



Looking Forward

Friends of TVCOG,

Welcome to June at TVCOG (or, as our volunteer coordinator Steve calls us, "the clockwork heart of the Collar City")! **I would like to inform you of a few operational updates in relation to COVID policies in the facility:**

1.) We no longer pre-approve guest access, but we do require members to use the [guest form](#). Guests must follow the same policies as members.

2.) We have not dropped our mask mandate in the facility and currently still require all members (even the vaccinated ones) to wear masks in the facility. Private organizations can set rules that exceed current requirements and through discussion with the community through our last membership meeting, we decided -- as a community -- to take a more cautious and measured approach in loosening up our COVID safety restrictions. Members have received a survey to provide input on their comfort level and date preferences for a phased rollback of our mask policies.

As we move closer to operating at full capacity, we continue to expand our in-person program offerings. We have a packed schedule of socially-distanced classes this summer and are currently planning for our fall trimester. **We also have two tentative instructor interest nights scheduled for new instructors on July 14th at 3pm and August 18th at 6pm. We are particularly interested in recruiting teachers in STEM fields who have an interest in K-12 programming. Keep an eye out for the registration email, and please share with anyone you think might be interested in becoming an instructor at TVCOG.**

-- Cheryl Kennedy, Executive Director

News from the Makerspace

In the Spotlight...

2021 Summer Robotics Program

We are offering a brand new, in-person robotics program for children ages 11-14 this summer!

The program will utilize LEGO Mindstorm robots, combining all the fun of LEGO toys with STEAM education. Students will build and program their robots to complete various engineering challenges that mimic real-world problems. **In order to ensure a fully-engaged learning experience, each student will have access to their own dedicated laptop and robotics kit for the duration of the program.**

The program is offered at three levels: Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. Each section takes place for three hours a day, M-F for one week. Students are encouraged to enter at the level they feel best suits them, and are welcome to sign up for multiple levels consecutively. Click on the button below for more details, including program pricing, start dates & COVID-19 policies.

[More Details Here](#)

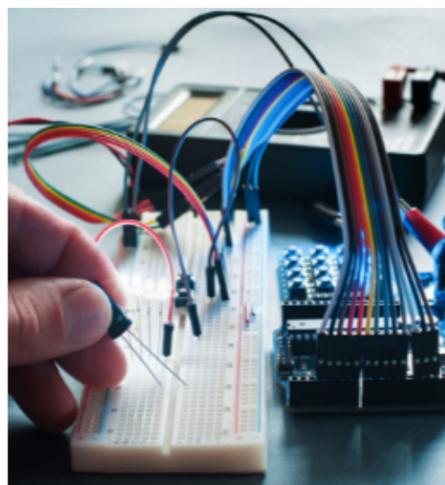


Classes, Events & Programs

Class Registration is Open Now

Tech Valley Center of Gravity is currently offering a variety of small size, socially distanced in-person classes. [Learn about our COVID-19 safety policies here.](#)

Classes with open spots include:

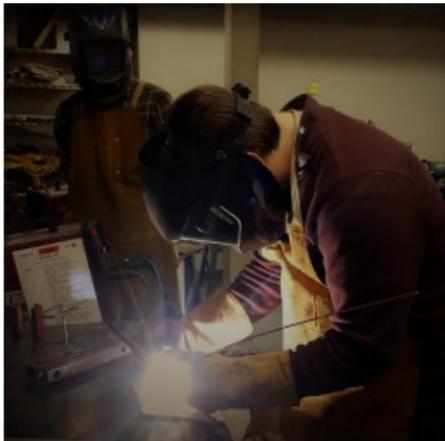


Electronics 101: Introduction to Electronics and Digital Logic

Offered on: June 12, 1-4pm *Other sessions offered on 7/8 and 7/31

This three-hour introductory session will cover the basics of electronic theory and allow participants to harness the power of subatomic physics to solve logic problems! Participants will learn about common discrete components like resistors, capacitors, diodes, and transistors and get introduced to the basics of circuitry using a solderless breadboard. Finally, the class will dive into transistor logic to give you a glimpse into the basic building blocks of all computers.

Class fee: \$100 COG Members | \$120 Non-Members. [Register here.](#)



Quick Start Guide: MiG Welding

Offered on: Thursdays, 5:30-6:30pm

MIG welding is a simple process for quickly joining steel. **If you've never touched a welder before, MIG welding is where you should start.** This class will cover the basic operation of a MIG welder to join steel.

This is the newest addition to our Quick Start Guide Series, which offers one-one-one instruction in a variety of topics for beginner makers. Other possible topics include: Cutting and Bending Sheet Metal, Metal Lathe and more. Pick your desired topic during registration. *Class fee varies upon topic selected, but ranges from \$40-\$80. [Set up your Quick Start Guide lesson now.](#)*

[See All Classes Open For Registration](#)

News from the Manufacturing Incubator

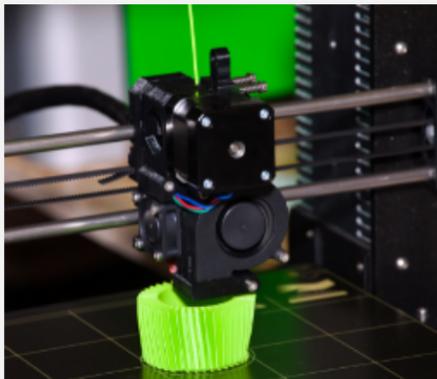
Making Connections

Are you an independent contractor or small business that provides 3D Design or Fabrication services? One of the ways we assist startups is by providing connections with local suppliers and contractors. We're an especially good hub for those that don't Google well, or that only advertise by word of mouth. We're putting together a list of COG Affiliate Suppliers that are willing to provide discounted rates or other benefits to COG members.

