Center of Gravity is committed to following guidelines set forth by New York State and to ensuring the safety of our community members. Review our Covid-19 policies and procedures [here](#).

Tech Valley Center of Gravity is a makerspace, prototyping center, manufacturing incubator, STEAM-education center and creative community located in the heart of downtown Troy, New York. A member-supported 501(c)(3) community resource organization, the Center of Gravity serves members from Albany, Columbia, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady counties and beyond with space, tools, technology and expertise to explore and exercise their creativity, turn ideas into objects of art and utility, and launch new ventures based on their own ingenuity.

[Click Here to Donate](#)

Tech Valley Center of Gravity
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