



Contact:

Julie Parente (773) 753-6249
julie.parente@msichicago.org

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY EXPANDS ACCESS TO FAB LAB PROGRAMS TO REACH MORE CHICAGO YOUTH AND MUSEUM VISITORS

CHICAGO (June 12, 2015) — The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI) is expanding programs in its Wanger Family Fab Lab so more Chicago students and Museum guests can explore 3D printing and other cutting-edge technology to create innovative projects.

The announcement coincides with President Obama's call to action to create a "nation of makers" and was part of a White House event kicking off the National Week of Making, June 12 – 18, 2015.

MSI's Fab Lab is a state-of-the-art digital fabrication laboratory featuring high-tech software and equipment. Museum guests can design and make items from practical to whimsical, while Chicago students in after-school programs develop projects and learn skills like critical thinking, creativity and teamwork.

The expanded programming announced today includes:

- Doubling the capacity of 3D printing workshops for Museum guests this summer and adding new workshops on electronics, wearable technologies and 3D design this fall. MSI expects 12,000 guests will participate in these workshops this year.
- Increasing the number of after-school Innovation Clubs this fall so that more Chicago youth from high-needs neighborhoods gain digital design and engineering skills and exposure to STEM careers.
- Supporting schools in creating their own fabrication labs by launching an equipment loan program so they can try out DIY technologies before they buy their own.

"MSI opened its Fab Lab in 2007. Since then, our programs have aimed to inspire students and introduce them to the possibilities that exist in innovation, engineering, design and other STEM fields," said David Mosenia, the Museum's president and CEO. "You are learning that they can create designs, build items and solve problems – skills that will help them throughout their future."

Learn more about the Wanger Family Fab Lab at msichicago.org/whats-here/fab-lab/.

The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI), one of the largest science museums in the world, offers world-class and uniquely interactive experiences that inspire inventive genius and foster curiosity. From groundbreaking and award-winning exhibits that can't be found anywhere else, to hands-on opportunities that make you the scientist—a visit to MSI is where fun and learning mix. Through its Center for the Advancement of Science Education (CASE), the Museum offers a variety of student, teacher and family programs that make a difference in communities and contribute to MSI's larger vision: to inspire and motivate children to achieve their full potential in science, technology, medicine and engineering. Come visit and find your inspiration! MSI is open 9:30–4 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas day.

Extended hours, until 5:30 p.m., are offered during peak periods. The Museum is grateful for the support of its donors and guests, who make its work possible. MSI is also supported in part by the people of Chicago through the Chicago Park District. For more information, visit msichicago.org or call (773) 684-1414 or (800) GO-TO-MSI outside of the Chicago area.

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