

June 18, 2014

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The White House Maker Faire

Dear President Obama:

The mission of libraries is to improve society through facilitating knowledge creation locally and globally. Library maker spaces mobilize communities around STEM learning initiatives, foster a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship, and create universal access to ideas and information. Maker spaces benefit libraries by expanding the educational resources available to citizens, reinvigorating the library experience, and increasing community engagement. Library maker spaces benefit citizens by allowing them hands-on engagement opportunities, opening access to modern software and hardware resources that allow citizens to design, create, and make almost anything they can dream up. Libraries are a perfect venue for making because they are open to all; truly democratic institutions. Libraries think globally, but are inherently local, designed to respond to the changing needs of their communities. Library maker spaces bring people together to collaborate, to remix, to participate in the creation and re-creation of their culture.

We support your call for, “*an all-hands-on-deck approach to science, technology, engineering, and math... to make sure that all of us as a country are lifting up these subjects for the respect that they deserve.*” Maker spaces in libraries can contribute to this effort, allowing everyone to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills and facilitate opportunity for collaboration and community engagement that will aid in the next generation of STEM jobs. They provide access to tools (from books to 3D printers) and, most importantly, ‘access to each other’. Library maker spaces are powerful informal learning spaces that give local community members the ability to design, create, and innovate their future.

As the leaders of libraries, we want to do our part to make the most of these opportunities. As the White House prepares to hold its first-ever Maker Faire, each of our institutions is committed to promote Making, including:

- Creating or adapting space to support making in our facility
- Investing in tools and technology to enable making
- Creating and supporting professional development opportunities for practicing employees to deepen knowledge, facilitate, and engage in a meaningful way with making activities
- Hosting community engagement events that enlist students and adults in making
- Participating in regional efforts to create a vibrant Maker ecosystem that involve companies, investors, skilled volunteers, state and local officials, universities, museums, schools, after-school programs, labor unions, and community-based organizations

Additional information about the steps that our libraries and museums are taking to embrace Making is attached. We look forward to working with you and your Administration to make this effort a huge success.

Most respectfully,

Edmonton Public Library, AB  
Anchorage Public Library, AK  
Maricopa County Library District, AZ  
Pima County Public Library, AZ  
Alameda County Library, CA  
Contra Costa County Library, CA  
County of Los Angeles Public Library, CA  
Fresno County Public Library, CA  
Los Angeles Public Library, CA  
Marin County Free Library, CA  
Oakland Public Library, CA  
Palo Alto City Library, CA  
Pasadena Public Library, CA  
Sacramento Public Library, CA  
San Diego County Library, CA  
San Diego Public Library, CA  
San Francisco Public Library, CA  
San Jose Public Library, CA  
San Mateo County Library, CA  
Santa Clara County Library District, CA  
Tulare County Library System, CA  
Anythink, CO  
Arapahoe Library District, CO  
Aurora Public Library, CO  
Colorado State Library, CO  
Denver Public Library, CO  
Jefferson County Public Library, CO  
Pikes Peak Library District, CO  
Poudre River Public Library District, CO  
Pueblo City-County Library District, CO  
C.H. Booth Library, CT  
Hartford Public Library, CT  
Westport Public Library, CT  
District of Columbia Public Library, DC  
Broward County Library, FL  
Miami-Dade Public Library System, FL  
Orange County Library System, FL  
Palm Beach County Library System, FL

St. Petersburg College Library, FL  
Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System, GA  
Chattahoochee Valley Libraries, GA  
David C. Barrow Elementary School, GA  
Gwinnett County Public Library, GA  
Live Oak Public Libraries, GA  
Davenport Public Library, IA  
Idaho State Library, ID  
Chicago Public Library, IL  
Skokie Public Library, IL  
Allen County Public Library, IN  
Carmel Clay Public Library, IN  
Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library, IN  
Indianapolis Public Library, IN  
Perry Meridian Middle School, IN  
Johnson County Library, KS  
Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, KS  
Wichita Public Library, KS  
Lexington Public Library, KY  
East Baton Rouge Parish Library, LA  
Lafayette Public Library, LA  
New Orleans Public Library, LA  
Boston Public Library, MA  
Springfield City Library, MA  
Worcester Public Library, MA  
Anne Arundel County Public Library, MD  
Baltimore County Public Library, MD  
Baltimore County Public Library - Towson  
Library Branch, MD  
Enoch Pratt Free Library, MD  
Howard County Library System, MD  
Montgomery County Public Libraries, MD  
Prince George's County Memorial Library  
System, MD  
Portland Public Library, ME  
Detroit Public Library, MI  
Grand Rapids Public Library, MI  
Kalamazoo Public Library, MI  
West Bloomfield Township Public Library, MI

Hennepin County Library, MN  
Saint Paul Public Library, MN  
Kansas City Public Library, MO  
Mid-Continent Public Library, MO  
Saint Louis County Library, MO  
Saint Louis Public Library, MO  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, NC  
Durham County Library, NC  
Greensboro Public Library, NC  
Hanes Magnet School, NC  
North Carolina State University Library, NC  
Omaha Public Library, NE  
Millville Senior High School, NJ  
Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System, NM  
Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, NV  
University of Nevada, Reno, NV  
Brooklyn Public Library, NY  
Fayetteville Free Library, NY  
New York Public Library, NY  
Queens Library, NY  
Rochester Public Library, NY  
Cleveland Public Library, OH  
Cuyahoga County Public Library, OH  
The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, OH  
The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, OH  
Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, OH  
Pioneer Library System, OK  
Ottawa Public Library, ON

Multnomah County Library, OR  
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, PA  
Free Library of Philadelphia, PA  
Providence Public Library, RI  
Richland Library, SC  
Chattanooga Public Library, TN  
Memphis Public Library and Information Center, TN  
Nashville Public Library, TN  
Dallas Public Library, TX  
El Paso Public Library, TX  
Fort Worth Library, TX  
Frisco Public Library, TX  
Houston Public Library, TX  
San Antonio Public Library, TX  
Wooldridge Elementary School, TX  
Salt Lake City Public Library, UT  
Salt Lake County Library Services, UT  
Arlington Public Library, VA  
Loudoun County Public Library, VA  
Newport News Public Library System, VA  
Richmond Public Library, VA  
Virginia Beach Public Library, VA  
Fort Vancouver Regional Library District, WA  
King County Library System, WA  
Pierce County Library System, WA  
Sno-Isle Libraries, WA  
The Seattle Public Library, WA  
Madison Public Library, WI  
Milwaukee Public Library, WI