

## CHICAGO JOINS THE WHITE HOUSE IN CELEBRATION OF NATION'S MAKERS

*Chicago is among several cities recognized for leading citywide efforts to engage communities in creativity and innovation*

**Chicago (June 10, 2016)**— Several Chicago organizations have joined the White House to celebrate America's thinkers, tinkerers and innovators during the National Week of Making, taking place June 17-23. The weeklong celebration encourages Chicagoans to roll up their sleeves and engage in hands-on projects and DIY activities across the Chicago area.

First started by the Obama administration in 2015, the National Week of Making is part of the White House's Nation of Makers initiative. Its mission is to spark ingenuity within youth, educators, business leaders and the public. "America's path of experimentation, innovation, and discovery has been the hallmark of our progress," President Barack Obama said in his National Week of Making proclamation. "We are heirs to an extraordinary legacy of ingenuity— our country is home to pioneers who imagined a railroad connecting a continent, inventors who believed electricity could power our cities and towns, explorers who dared to leave our planet and travel farther than ever before, and innovators who brought us closer together through the Internet."

### Share Your Maker Pride

Whether it's making a 3D printed keychain, painting a masterpiece, or cooking a delicious meal, Chicagoans are encouraged to share what they're making by posting a selfie to social media using this [printable sign](#) and the hashtags #ChicagoMakes and #WeekofMaking. Show the world that Chicago is the best place to be a maker!

### Week of Making Events

The Chicago Innovation Exchange, Chicago Public Library, LevelUp, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, City Colleges of Chicago and Shedd Aquarium are among the many Chicago organizations hosting activities for makers of all ages during the National Week of Making. Programs aim to encourage the exploration of different tools and technologies with a goal to inspire new ideas and innovative solutions to real world challenges. A citywide calendar of Week of Making events can be found at [www.chicagomakes.org](http://www.chicagomakes.org).

Select program highlights include:

### Chicago Innovation Exchange

- Chicago Innovation Exchange Tour: Thursday, June 23, 4-5 p.m.— *Free, registration required*
- From Idea to Object: Prototyping and Digital Fabrication: Thursday, June 23, 5:30-8:30 p.m.— *Free, registration required, designed for ages 18+*
- Lo-Fi Prototyping Workshop at Chicago Public Library: Monday, June 20, 6-8 p.m.— *Free, registration required, design for ages 14+*

### Chicago Public Library

- Chicago Public Library Maker Lab will offer guest presenters such as Pumping Station: One, and Chicago Mosaic School— *Free, no registration required, designed for ages 14+*
- The Maker Lab will debut its first advanced making class which will take a deeper dive into 3D printing techniques— *Free, no registration required, designed for ages 14+*
- Chicago Public Library encourages all kids to complete a specially created design challenge, make art or create a paper airplane this summer in the 2016 Rahm's Readers Summer Learning Challenge

### City Colleges of Chicago

- Watch a balloon soar sky-high during a high-altitude balloon launch on June 17. Track the liftoff on social media using the hashtag #CCCHAB

### LevelUP

Visit the week long Open House at LevelUP's Makerspace in Ford City Mall to explore various ways to make. Teens familiar with the tools and projects available in the space will serve as Maker Guides and Maker Facilitators— *Free (some activities*

may require a modest materials fee \$2-\$10). Registration recommended but not required. Visit [bit.ly/2016WeekofMaking](http://bit.ly/2016WeekofMaking) to register.

- Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Enjoy a family friendly opportunity to explore low to high tech making skills including soldering, activating inanimate objects, 3D printing, and personal fabrication using X-Carve engraving machine. All Saturday opportunities are repeated throughout the week.
- Saturday, June 18, 4-5 p.m.: Meetup with new and veteran makers to discuss ways to collaborate, extend, or develop new projects for exhibiting at the Chicago Southside Mini Maker Faire on August 6, 2016.
- Monday, June 20 – Thursday, June 23; noon until 4 p.m.: Additional activities will be offered with a different daily focus:
  - Monday: Make with Light
  - Tuesday: Make with Flight
  - Wednesday: Make with Might
  - Thursday: Make with Sight

### **Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago**

- Alex Truesdell, MacArthur Fellow and Founder of Adaptive Design Association, will host hands-on workshops for guests, showcasing her work in using low-tech tools and materials to transform the lives of children on Saturday, June 18 at 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.— *Included with Museum entry, space is limited, first-come basis, all ages welcome*
- Tours of the Wanger Family Fab Lab will provide guests with a sneak peek into digital fabrication, including demonstrations of high-tech equipment and the Museum's program offerings. Tours take place June 17-18 and 20-23— *Included with Museum entry, space is limited, first-come basis, all ages welcome*
- A new workshop will launch June 20 in the Wanger Family Fab Lab, where guests will use laser-cut parts and electronics to produce a circuit that emits seven different colors of light. The workshop will be offered June 20-23 at 3:00 and 3:30 p.m.— *Separate ticket required, ages 6 and older and youth under the age of 13 must be accompanied by a ticketed chaperone*

### **Shedd Aquarium**

- During the National Week of Making, high school teens are invited to the Teen Learning Lab to work on projects, make new friends and explore careers in aquatic science— *Free, no registration required*
- The Teen Learning Lab will host a variety of drop-in activities including guest mentors Tuesday and Thursday from 1-8 p.m. during the National Week of Making— *Free, no registration required*

### **How to Submit a Maker Event**

Organizations that are hosting a Maker event are invited to submit programs and activities online at [www.weekofmaking.org/events/post](http://www.weekofmaking.org/events/post).

### **Who to Contact:**

- Chicago Innovation Exchange: Whitney Johnson, [johnsonw@uchicago.edu](mailto:johnsonw@uchicago.edu)
- Chicago Public Library: Emily Faulkner, [efaulkner@chipublib.org](mailto:efaulkner@chipublib.org)
- City Colleges of Chicago: Mike Davis, [mdavis@ccc.edu](mailto:mdavis@ccc.edu)
- Comer Family Foundation: Mary Pounder, [mpounder@comerfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:mpounder@comerfamilyfoundation.org)
- LevelUp: Jackie Moore, [roboticslady@gmail.com](mailto:roboticslady@gmail.com)
- Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago: Isabel Morales, [isabel.morales@msichicago.org](mailto:isabel.morales@msichicago.org)
- Shedd Aquarium: Mick Swasko, [mswasko@sheddaquarium.org](mailto:mswasko@sheddaquarium.org)

*These collaborative efforts are organized by the Chicago Public Library, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, Chicago Innovation Exchange, Shedd Aquarium, LevelUp, City Colleges of Chicago, and the Comer Family Foundation. For more information on the Week of Making, including events in the Chicago area, visit [www.chicagomakes.org](http://www.chicagomakes.org).*