



2025 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



TECH VALLEY CENTER OF GRAVITY THE CAPITAL REGION'S PREMIER MAKERSPACE

Empowering makers to connect, collaborate, and
create since 2013.

TVCOG.NET | 518.244.3544 | 30 3RD ST, TROY NY

From our Leadership



It's been a turbulent year, especially for those of us in nonprofits. But that turbulence has helped remind us just how powerful spaces like the COG can be. When we're concerned about the negative and destructive elements of society, the solution is ultimately not more destruction, but creation. We must build things rather than tear them down.

That's what we do at the COG. We solve, we build - we make.

As a makerspace, we find our roots in community building and the do-ocracy spirit. To that end, this year we focused on expanding membership options, growing our Digital Fabrication for Artists program, increasing youth STEAM programming, and adding more social events. In addition, we amplified the benefits of our Incubated and Professional Maker memberships, and expanded participation in our Small Business Support Program. As a result, we served at least 2,000 community members, and saw a 42% increase in use by businesses!

Accomplishing this with a staff of only 2.5 FTEs and a budget of \$430k (about half the resources of some similar-sized makerspaces and entrepreneur support organizations) would not be possible without the incredible support of our community. Thank you to all of our partners, sponsors, donors, volunteers, and advocates. Your support this year ensured that the COG could continue to empower makers to connect, collaborate, and create.

We look forward to working with you as we continue to grow and thrive. Let's **make** an impact in 2026.

Dan Falkenstrom
Operations Director

Courtney Wade
Board Chair

Everyone is A Maker

From engineers to artists, startup businesses to families, students to experienced entrepreneurs, we are the third space of choice for makers of all kinds across the Capital Region and beyond. In 2025, the COG maker community included:

342 MEMBERS SERVED
Utilized our tools & space to create

58 BUSINESSES SERVED
Including tech startups, professional artists, and local manufacturers

36 CORE VOLUNTEERS
Making trainings, events, shop maintenance, & IT possible

+ hundreds more community members served this year through classes, workshops and community events



BUILDING COMMUNITY

Learn, Connect & Collaborate

From STEAM workshops for youth to our weekly social nights to customized tool trainings and hands-on classes, we offered the community plenty of opportunities to learn and collaborate in 2025, including:

110 SOCIAL NIGHTS & COMMUNITY EVENTS
potlucks, member clubs, open houses, networking & more

285 TOOL TRAININGS & CLASSES
200+ offered for free by volunteers

27 FREE FAMILY STEAM WORKSHOPS
including partnered pop-up events



The Space & Equipment to Make Anything

We maintain over 14,000 square feet of workspace, divided into eight Maker Zones - 3D printing, laser cutting, electronics, fiber arts, woodworking, welding, glass, & metal shop, along with a children's space, community kitchen, private rental spaces, and classroom/meeting space.

115

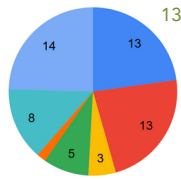
MAJOR TOOLS
worth over \$230,000

+ HUNDREDS MORE SMALL TOOLS AVAILABLE!

Catalyzing Collaborations

As a NYSTAR certified incubator, we offer entrepreneurs affordable access to fabrication space, equipment, partner vendors, mentorship, grant sponsorship & more. We're tuned to the needs of **hardware tech startups**, but a variety of ventures have found a home here, resulting in a **robust & diverse community of entrepreneurs from across sectors** that share resources and learn from each other.

MEMBER-OWNED BUSINESSES BY SECTOR



- 13 - Tech Startups (growth potential)
- 14 - Main St / Consumer Products
- 13 - Professional Artists
- 8 - Professional Services
- 5 - Retail Stores
- 3 - Nonprofits
- 1 - Restaurants



EMPOWERING INNOVATION



Growing Economic Ecosystems

Demand for our entrepreneurship and fabrication resources is high; 2025 saw a **42% growth in our entrepreneurial members**, along with an increase in demand for technical trainings.

COG member-owned businesses are making an economic impact both locally and globally, from Uncaged Innovations in the *Times*' "100 Best Inventions of 2025" to Kema's Kreations at New York Fashion Week.

This year, COG businesses have:

| RECEIVED | RAISED | ADDED OR RETAINED |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| \$165k | \$5M | 13 |
| in grant funding | in investments | jobs |

"THIS PROGRAM IS ESSENTIAL TO MY SUCCESS BECAUSE IT PROVIDES THE TOOLS, MENTORSHIP, AND CONNECTIONS NEEDED...WITHOUT THIS ASSISTANCE, THE LEAP FROM A REGIONALLY CELEBRATED BRAND TO AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED LABEL WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY HARDER TO ACHIEVE." —KAREN MAXWELL, FOUNDER & CEO, KEMA'S KREATIONS
TVCOG SBS PROGRAM MEMBER

Youth STEAM Education

We are dedicated to providing affordable, quality STEAM education for learners of all ages. Through field trips, after-school programs, high school internships, family memberships, and family workshops, we provide engaging, flexible, low-cost options for all learners.

100% of all 2025 youth education events were offered either for free or at a partially subsidized rate in order to ensure financial accessibility. This is made possible through grant funding and philanthropic support.

Specialty offerings in 2025 included a free after-school LEGO robotics club for local middle school students.

Robotics program supported by the United Way of the Greater Capital Region.



SPARKING CURIOSITY

STEAM-Powered Saturday Program Growth

The long-running, grant-supported SPS program expanded in 2025, now offering free hands-on STEAM workshops for families **twice a month**, with an increase in advanced topics offered for ages 10-14. Partnered pop-up events were hosted with the Troy BID, the Albany City Libraries & the Hart Cluett Museum; special program guests included the RPI Engineering Ambassadors & award-winning STEM author Kathy Ceceri.