If you'd like to be featured in this list, send me a message. I'd love to hear about your business passions.

-- Dan Falkenstrom, Facilities & Incubator Director

[Follow the Manufacturing Incubator on Facebook](#)



Upcoming Incubator Events & Programs

FOOD FOR THOUGHT #10
DRIVING GROWTH FOR NYS MANUFACTURERS
 BUSINESS & PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT
 VIRTUAL LUNCHEON SERIES

WITH ERIC FASSER & JULIANNE CLOUTHIER

Food for Thought #10

Wednesday, June 2 from 12-1pm

Transforming a new concept into a commercially viable product takes a lot of resources - prototyping, engineering, manufacturing expertise, and funding, to name a few. And if you don't know where to turn for these, your business can fail before it's even started.

Join members of the FuzeHub team as they explain how early stage companies can tap into the largest network of manufacturing-related resources throughout New York State to get the training, expertise, and funding they need to overcome product development challenges.

Learn more about specific programs including the NYMEP, FuzeHub Solutions Program, Manufacturing Reimagined and the Jeff Lawrence Innovation Fund.

[Learn More & Register Here](#)



Next HATCHED: Thursday, June 8 @ 6:30pm

Dual IN PERSON & VIRTUAL: This monthly program is co-hosted by the Tech Valley Center of Gravity in partnership with the Capital District Inventors and Entrepreneurs Meetup. Through our Hatched-CDIEM partnership, we host invention and product development feedback nights and quarterly special inventor speaker presentations to foster the inventor and product development entrepreneurship community in the Capital Region of New York State.

[Join the Meetup Group](#)

News from the THINQubator

Get Ready for a STEAMy Summer!



We are looking for new instructors to join our THINQubator team! We offer a variety of programs for children grades K-12, including one-day workshops, after school clubs, parent-child classes, free weekend workshops, drop-in programs and more. We are looking for teachers in STEM fields who are interested in leading and/or developing curriculum for any of these types of programs. Join us during one of our open interest nights, on July 14th at 3pm and August 18th at 6pm, to learn more; event registration information coming soon.

We are also seeking professionals in all STEM fields to serve as volunteer mentors for students in grades 9-12, as part of an after-school program. Please email info@tvcog.net if interested.

June's STEAM-Powered Saturday: Virtual and In-Person!

Join us from 10am-1pm on Saturday, June 5 for a free, in-person event! For those participating virtually, project kits will be made available throughout the month for pickup at Bard and Baker Board Game Cafe, and the video tutorial premieres at noon on June 5 on our Facebook page.



This month's event is DIY Wind Cars. Build your own small toy cars, and harness the power of wind to make them go! go! go! The in-person event will also feature a special guest- combat robots!

This is a free, drop-in event with no pre-registration required. Our event tent will be located outside on Broadway in downtown Troy, across from TVCOG. Masks and social distancing are required. Attendees will be asked to provide their contact tracing information, as per NYS outdoor event regulations.

[Learn More](#)

***About STEAM-Powered Saturday:** Every 1st Saturday of the month, children ages 4-12 and their families are invited to join us for a fun, creative hands-on project designed to explore science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics.. These programs are brought to you for FREE through the generous support of the Albany Society of Engineers Foundations. Our special virtual editions are brought to you with additional support from Agora Media.*

Updates from our Creative Community

Made at the COG

What our Members are working on right now.



COG member Scott made this cool wooden pen on the lathe during our [Woodshop 201](#) class.



Volunteers Ryan and Blaise built this combat robot "arena" in our woodshop, and brought it out to play for May's STEAM-Powered Saturday!



Volunteer Laser Cutter Zone Coordinator Rich Dominelli explains the inner workings of our laser cutter during one of his introductory classes.

Remember to tag your project on Instagram with #madeatthecog!

Volunteer Coordinator's Shift Report: May 12, 2021

In the center of gravity, clockwork heart of collar city
Faithfully I watch the CoG each Wednesday near the Hudson's shore
In trochaic octameter to upset your calm demeanor
I stay to ten o'clock at least and will not leave a whit before
Locks are locked as appropriate, I've checked each and every door
I give to you my shift report.

--Steven Scotten, Volunteer Coordinator

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.

Featured Sponsor



Agora Media is a full service media production studio, helping companies, nonprofits, and institutions small and large level up. Agora Media provides livestream video production, online events, event management, video production, photography, and audio services. Some of Agora Media's past productions have included the 9th Annual Virtual Sammy Awards, GameFest 2021, and TVCOG's monthly STEAM-Powered Saturday videos. [Learn more about Agora Media here.](#)

[Click Here to Learn About Sponsorship](#)

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.](#)