This year, SPS provided free, hands-on STEAM education to:

436 CHILDREN AGES 3-15
with over 240 families across the Capital Region joining in

Supported by the T Backer Memorial Foundation, Stewart's Shops, SRC Inc, the Technology Management Institute, and the Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, Inc.



"[TVCOG] created a custom program for the Hart Cluett Museum that allowed families and children of all ages to make their own Erie Canal boats, tying into our exhibit "Transportation by Water." We welcomed over 90 visitors to the museum during the program and had many new faces engaged in learning about history and technology through this project. TVCOG's educators prepared a program that tied in history, engineering, and design that inspired children to experiment with building boats to carry cargo in water... We have heard positive feedback from our community months afterwards" --ANNA DOREN, EDUCATION DIRECTOR, HART CLUETT MUSEUM

Digital Fabrication for Artists Residency

Digital fabrication tools like 3D printers and laser cutters offer amazing potential to working artists, but the cost and time needed to learn to use these machines is often a barrier to use. Our unique residency program empowers traditional artists to incorporate these techniques by providing **free access** to dedicated workspace, digital fabrication tools, and extensive equipment training.

Residents Tyna Ontko and Giselle Tyna joined us for the 2025 program, which was offered as a special co-residency with partner Collar Works. Each received over 20 hours of mentored professional development.

Supported by The Arts Center of the Capital Region's "Arts Thrive and Grow" grant, Launchbox, Collar Works, & the T Backer Memorial Fund.



REDUCING BARRIERS



Community Access Programs

Financial accessibility is integral to our mission. Our grant- and donor-funded Community Access Programs provide subsidized access to resources for those with demonstrated financial need, ensure that cost is not a barrier to access.

Programs include the **Small Business Support program** for startups and small businesses in key industries, the **Pay-What-You-Can program** which offsets membership costs, and initiatives supporting workforce development/youth education. **In 2025, these programs:**

SUPPORTED
5

Manufacturing
Interns

SERVED OVER
100

individuals across
all programs

Programs made possible through TVCOG's Community Access Fund.

TVCOG'S SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT (SBS) PROGRAM OFFERED SUBSIDIZED MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 10 BUSINESSES IN 2025, ENSURING CRITICAL FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT ACCESS.

"This program has been absolutely essential to being able to direct funds towards hiring & purchasing materials...The COG & the SBS program have been literally essential to our development"

-RILEY STUDEBAKER, CEO & FOUNDER, METAORNATE
TVCOG SBS PROGRAM MEMBER

Financial Summary

Operating Budget
\$436,000

Income



Grant Income 47.5%
Membership Dues 33.7%
Sponsorships & Donations 8.6%
Event/Class Sales 4.9%
Space Rental 5.3%



TVCOG Volunteers also **donated**
over **\$70,000** worth of in-kind
services!

Expenses



Payroll 38.2%
Rent 29.9%
Makerspace Operations & Industrial Upkeep 15.8%
Regrants 7.4%
Contract Services 5.8%
(Accounting, Instructors, etc.)
Event/Class Costs 3%

*2025 Financials are preliminary. Final numbers available by request after 2025 financial review is completed.

TVCOG Leadership

The COG is led by Operations Director Dan Falkenstrom and the Board of Directors, the fiduciaries who steer the COG towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies. The Board is voted in by the COG's membership.

Board of Directors

Courtney Wade (President)

Dylan Thies (Treasurer)

Kit Clemente (Vice President)

Denée Zeigler (Secretary)

Sam Bonfante (Member-at-Large)

Eric Ledet

Jessica Otitigbe

Tim Rozmierski

Holly Cargill-Cramer

Heather Otis

Page Fronczek



COG STAFF

Dan Falkenstrom (Operations Director)

Elisabeth Kuchera (Programming Manager)

Greyson Musick (Community Developer)

Alex Titcomb (Operations Technician)

THANK YOU TO THE REST OF THE COG TEAM!

The COG relies on an amazing team of volunteers, contract instructors and Maker Mentors to support our community. Thank you to you all! We want to specially recognize: Steven Scotten, Angelica De La Cruz, Ron Grieco, Konstantin Avdashchenko, Quinn Miller, Ben Stepanian, Irene Purificato, Mike Usher, John Corey, Troy Fischer, and Blaise and Sabrina Hartley for all your efforts and support this year.

Thank You!

2025 Donors, Sponsors & Community Partners



Division of
Science, Technology
& Innovation



PIONEER™



T BACKER FUND



UNITED WAY
Greater Capital Region



MANY THANKS ALSO TO ALL ANONYMOUS INDIVIDUAL DONORS & AWARDS DINNER HONORARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Get Involved

MAKE AN IMPACT WITH TVCOG IN 2026

Make a Tax-Deductible Donation

Donations can be made securely online at www.tvcog.net/donate
Support general operations, children's programs or the **Community Access Fund**.

Become a Member

Anyone can join! Special options available for startups and established businesses. Learn more at www.tvcog.net

Partner With Us

Contact Liz@tvcog.net to learn more about program partnership opportunities.

Become a Sponsor

Sponsor a zone, a specific program and more!
Contact Dan@tvcog.net to learn more.

Take a Tour

Never been? Seeing is believing - this is the best way to find out what the COG can make happen for you.
Learn more on [our website](#).

Take a Class

Over 20 topics offered, no membership required!
Learn more and register on [our website](#).



TVCOG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
EIN: 90-0922584